

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS

American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
IRLS 493
Capstone Middle Eastern Studies
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks

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Instructor Information

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Instructor:

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 493 Capstone Middle East Studies (3 hours)

This senior capstone course allows students majoring in Middle Eastern Studies to analyze specific issues at the regional level including the role of religion, culture, politics, security, economic issues. This course will provide students with the opportunity to complete an approved academic research exercise that demonstrates knowledge of a selected field of study. This is a capstone course to be taken after all other Middle Eastern Studies courses have been satisfactorily completed.

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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

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

CO-1: Examine the role of history in shaping modern Middle Eastern geography and political structures.

CO-2: Determine components of political culture in the Middle East.

CO-3: Compare and contrast different social, cultural, and economic divisions of the Middle East.

CO-4: Analyze the role of women and minorities in Middle Eastern society and political life.

CO-5: Deconstruct the major crises and challenges to regional security.

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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

- There is no required textbook for this class.
- External websites and other assigned reading found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

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- 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

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.

Proposal assignment - 15 percent

This assignment is about creating a proposal for your research project. It will be between 3 and 5 pages and will contain sections including a research question, problem statement, purpose statement, and others. Details are listed in the Assignment instructions and the Lessons.

Literature review assignment - 25 percent

This assignment involves review and synthesis of 7-10 peer-reviewed sources on the topic selected in the proposal assignment. 6-8 pages.

Final research paper assignment – 35 percent

This assignment is the culmination of the previous two assignments. It will consist of an introduction in which the research question and main argument are presented, followed by subsections with the supporting research. It will be 12-15 pages not including the literature review.

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Grade Instruments	Percentage
Forum Discussions (8)	25
Midterm Assignment	15
Progress Assignment	25
Final Assignment	35
Total	100

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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	Research and the Middle East	CO-1: Examine the role of history in shaping modern Middle Eastern geography and political structures.	Anderson (2016) <i>Ethics of Research in the Middle East (2014)</i> Lages et al. (2015) Each week,	Week One Forum Discussion

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			Lessons contain additional resources and videos required for the discussions.	
2	Trending Topics 1 (Academic Freedom in the Middle East)	CO-1: Examine the role of history in shaping modern Middle Eastern geography and political structures. CO-2: Determine components of political culture in the Middle East.	Brand (2008) Duffy and Maarouf (2015) Ismael (2011) Kolig (2014) Noori (2014)	Week Two Forum Discussion Proposal assignment
3	Trending Topics 2 (Islam in Global Contexts)	CO-2: Determine components of political culture in the Middle East. CO-3: Compare and	Abdelkader (2012) Moaddel and Karabenick	Week Three Forum Discussion

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		contrast different social, cultural, and economic divisions of the Middle East.	(2013) Panayiotides (2015)	
4	Research Projects and Institutes	CO-3: Compare and contrast different social, cultural, and economic divisions of the Middle East.	<i>Higher Education in the Middle East</i> (2010) Fehling et al. (2015)	Week Four Forum Discussion
5	Middle Eastern Universities and Research Institutes	CO-4: Analyze the role of women and minorities in Middle Eastern society and political life.	Abargouty (2016) El-Awady (2016) Oleksiyenko (2013) Ryan and Ryan (2015)	Week Five Forum Discussion
6	Primary Sources	CO-5: Deconstruct the major crises and challenges to regional security.	Larsson (2011) Talmon-Heller et al. (2014)	Week Six Forum Discussion Literature Review Assignment
7	Trending Topics 3: On Area Studies	CO-3: Compare and contrast different social, cultural, and economic divisions of the Middle	Bank (2015) Fabos (2015)	Week Seven Forum Discussion

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		East.		
8	Synthesis and Conclusion	CO-5: Deconstruct the major crises and challenges to regional security.	Students will assign the readings based on their research topics.	Week Eight Forum Discussion Final Research Paper Assignment

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

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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

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.

- **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>)

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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: librarian@apus.edu.

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Selected Bibliography

This is where you list the selected course bibliography in correct Turabian citation format, 4-5 sources

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