

Howard University

Department of Political Science

Political 012-173 T, Th: 2:10-3:30 a.m.

Spring Semester 2000 Office: DGH 134

Mervat Hatem Office Hours: T, Th

11:00-12:30 a.m; 3:30-

4:30 & Wed:2:00-3:00 p.m

Office Tel. 806-9345

Governments and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa

The current discussions of Middle East politics in the U.S (and generally in the West) are dominated by **3 important themes**. **First**, there is the debate on the history and the complex negotiations of the Arab-Israeli conflict. **Secondly**, there is the constant U.S, Western European and Japanese worry and discussion of how to maintain control of the abundant and strategic oil resources of the Gulf subregion in friendly Arab hands. This includes the discussion of the U.S's double containment of Iran and the continued imposition of sanctions on Iraq as another unfriendly regional state. **Thirdly**, there is Western discussions of the emergence of Islamism as an oppositional political movement that challenges the stability of friendly Arab states and their relations with the U.S and Europe. This has revived Western hostility towards and misconceptions of Islam, its culture and its people.

Towards the exploration of these themes, the following textbooks have been ordered to guide our study and discussions:

- Charles Smith, **Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict** (St. Martin's, 1996).

- Rosemary Hollis, ed., **Oil and Regional Development in the Gulf** (Royal Institute of International Affairs, 1998).

-John Ruedy, ed., **Islamism and Secularism in North Africa** (Georgetown University, 1996).

Grading:

The main goal of the course will be to primarily develop contemporary familiarity with the region and to a lesser extent some historical knowledge of its issues. The oral debates and the written assignments are designed to measure this increased level of learning.

Each student will write 3 short research papers (10-12 pages) on the main themes of the course: the Arab-Israeli conflict, the regional and the global relations of the Gulf states and the struggle between Islamism and secularism in North Africa. Depending on student enrollment in the course, students will also participate in oral class exercises that simulate (1) the negotiations taking place between the different parties of the Arab-Israeli conflict (Israel, the Palestinian authority, Syria and Lebanon), (2) the meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council which includes all the states of that subregion and (3) the meetings of the Maghrebi states on how to deal with the rise of Islamism.

The primary criterion for grading will be individual learning over the term reflected in the student's oral and written assignments. Each of the 3 papers will count for 25% of the overall grade. The remaining 25% will be divided between class attendance (10%) and class participation including oral presentations and debates (15%).

* Late paper assignments will not be accepted beyond the specified dates.

*Good Luck and Welcome to the Course

Course Outline

I. Palestine, Zionism and the Arab-Israeli Conflict:

Smith, Charles, Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

-History of Palestine before the British Mandate, (Jan. 11, 13, 18)

chs. 1-3: 1-11, 21-36, 42-65.

-Zionism, Palestinian nationalism and the rise of the state of Israel, (Jan. 20, 25, 27)

chs. 4-5: 68-107, 111-147.

-The Arab-Israeli conflict, (Feb. 1, 3, , 8)

chs 7-10: 177-200, 209-214, 220-35, 240-273, 290-319.

*** Oral Debate is scheduled for Feb. 17.**

*** First paper assignment is due on Feb. 22.**

*** Late Papers will not be accepted.**

II. The Arabian Gulf: Global, Regional and National Politics

Rosemary Hollis, ed., Oil and Regional Developments in the Gulf

- The Political Economy of Oil: (Feb. 24)

Chs. 1-2: 1-33.

-Regional Powers I: Iraq and Iran (Mar. 2, 7)

Chs. 6-7: 91-133.

-Regional Powers II: Saudi Arabia (Mar. 9)

-U.S Policy: (Mar. 14)

Chs. 4 & 9 :69-81; 149-158.

*** Oral debate is scheduled for Mar. 30.**

*** Written assignment is also due on Mar 30.**

*** Late Papers will not be accepted.**

III. The Rise of Islamism in North Africa:

John Ruedy, ed., Islamism and Secularism in North Africa

-Secular and Islamist Encounters (April 4)

ch. 6: 87-102.

-The Islamist Challenge:

(1) Algeria (April 6)

chs. 7, 13: 103-122, 219-253.

(2) Tunisia (April 11)

ch. 9: 149-66.

(3) Libya (April 13)

ch. 11:187-200.

***Oral debate scheduled for April 25.**

***Written assignment due April 25.**

***No late Papers will be accepted.**