American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
IRLS660
Middle East Politics and Security
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: NSEC500

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Instructor Information

Instructor Name: [insert name with credentials]

Biography: [insert link from APUS website]

Please contact me through the "messages" tab in the classroom while our class is in session.

After the course ends, please contact me through the university email system: [insert mycampus address]

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Course Description (Catalog)

IRLS660 (3 credit hours)

This course examines the evolution of modern Middle Eastern politics. The scope includes political, social, and cultural interactions both within and among the countries located in the Middle East and North Africa. The course involves investigations of the political attitudes and behaviors of prominent players in these regions and a look into the diverse aspirations of specific political, cultural, or demographic groups. In the first weeks of the course, an introduction to the history of the Middle East sets the stage for historic developments that brought about structural dilemmas of today. Evaluating the involvement of outside powers in the politics of region comprises another topic, along with an investigation of how non-state actors affect the future of the region. Discussions concern debates about the prospects of democracy and the future key nations after the Arab Spring.

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Course Scope

This course focuses on specialized area knowledge and sources in the field. Students will engage in a specialized task based project.

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Course Objectives

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

CO-1: Examine key historical events that shaped Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) politics.

CO-2: Analyze MENA's role within globalization, development, and communications technology.

CO-3: Evaluate democracy in the MENA.

CO-4: Distinguish the role of foreign states in the MENA.

CO-5: Deconstruct the role of non-state actors within MENA politics.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials 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.

Course Resources

Required Course Textbooks

0520267753	Kamrava, Mehran 2013	Modern Middle East: Political History since the First World War (3rd edition as of January 2015)

Required Readings

- External websites and other assigned readings are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

Evaluation Procedures

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

Discussion Forums – 30 percent

Discussion questions will be provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings and respond to the assigned topic(s). 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 – 20 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 2 questions, 2-3 pages each, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Specialized Project – 30 percent

This project will demonstrate your ability to synthesize discipline specific material. This is a task based exercise. 12-15 pages.

Final Assignment – 20 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 2 questions, 2-3 pages each, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

ASSIGNMENT	Percentage
Midterm Assignment	20 percent
Specialized Project Assignment	30 percent

Discussion Forums	30 percent
Final Assignment	20 percent
TOTAL	100 percent

8 – Week Course Outline

Week	Topic	Course Objectives	Readings	Assignments
Week 1	Introduction	CO-1: Examine key historical events that shaped Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) politics.	Best and Christiansen (2010) Kamrava (2013) Chapters 1-2 Keddie (1974)	Week One Forum Discussion Introduction Forums
2	The Historical Setting	CO-1: Examine key historical events that shaped Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) politics.	Breuilly (2010) Hinnebusch (2003) Chapter 1 Kamrava (2013) Chapters 3-5	Week Two Forum Discussion

3	Globalization and Development	CO-2: Analyze MENA's role within globalization, development, and communications technology.	Kamrava (2013) Chapters 7 and 8 Haynes (2010) Moore and Springborg (2001) Chapter 1	Week Three Forum Discussion
4	Democracy	CO-3: Evaluate democracy in the MENA.	Kamrava (2013) Chapter 10 Tibi (2009) Hamid (2011) Tessler (2002)	Week Four Forum Discussion Midterm Assignment
5	The US and other Foreign Actors in the MENA	CO-4: Distinguish the role of foreign states in the MENA.	Kamrava (2014) Chapter 9 Jones (2006) Introduction Little (2004) Salem (2010)	Week Five Forum Discussion
6	Revolution and Reform	CO-5: Deconstruct the role of non-state actors within MENA politics.	Korotayev et al. (2014) Parsi and Marashi (2011) Salih (2013) York (2012)	Week Six Forum Discussion Special Project Assignment
7	Non-State Actors and Terrorism	CO-5: Deconstruct the role of non-state actors within MENA politics.	Dalacoura (2013) Celco (2012) Williams (2008)	Week Seven Forum Discussion

8	Review and Synthesis	CO-1 – CO-5	Kamrava (2013) Chapter 11	Week Eight Forum Discussion Final Assessment

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.

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: ;-), :), ☺

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.

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: librarian@apus.edu.

Turnitin.com

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.