

POLI 483—MIDDLE EAST POLITICS-SPRING 2015

DR.JOSEF OLMERT

MW- 2;20-3;35 P.M

GAMBRELL 201

OFFICE-GAMBRELL 332

OFFICE HOURS-MW-10-11;30 AM

ONLY EMAIL ADDRESS , I REPEAT, ONLY EMAIL ADDRESS TO COMMUNICATE WITH ME;

drjolmert@gmail.com

Do not communicate with me through the blackboard.

COURSE OBJECTIVES;

The Middle East[ME], is one of the most volatile regions of the world, whose history is characterized by chronic instability. Our major emphasis will be on understanding the background of this state of affairs.

We shall give a comprehensive historic background, and then focus on the role of states and their interrelationships.

COURSE OUTCOMES;

Understanding of the main cultural/religious/political features of the pre-WW1 ME.

Understanding the social and cultural bases of ME politics, referring to the role of various social and political forces operating in the states discussed

The states discussed will be; EGYPT, SYRIA, LEBANON, IRAQ, SAUDI-ARABIA, JORDAN, PALESTINE AND ISRAEL

Understanding the dynamics of relationships between states, and the importance of wars in the ME, both civil wars, and Arab-Israeli, Arab-Arab etc.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION;

The professor will present the subjects to be discussed in class, conduct a discussion, and will encourage active students participation.

The professor does not encourage writing while class discussion is on.

The professor will announce dictation time in class.

The main focus of the course is really on students developing an interest in the subject, and being ready to discuss various aspects of issues studied.

THE STUDENTS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FACT, THAT I LIKE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS, EXPRESS THEIR OWN THOUGHTS AND IDEAS AND NEVER BE AFRAID THAT THEY COULD LOSE POINTS FOR ANY OF THEIR REMARKS IN CLASS OR IN WRITING!!!

THIS COURSE, AS ANY OF MY OTHER COURSES, ASPIRES TO CREATE A COMMUNITY OF THINKERS, WHEREBY ALL STUDENTS SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES FREELY!

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS;

CLASS ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!!!

Students are allowed to miss only one class, and in case of emergency/special need please let me know in advance.

I do not like to question students explanations/excuses for missing class, as I like To have a pleasant atmosphere of teaching, so please try to be present in class!!!

A RESEARCH PAPER;

The students are required to write a research paper on a subject APPROVED IN ADVANCE BY THE PROFESSOR!. Size of essay-15--18 pages.

Subjects are the choice of the students, provided they touch upon subjects Connected with the ME.

Professor will inform class during the course as to the time of submissions

FINAL EXAM; Professor will announce in class the time of the exam.

IMPORTANT;

ALL THE PAPERS AND EXAMS MUST BE HANDED OVER IN HARD COPY, REPEAT- MUST BE HANDED OVER ONLY IN HARD COPY!

GRADING;

CLASS PARTICIPATION-INCLUDING PRESENCE IN CLASS AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS-33%

RESEARCH PAPER;33%

FINAL;33%

CLASS REGULATIONS;

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE ACADEMIC REGULATIONS OF USC, TO BE FOUND;

<http://catalog.sc.com>

REQUIRED READING;

C.Brown, Imperial Legacy, pp.1-12

L.Fawcett, International Relations of the Middle East, chapters, 7-11.

B.Lewis, The ME and the West, pp.9-29.

E.Lust, The ME, chapters, 11,13, 14, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23

Gamal Abd Al Nasir, The philosophy of the Revolution.

P.Seale, The struggle for Syria, chapter 6.

COURSE PLAN;

FIRST TWO CLASSES-INTRODUCTION-OPENING DISCUSSION

FIRST SUBJECT;

MAIN FEATURES OF THE MIDDLE EAST;

GEOGRAPHY , DEMOGRAPHY , RELIGION

WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE OTTOMAN PERIOD

SECOND SUBJECT'

THE ME BETWEEN WORLD WARS-THE CREATION OF ARAB STATES

THIRD SUBJECT;

A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY REVIEW

GOOD LUCK!