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## American Public University System

*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

**School of Security and Global Studies  
IRLS460  
Government and Security in the Middle East  
Credit Hours: 3  
Length of Course: 8 Weeks  
Prerequisite: NONE**

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### Instructor Information

**Instructor:**  
**Office Hours:**

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**Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.**

**After the class is over, instructor contact information:**

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## Course Description (Catalog)

### **IRLS 460 Government and Politics in the Middle East (3 hours)**

This course examines historic, economic, social, and geographic traits that distinguish this region and shape its domestic political processes and interstate relations. Surveys the governments of selected countries, considering factors such as legitimacy and political development. Includes a survey of contemporary issues salient in the region, including the Arab-Israeli dispute, with particular focus on regional security concerns.

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## Course Scope

As a 400-level course, this course provides a higher level of knowledge building on the material taught at the 300 level. The purpose and scope of this course is to enable the student to build a deeper understanding of the discipline.

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## Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

**CO 1** Explain the root causes of contemporary political, economic, and religious challenges to regional security and stability in the Middle East

**CO2** Analyze the effects of the rise political Islamism on political development and stability in the Middle East

**CO3** Evaluate the impact of the Shi'a-Sunni divide on regional stability

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**CO4** Assess the effects of the Arab Spring on regional security and political development in the Middle East

**CO5** Apply contending theoretical models of conflict and cooperation to the prospects for the Arab-Israeli peace process

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### Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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### Course Resources

- Various resources from the APUS Library are used. Please visit <http://apus.libguides.com/index.php> to locate the course eReserve.
- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

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### Evaluation Procedures

**Forum discussions – 25 percent**

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Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

### **Midterm assignment - 25 percent**

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 2 questions. Each answer will be 2-3 pages in length (double-spaced, 12pt font). The questions are designed to test your knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory. The assignment will be available in the "Assignments" folder.

### **Progress assignment - 25 percent**

You will write a Case Study assessing the prospects for a long-term peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Arab conflict. This case study will be 8-10 pages in length, and will be based on at least six peer-reviewed academic sources. More specific instructions for the paper can be found in the "Assignments" folder.

### **Final assignment – 25 percent**

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 2 questions. Each answer will be 2-3 pages in length (double-spaced, 12pt font). The questions are designed to test your knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory. The assignment will be available in the "Assignments" folder.

<b>Grade Instruments</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Forum Discussions (8)	<b>25</b>
Midterm Assignment	<b>25</b>
Progress Assignment	<b>25</b>
Final Assignment	<b>25</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

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**8 – Week Course Outline**

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic(s)</u>	<u>Course Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s)</u>	<u>Assignment(s)</u>
1	<b>The Making of the Modern Middle East</b>	<b>CO 1</b> Examine the root causes of contemporary political, economic, and religious challenges to regional security and stability in the Middle East	Greene, "the Ottoman Experience."  Fromkin, "How the Modern Middle East Map came to be drawn."  Kelidar, "States without foundations"  Walker, "The Making of Modern Iraq."	Week one introductory forum  Week One Forum Discussion

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2	<b>Early Challenges to the System</b>	<p><b>CO 1</b> Examine the root causes of contemporary political, economic, and religious challenges to regional security and stability in the Middle East</p>	<p>Kramer, "Arab Nationalism." Parsons, "Soldiering for Arab Nationalism"  Ajami, "The end of Pan-Arabism."  Barnett, "Sovereignty, Nationalism, and Regional order."</p>	Week Two Forum Discussion
3	<b>Authoritarianism in the Middle East</b>	<p><b>CO 1</b> Examine the root causes of contemporary political, economic, and religious challenges to regional security and stability in the Middle</p>	<p>Bellin, "The robustness of Authoritarianism."  Anderson, "Absolutism and the resilience of Monarchy."  Herb, "Princes and Parliaments."  Ross, "Does Oil Hinder Democracy."</p>	Week Three Forum Discussion

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		East	Fish, "Islam and Authoritarianism."	
4	<b>Fault lines in Islam: Shi'a vs Sunnis</b>	<b>CO3</b> Evaluate the impact of the Shi'a-Sunni divide on regional stability	Cole, "A Shi'ite Crescent?" Abdo, "The New Sectarianism."	Week 4 Forum Discussion Midterm Assignment
5	<b>The Arab-Israeli Conflict</b>	<b>CO5</b> Apply contending theoretical models of conflict and cooperation to the prospects for the Arab-Israeli peace process	Golan, "The Evolution of Israeli Policy." Hammami and Tamari, "The Second Uprising." Frisch, "Has the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Become Islamic?" Klein, " Hamas in Power." As'ad, "The Bi-National State Solution." Waxman, "From Controversy to Consensus."	Week Five Forum Discussion
6	<b>Economic Development and the Middle East</b>	<b>CO 1</b> Examine the root causes of	Kuran, "Why the Middle East is Economically Underdeveloped."	Week Six Forum Discussion Case Study Assignment

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		contemporary political, economic, and religious challenges to regional security and stability in the Middle East	Peterson, "Life after oil."  Winckler, "The demographic dilemma."	
7	<b>The Rise of Islamism</b>	<b>CO2</b> Analyze the effects of the rise political Islam on political development in the Middle East	Wiktorowicz, "The Salafi movement in Jordan."  El-Ghobashy, "The Metamorphosis of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers."  Doran, "Somebody else's Civil War."	Week Seven Forum Discussion
8	<b>Assessing the Arab Spring</b>	<b>CO4</b> Assess the effects of the Arab Spring on regional security in the Middle East	Brown, "When Victory Becomes an Option."  Mecham, "From Ashes of Virtue."  Zakaria, "Islam, Democracy, and Constitutional Liberalism."  Kurzman and	Week Eight Forum Discussion  Final Assignment



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			Naqvi, "Do Muslims Vote Islamic?"	
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## **Policies**

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

## **Citation and Reference Style**

Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation

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and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

See <http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm>.

### **Late Assignments**

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

### **Netiquette**

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), : ), ☺

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**Online Library**

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The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

### **Request a Library Guide for your course** **(<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)**

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library:

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[librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu).

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### Selected Bibliography

Cleveland, William L. and Martin Bunton. 2009. *A History of the Modern Middle East*. Boulder: Westview Press

Richards, Alan and John Waterbury. 2008. *A Political Economy of the Middle East*. Third Edition. Boulder: Westview Press.

Lahoud, Nelly. 2010. *The Jihadis' Path to Self-Destruction*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Fraser, T.G. 2008. *The Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Third Edition. New York: Palgrave-MacMillan

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