

# Political Science 3950 (Special Topics)

## Middle Eastern Government and Politics

Tuesday and Thursday 4:40PM to 5:55PM  
Eric Drummond Smith, PhD

**Course Description:** A comparative analysis of the political cultures, politics, and governmental framework of the countries of the Middle East

**Office:** Social Sciences 104

**Office Hours:** MW 1PM to 3PM; TR 10AM to Noon & 2PM-4PM; Also by appointment after scheduled course/office hours until 5PM

**Office Phone:** TBA

**Classroom:** Zehmer 228

**Cell Phone:** (no calls after 9PM!) 276-708-6868

**E-Mail:** [eds9g@uvawise.edu](mailto:eds9g@uvawise.edu)

**Course Website:**

<http://smithsbluebook.com/academics.html>

### Evaluation:

10% National Map Quiz

65% Non-Comprehensive Exams (four exams are averaged)

25% Paper

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100%

**Note-taking:** Note-taking is an essential part of any course, and in particular of any course that is introductory in nature. Not only does the act of note-taking reinforce the material in question (it is not merely read and heard, but physically reproduced), it creates a record essential to preparation for quizzes and exams. Always come to class with paper and a writing utensil. If you are forced by circumstance to miss class, you will be expected to catch up on all missed notes (from your classmates if at all possible).

**Exams:** There will be several examinations. Each examination will be made up multiple out-of-class essays.

**Policy on Making-up Quizzes/Exams:** Making-up any missed quiz or exam is the responsibility of the student. The student should make an appointment for the make-up ahead of time **and should remember the content of the quiz/exam will be different from that in the generally distributed quiz/exam.** Make-up work *will not* be done during class. Excepting extreme situations (emergencies, etc.), make-up work *must* be completed within five school days of the absence. If the student has made no attempt to address an absence on the day the final exam is administered by the time of grade turn-in, a grade of "0" will be entered in its place and the grade will be calculated and turned in. In the event of a death evidence may be requested (specifically the name and location of the funeral home) and in the event of illness doctor certification may be requested.

**Policy on Attendance:** Attendance for this course is mandatory. Each student will be allowed three (3) unexcused absences. Any unexcused absences beyond this will result in the loss of a letter grade from the final course grade (e.g. an A will become a B). There will be no exceptions. Excused absences include, but are not limited to, serious illness (*not* hangovers), family emergencies, religious holidays/high holy days, and school related events. Please inform the instructor as soon as possible of any such occurrence. To further quote the *Student Handbook*:

*Class and laboratory attendance is expected. A student who attends fewer than fifty percent of the lectures or laboratories in a course is not eligible to receive credit for that course. A student who is absent from classes or labs because of serious illness, a death in the immediate family, hospitalization, or as a member of an athletic team or officially recognized field trip may be excused. Students who are absent for a prolonged period should contact Elizabeth Steele, Coordinator of Advising, Retention & Assessment, at (276) 328-0313.*

**Policy on Tardiness:** Students arriving later than 20 minutes into class will be counted absent unless their tardiness is excused.

**Policy on Electronic Devices:** The instructor reserves the right to eject for the day any students found using cell phones or other electronic devices without prior permission in class – **THIS INCLUDES TEXTING OF ALL TYPES.** Students who have permission to use laptops, etc. for note-taking who are found to be using their laptops for non-relevant matters may be ejected and will be forbidden from using these devices in class henceforth. No electronic device may be present on the desk of a student during an exam or quiz and any student using said device during such a period will be ejected and will receive a grade of zero on the assignment given the expectation and potential for cheating.

**Policy on Behavior:** All students are at all times expected to be attentive, to take part in class discussions, and above all else, to be courteous and sensitive towards their fellow students. Impropriety will not be tolerated. Further, emotionally charged subject material will be dealt with in this course (ethical, bioethical, religious, political, etc.); such material requires maturity and openness to views that may conflict with one's own. Under no circumstances will racial, religious, or ethnic slurs be used in this course, or the result will be an automatic expulsion from the course.

**Cheating, Plagiarism, & Academic Dishonesty:** Any instance of cheating, plagiarism, and/or academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failure of the course and will be dealt with to the fullest extent. To avoid cheating, all blue books will be checked by the instructor and/or his assistant and no hats will be allowed during the administration of exams.

**Outline of the Course:** Note that this outline is imperfect and may have to be changed to meet needs/realities of the class. Should this be the case, the class will be given sufficient alert, both in class and on the course website. Some additional readings not yet listed may be added through the course of the class in ample time for the students to digest the material. All readings are required *before* the class period listed.

**Honor Code:** All students are expected to adhere strictly to the Honor Code of the University of Virginia's College at Wise – all Honor Code violations will be referred to the Honor System and will result in punishment up to and including expulsion. Further, all students at The University of Virginia's College at Wise will sign the following pledge to all work completed. This signifies understanding and agreement of the articles of the Constitution of the Honor System.

I,       (name)      , certify as a student at The University of Virginia's College at Wise that I have neither received nor given aid on this       (test, exam, etc.)      .

**Academic Assistance:** Academic Support Services offers tutoring, counseling, advising, and enrichment opportunities for students who evidence need and can satisfy the eligibility requirements. The project is funded by the United States Department of Education. The Tutor Connection, located in Zehmer Hall, serves all students who request tutoring. Peer tutors, working under the supervision of UVa-Wise faculty and staff, provide free tutoring in all subject areas. Hours of operation are 8:00 am - 10:00 pm weekdays; and weekend hours are arranged as needed (summer hours vary). Call (276) 328-0177 for more information.

**Assistance for Students With Disabilities:** In compliance with Section 504 and ADA legislation, UVa-Wise provides services for students with disabilities to assure their access to both facilities and educational programs. Students in need of assistance should contact Narda Porter, ADA Coordinator, by calling (276) 328-0177 or via e-mail at [nmb3h@uvawise.edu](mailto:nmb3h@uvawise.edu). Students needing accommodations or academic program modifications must provide documentation of the disability from a physician, state or local agency or other licensed professional. Documentation should be recent (within the last three years) and should include recommendations for services based on the evaluation.

**Extra Credit:** Any extra credit opportunity decided upon by the instructor will be made available to the members of the course as a whole; no single extra credit event will be worth more than one (1) point on the student's final course grade and students may earn no more than six (6) points towards their final grade through extra credit; a handout of tentative extra credit opportunities will be made available at the first possible instance. Also, students can receive three (3) points on their final grade by reading one of the following books then writing a brief summary of these books and discussing it with Dr. Smith: Joe Haldeman's *Forever War*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, Yevgeny Zamyatin's *We*, Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* or *The Martian Chronicles*, Frank Herbert's *Dune*, Robert Heinlein's *Starship Troopers*, Jonathon Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*, Thomas More's *Utopia*, Ayn Rand's *Anthem*, Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* or *Oryx and Crake*, Mary Shelly's *Frankenstein*, or Jack Finney's *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. That said, the maximum number of points on the final grade remains six (6).

**Policy on Reading & Texts:** Students are expected to read all required material prior to the beginning of class – if a large proportion of the class consistently fails to read then daily quizzes on the reading of the evening prior will commence – these will be worth at least 10% of the course grade. Individuals who fail to fulfill their responsibilities by consistently failing to read may be considered absent after a warning from the instructor. Students are expected to bring their texts to class for the relevant day every day. Failure to do so consistently may be considered absent after a warning from the instructor.

**NOTE:** THIS IS A 300-LEVEL COURSE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE – THE INSTRUCTOR ASSUMES AT LEAST FUNDAMENTAL KNOWLEDGE OF POLITICAL TERMS AND CONCEPTS; IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A FIRM GRASP ON THESE YOU ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO SEEK PREPARATION IN A LOWER-LEVEL POLITICAL SCIENCE COURSE (E.G. POLS 101, 102, 103, and/or 104) BEFORE TAKING THIS COURSE. FURTHER, PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILE POLITICAL SCIENCE IS RELATED TO A NUMBER OF OTHER DISCIPLINES IT IS **NOT** HISTORY, ECONOMICS, PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, AND SO FORTH –PLEASE, DO NOT EXPECT SIMILAR MATERIAL TO BE TREATED IN SIMILAR WAYS.

**Major Texts:**

William L. Cleveland & Martin Bunton (2009) *A History of the Modern Middle East*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.

Congressional Quarterly (2007) *The Middle East*. Washington, DC: CQ Press. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition

Bernard Lewis (1995) *The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years*. New York: Touchstone.

Vali Nasr (2007) *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts Within Islam Will Shape the Future*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

Avi Shlaim (1995) *War and Peace in the Middle East: A Concise History*. New York: Penguin Books.

David Waines (2006) *An Introduction to Islam*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

# Introduction to the Class

Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

## I. Fundamental Principles of Comparative Politics

Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

1. What is comparative politics?
2. What is the comparative method?
3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of the comparative method?

### Primary Reading:

Arend Lijphart (1971) Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method. *The American Political Science Review*. 65(3). 682-693.

[http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Stu/msekerci/Teaching/lijphart\\_comparativemethod.pdf](http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Stu/msekerci/Teaching/lijphart_comparativemethod.pdf)

4. What are “area studies” and what advantages and disadvantages does this approach have over others?

### Primary Reading:

Robert H. Bates (1997) Area Studies and the Discipline: A Useful Controversy. *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 30, 166-169. **ON RESERVE**

5. Define the terms “nation,” “state,” “country,” and “nation-state.” Give examples of each, comparing and contrasting them.

### Primary Reading:

Max Weber (1918) “Politics as a Vocation.”

<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/polisci/ethos/Weber-vocation.pdf>

Excerpt entitled “The Nation as Imagined Community” from Benedict Anderson (1983) *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*.

<http://www.nationalismproject.org/what/anderson.htm>

5. Define, compare, and contrast the terms “monarchy,” “aristocracy,” and “democracy.” Give examples of each. Discuss the relative advantages and disadvantages of both.

### Primary Reading:

Book III of Aristotle (350BCE) *Politics*.

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.3.three.html>

6. Define the terms “direct democracy” and “republic” and give examples of each. Discuss the relative

advantages and disadvantages of both.

7. Define the terms “unitary state,” “federation,” and “confederation” and give examples of each. Discuss the relative advantages and disadvantages of both.

8. Define the terms “institution” and “structure” as they pertain to comparative politics, giving examples of both.

9. Define the terms “law” and “norm” and give examples.

10. Define the term “constitution” and give examples.

11. Define the term “legislature” and give examples.

12. Define the terms “society” and “community” and give examples.

13. Define the terms “authority” and “legitimacy” and give examples.

14. Define the terms “development/developed,” “underdeveloped,” and “modernized/modernization” and give examples.

## Graded Events

**Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup> ~ National Map Exam (10% of Final Grade):** Students will be administered a blank map of the states of the Greater Middle East; their grade will be based on their ability to identify the following states on a map: Algeria, Western Sahara, Morocco, Mali, Mauritania, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, the Sudan, Chad, Niger, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti, Israel/Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Oman, Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Cyprus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Kirgizstan.

## II. Modernization, Nationalism, & Fundamentalism

*Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> & Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>*

### Primary Reading:

● Miroslav Hroch (1996) “From National Movement to the Fully-Formed Nation: The Nation-Building Process in Europe.” In Geoff Eley & Ronald Grigor Suny (editors) *Becoming National: A Reader*. Oxford University Press. **ON RESERVE**

● Eric G.E. Zuelow “What is Nationalism?” *The Nationalism Project?*  
<http://www.nationalismproject.org/what.htm> **READ VARIOUS DEFINITIONS**

● Martin E. Marty (1992) “Fundamentals of Fundamentalism” in Lawrence Kaplan (editor) *Fundamentalism in the Comparative Perspective*. **ON RESERVE**

● Emmanuel Sivan (1992) “The Islamic Resurgence: Civil Society Strikes Back” in Lawrence Kaplan (editor) *Fundamentalism in the Comparative Perspective*. **ON RESERVE**

## III. What is the Middle East?

Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>

### Primary Reading:

- CQ (Chapter 1 – “Introduction”)
- Shlaim (“Introduction”)

### Graded Events

**Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> ~ First Major Exam Distributed (10% of Final Grade):** Take-home examination on first three sections distributed. Due Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

## IV. Identity in the Middle East

### A. Nations

Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

- Steve Tamari “Who Are the Arabs?” The Center for Contemporary Arab Studies - Georgetown University. [http://ccas.georgetown.edu/files/who\\_are\\_arabs.pdf](http://ccas.georgetown.edu/files/who_are_arabs.pdf)
  - Sabbah Gazzawih (1992) “The Arabic Language” *The Arab World In the Classroom*. The Center for Contemporary Arab Studies – Georgetown University. [http://ccas.georgetown.edu/files/teaching\\_arabic.pdf](http://ccas.georgetown.edu/files/teaching_arabic.pdf)
  - Alan Palmer (1994) “Prologue: Ottomans Triumphant” *The Decline & Fall of the Ottoman Empire*. Barnes & Noble Books & Campbell Thompson & McLaughlin, Ltd. **ON RESERVE**
1. What distinguishes the Arabs as a people?
  2. What distinguishes the Persians/Iranians as a people?
  3. What distinguishes the Turks as a people?
  4. What distinguishes the other major peoples of the Middle East (Kurds, Armenians, Azeri, etc.)?

## **B. Islam**

*Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>*

### **1. The Origins and Fundamental Tenets of Islam**

#### **Primary Reading:**

- Cleveland & Burton (Chapter 1 – “The Rise and Expansion of Islam”)
- Lewis (Chapter 3 – “Origins”)
- David Waines (Chapter 1 – “There is No God But Allah . . .” & Chapter 2 – “Tradition in the Making”)

### **2. Shi’a Islam**

#### **Primary Reading:**

- Nasr (Chapter 1 – “The Other Islam” & Chapter 2 – “The Making of Shia Politics”)
- David Waines (Chapter 6 – “The Way of the Imams”)

### **3. Sufi Islam**

- David Waines (Chapter 5 – “The Way of the Sufi”)

### **4. Principles of Islamic Political-Economics and Law**

#### **Primary Reading:**

- Lewis (Chapter 8 – “The State,” Chapter 9 – “The Economy,” Chapter 10 – “The Elites,” Chapter 11 – “The Commonality,” & Chapter 12 – “Religion and Law”)
- David Waines (Chapter 3 – “Divine Will and the Law”)

# V. Origins of the Modern Middle East

## A. Decline of the Traditional Empires, Early Radical Modernization Movements, and European Hegemony

Thursday, March 4th

### Primary Reading:

- Cleveland & Bunton (Chapter 8 – “The Era of the Young Turks and the Iranian Constitutionalists,” Chapter 9 – “World War I and the End of the Ottoman Order,” Chapter 10 – “Authoritarian Reform in Turkey and Iran,” Chapter 11 – “The Arab Struggle for Independence: Egypt, Iraq, and Transjordan from the Interwar Era to 1945,” Chapter 12 – “The Arab Struggle for Independence: Syria, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia from the Interwar Era to 1945”)

### Graded Events

**Thursday, March 4th ~ Second Major Exam (10% of Final Grade):** Take-home examination on the “Identity” sections distributed. Due Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, March 11th**  
**Spring Break**

## B. Zionism and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

### Primary Reading:

- CQ (Chapter 2 – “Arab-Israeli Conflict”)
- Cleveland & Bunton (Chapter 13 – “The Palestine Mandate and the Birth of the State of Israel,” Chapter 17 – “Israel and the Palestinians from 1948 to the 1970s,” Chapter 22 – “Challenges to the Existing Order: The Palestinian Uprising and the 1991 Gulf War,” and Chapter 23 – “A Peace so Near, A Peace so Far: Israeli-Palestinian Relations Since the 1991 Gulf War”)
- Shlaim (Chapter 3 – “America Between Arabs and Israelis”)

### *C. After European Hegemony*

*Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>*

#### **Primary Reading:**

- Cleveland & Bunton (Chapter 14 – “Democracy and Authoritarianism: Turkey and Iran,” Chapter 15 – “The Middle East in the Age of Nasser: The Egyptian Base,” Chapter 16 – “The Middle East in the Age of Nasser: The Radicalization of Arab Politics”)

### *D. The Iranian Revolution*

*Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>*

#### **Primary Reading:**

- Cleveland & Bunton (Chapter 20 – “The Iranian Revolution and the Resurgence of Islam”)

### *E. Oil, the Cold War, and the Iran-Iraq War*

*Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup>*

#### **Primary Reading:**

- CQ ( Chapter 3 – “Persian Gulf Conflicts,” Chapter 4 – “Middle Eastern Oil and Gas”)

### *F. The Post-Cold War Period: The First & Second Iraqi-American Wars and the Emergence of Arab Anocracies*

*Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>*

#### **Primary Reading:**

- Cleveland & Bunton (Chapter 22 – “Challenges to the Existing Order: The Palestinian Uprising and the 1991 Gulf War,” Chapter 24 – “Patterns of Continuity and Change Since the 1991 Gulf War,” Chapter 25 – “America’s Troubled Moment in the Middle East”)
- Shlaim (Chapter 6 – “Desert Shield and Desert Storm,” Chapter 7 – “Madrid and After,” Chapter 8 – “Pax Americana”)

## VI. Petroleum, Malthus, and Resource Curse

Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

### Primary Reading:

- Thomas Malthus (1798) Excerpts from “An Essay on the Principle of Population, As It Affects the Future Improvement of Society With Remarks on the Speculations of Mr. Godwin, M. Condocet, and Other Writers.” on Modern History Sourcebook:  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1798malthus.html>
- C. N. Brunnschweiler and E. H. Bulte (2008) “Linking Natural Resources to Slow Growth and More Conflict.” *Science*. May/320. <http://www.earth.rochester.edu/ees101/PDFs/616.pdf>
- Cleveland & Bunton (Chapter 21 – “The Arabian Peninsula in the Petroleum Era”)
- CQ (Chapter 4 – “Middle Eastern Oil and Gas”) **REVIEW**

## VII. Institutional Arrangements of Middle Eastern States

### A. Democratic-Republic: The State of Israel

Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

### Primary Reading:

- CQ (Chapter 9 – “Israel”)

### Graded Events

**Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Third Major Exam (10% of Final Grade):** Take-home examination on the modern history of the Middle East distributed. Due Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup> ~ Paper Proposals Due (Proposals After Will Be Penalized):** Students must submit a one to two page proposal for their paper (for specific details on the paper itself, please see below) – the proposal must be typed, double-spaced, 12-point, Times New Roman Font with standard formatting on margins (no more than 1 inch wide or tall).

## *B. Democratic Republic: The Republic of Turkey*

*Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>*

### **Primary Reading:**

- CQ (Chapter 18 – “Turkey”)

## *C. Long-Standing Anocracy: The Arab Republic of Egypt*

*Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>*

### **Primary Reading:**

- CQ (Chapter 6 – “Egypt”)

## *D. Emergent Democracy: The Republic of Lebanon*

*Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>*

### **Primary Reading:**

- CQ (Chapter 12 – “Lebanon”)

## *E. Islamic Republic: The Islamic Republic of Iran*

*Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>*

### **Primary Reading:**

- CQ (Chapter 7 – “Iran”)
- Nasr (Chapter 3 – “The Fading Promise of Nationalism,” Chapter 4 – “Khomeini’s Moment,” Chapter 8 – “The Rise of Iran”)

## *F. Traditional Monarchy: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*

*Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>*

### **Primary Reading:**

- CQ (Chapter 16 – “Saudi Arabia”)

## *G. Monarchical Federation: The United Arab Emirates*

*Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>*

### **Primary Reading:**

- CQ (Chapter 15 – “Persian Gulf States”)

## VIII. Intergovernmental Organizations of the Middle East

*Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>*

### **Primary Reading:**

- Pact of the Arab League of States (1945) [http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/arableag.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/arableag.asp)
- “F.A.Q.s” Maghreb Union <http://www.maghrebarabe.org/en/map.cfm>

### **Graded Events**

**Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Fourth Major Exam Distributed (10% of Final Grade):** Take-home examination on the institutional and structural characteristics of the Middle East distributed. Due Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

**Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> ~ Major Paper Due (25% of Final grade)**