

Political Science 546: Politics of the Middle East

Winter Quarter<sub>1</sub> 2001

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## **SYLLABUS**

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course will focus on such topics as the Arab-Israeli conflict, the systemic, psychological, and political economic dimensions of Middle East politics, intra-Arab politics, forms of governance in the nation-states of the Middle East, secular-religious tensions within and between Middle East states, and the interaction between the politics of the Middle East and international politics, including U.S. foreign policy. There are no formal prerequisites for this course.

### **Course Requirements:**

Students are expected to attend class and participate in class discussions. Each student is also required to complete a midterm, a paper, and a final examination, and to participate in a role playing exercise in a scheduled non-class time or approximately one hour in length. The midterm is scheduled in for February 12, while the final examination will be administered on Monday, March 12 from 9:30 - 11:18 am. The midterm will count for 25 per cent of the course grade, the aper. which is due on February 28 will count for 35 per cent of that grade, the role-playing exercise for 5 per cent, and the final examination will count for the remaining 35 per cent. Excused absences from examinations can only be obtained for medical emergencies. Such emergencies must be documented to the satisfaction of Prof. Sylvan, and Prof. Sylvan or Mr. Strath man must be notified in advance of such an absence. An unexcused absence from an examination will result in a grade of zero for that examination.

### **Academic Honesty**

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on

academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

### **Disability**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disabilities Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

### **Materials Recommended for Purchase**

Bickerton, Ian and Carla Klausner, A Concise History of the Arab-Israel Conflict, Third Edition. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1998.

Barnet, Michael N., Dialogues in Arab Politics, New York: Columbia University Press, 1998

Dowty, Alan, The Jewish State: A Century Later. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998

The books should be available for sale in paperback form at all of the campus area bookstores (University Bookstores, Longs, and Student Book Exchange). Purchasing used copies of either of the books is quite satisfactory.

As the reading list portion of the syllabus below indicates, students are also asked to read some materials that are not in the books listed above. The materials in this packet will be placed on reserve in the Reserve Reading Room of the Undergraduate Library in Sullivant Hall, and will probably also be available at a campus area photocopy establishment.

**In addition to reading the materials on the reading list, students are expected to keep abreast of the daily news in the internet versions of the Jordan Times at <http://www.accessme.com/jordantimes/> and Israel's Ha'aretz at [http://www3.haaretz.co.il/en/htmls/1\\_1.htm](http://www3.haaretz.co.il/en/htmls/1_1.htm)**

### **Paper Assignment:**

Each student is required to write one paper in this course. For this paper, students are to begin by choosing one bilateral relationship in the Middle East. This can include any pair of Middle East states, including the Palestinian Authority. The Israeli-Palestinian bilateral relationship is, however, not allowed as a paper topic for this course. Primarily using source materials other than those assigned in this course, students must analyze the systemic, state and national, and individual leadership aspects of that relationship. Examine how the overall relationship between those two states is molded by each of those factors.

Maximum paper length is ten pages. Papers should be typed and double spaced. Exceptions to the typing of papers can be granted only after consultation with Professor Sylvan or Mr. Strathman. All ideas, phrases, and sentences which come from another source must be footnoted, whether they are paraphrased or quoted.

Any student who so desires may submit an outline of his or her paper to either Prof. Sylvan or Mr. Strathman by February 14 at the latest. The outline will not be graded, but comments will be made, and this feedback can serve as a valuable tool to improve your paper. The papers themselves are due in class on

## **COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS**

### **I. "Systemic" Influences on Middle East Politics**

Dates; January 3 - January 22

Barnett, pp.58 - 68,103 - 120.

Bickerton and Klausner, pp.35 - 102,117 - 146,185 - 212, 224 - 228, 255 - 259, 287 - 289.

Dowty, pp.85 - 102.

### **II. State and National Influences on Middle East Politics**

Dates: January 22 - February 7

Dowty, pp.3 - 84,103 - 255.

Barneff, I - 58, 68 - 103.

Bickerton and Klausner, pp.1-23, 25 - 34,102 - 117,146 - 184, 213 - 224, 228 - 255, 259 - 287, 289 - 292, 305 - 320.

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### **MIDTERM FEBRUARY I2~ \*\*\*\*\***

### **III. Individual Leaders' Influence on Middle East Politics**

Dates: February 14 - February 28

Barneff, pp.121 - 270.

Dowty, pp.62 - 64, 249 - 251

Bickerton and Klausner, pp.23 - 25, 36 - 38, 93 - 99,119 - 121,197 - 199, 292 - 305.

**PAPERS DUE FEBRUARY 28, IN CLASS**

#### **IV. Researching Israeli-Palestinian Relations**

Dates: February 28 - March 7

Weber, Steven, "Prediction and the Middle East Peace Process," Security Studies, Vol.6, No.4, Summer 1997, pp.167 - 179.

Stein, Janice G., et al., "Five Scenarios of the Israeli-Palestinian Relationship in 2002: Works in Progress," Security Studies, Vol.7, No.4, summer 1998, pp.195 - 212.

Sylvan, Donald A., Jonathan W. Keller, and Yoram Z. Haftel, "Forecasting Israeli-Palestinian Relations," paper delivered at the 1999 annual meetings of the International Society of Political Psychology.

Sylvan, Donald A. and Arie Nadler, "Problem Representation and Victimhood in Israeli-Palestinian Relations," paper delivered at the 2000 annual meetings of the International Society of Political Psychology.

**\*\*\*FINAL EXAMINATION MONDAY. MARCH 12 FROM 9:30 ~11:18AM\*\*\***