

## DRAFT SYLLABUS

This is posted for your info to help you select or prepare for a course. An official version will be ready at or prior to your course start. Texts will be same or very similar. Please check online bookstore for exact texts.

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

#### Distance Learning

COURSE TITLE: POL 6644 The Middle East in World Affairs

TERM: IV 2003/04

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. William Hazen

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REQUIRED TEXTS: Arthur Goldschmidt, A Concise History of the Middle East. Westview Press ISBN 0-8133-3505-1

The Koran (Qur'an) (Any edition will do as long as it is annotated)

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Human and material factors contributing to the domestic and external politics of the Middle East; structure and process of government in key states in the area; the current political situation in the Middle East and its influence on global politics.

#### COURSE PURPOSE:

To familiarize the student with:

1. Sufficient background to clarify certain myths which prevail in the Middle East
2. Knowledge that would prevent faux pas when in the area
3. Techniques to forecast events based on historical procedures
4. Facts to explain why actions are taken by Middle East leaders
5. Reasons why U.S. government policy toward the Middle East is determined as it is

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of POL 6644, the student should have:

1. An understanding of the impact of Arab culture and the tenets and schisms of Islam on the politics of the Middle East.
2. Knowledge of the role of Pan-Arabism and Islamic revivalism in unifying the sub-system and in undermining the nation-state and sense of nationalism of the constituent members of the sub-system.
3. An analysis of the origins and political ideology of Zionism in the founding of Israel and the origins and politics of the Palestine National Movement.
4. A contrasting analysis of the Iranian regimes of the Shah and the Ayatollahs.
5. Knowledge of the internal problems and political institutions of the Gulf States, Lebanon, Egypt, and Israel.
6. Insight into Great Power strategic and military interests in the Middle East, especially its strategic waterways and its oil.
7. Awareness of the record of Great Power involvement in the Middle East from World War I to the present.
8. Improving analytical and communicative skills through preparation of reports.

#### COURSE RELATIONSHIPS:

POL 6644 offers a wide variety of regime types useful in comparative analysis: monarchies, charismatic leaders and various types of military regimes. The important role of political culture in comparative methodology is exemplified by the significance of Pan-Arabism and Islamic revivalism in contemporary Middle Eastern politics.

This course also complements the field of Theory and Ideology due to the important political role played by such ideologies as Nasserism, Baath Socialism, and Qadhafi's Third International Theory. Also, the analysis of supra-national Pan-Arab and Pan-Islamic revivalist ideologies is beneficial.

Finally, the curriculum of the foreign policy and diplomatic fields and of International Law and Organizations are reinforced by a review of the ongoing attempts to settle the legal and political aspects of the Palestine Question.

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Read the texts.
2. Glean current magazine and daily newspapers for articles on the Middle East and submit analytical reports on five of them, to include those specifically noted in homework assignments.
3. The student will submit several short papers according to the Homework assignments.
4. Submit five customs, with descriptions, relating to the Middle Easterner. Remember, there are more than just Arab customs in the region, to include Jewish, Turkish, Iranian, Armenian, Afghan, etc.
5. Take a final exam.

#### ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS:

All four categories will be used as assessment instruments. The instructor will determine the weight applied to each.

	Grade Value
Student Homework	20%

Customs	10%
Reports	35%
Final Exam	35%

#### METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

1. Lesson Plan topics pertaining to the Middle East course.
2. Use of current events through newspapers and magazine articles and on-line sites.
3. Interaction with the instructor and fellow classmates through the Internet.
4. Communicative exercises with fellow classmates on the Discussion Board.

#### AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Any student whose disabilities fall within the ADA must inform the instructor at the beginning of the term of any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements of this course.

#### INCOMPLETE POLICY:

If a student is unable to complete the course in the specified time, the student will petition the instructor to receive an Incomplete. A valid excuse will be given with the petition.

#### STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:

The commission of or attempt to commit any cheating and/or plagiarism are in violation of the Standard of Conduct stated in Troy State University's Student Handbook. The student may be disciplined up to and including suspension and expulsion if such action takes place.

#### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USAGE POLICY:

The University's Information Technology System includes computing, information, technology, and network resources. All users of this technology system are obligated to utilize the various resources responsibly, legally and ethically for their intended purposes. All students should read the policy before participating in online course activities.

([http://www.troyst.edu/divisions/htm/undergraduate/policy\\_statements.html](http://www.troyst.edu/divisions/htm/undergraduate/policy_statements.html))

#### LEARNING RESOURCES:

TSU Library Services are accessed at <http://tsulib.troyst.edu>

#### STUDENT SUPPORT:

Distance Learning staff are identified at <http://www.tsulearn.net>. Assistance is available to students who experience difficulty using technology at <http://spectrum.troyst.edu/~distancehelp/>.

#### COURSE OUTLINE:

- Lesson I: Overview of the Region
- Lesson II: Islam
- Lesson III: The Arab-Israeli Conflict
- Lesson IV: The Palestinian Question
- Lesson V: The Gulf
- Lesson VI: Regional Rivalries, Customs and Characteristics
- Lesson VII: Lebanon
- Lesson VIII: Israel; the Northern Tier Nations
- Lesson IX: Western Influence
- Lesson X: Future Problems