

**Course Profile - Department of International Relations**

Course Number : <b>POLS 346</b>	Course Title : <b>Middle East in International Politics</b>
Required / Elective : elective	Pre / Co-requisites : -
Catalog Description: Historical background of the social and institutional structures and development issues in the Middle East. Concept and ideologies like Arabism, Islam and Modernization. Contemporary conflicts and treaties that formed modern delimitation of the region.	Textbook / Required Material : reader provided by the instructor
Course Structure / Schedule : ( <b>3+0+0</b> ) <b>3 / 6 ECTS</b>	
<p>Extended Description :</p> <p>The main goal of the course is to provide a theoretical base to understand important issues in Middle East politics. An important target of the course will be to challenge the “Middle East exceptionalism” problem where Middle East politics is typically explained by the “distinct” political culture of the region, namely Islam. In contrast, this class will employ a comparative politics perspective and seek to understand the Middle East through a variety of theoretical approaches developed in the field of comparative politics. The class will introduce cases from different parts of the Middle East and try to connect the theories covered in class to the outside world. Some of the important topics we will cover in this class include: authoritarianism, political liberalization, civil society and democratization; oil and the <i>rentier</i> state; Islamist movements and political parties; and Islamic financial actors and institutions</p>	
Design content : n/a	Computer usage: required
<p><b>Course Outcomes:</b></p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow and interpret major developments in Middle East politics</li> <li>• Understand the sources of tension between the West and the Middle East</li> <li>• Understand the historical processes and economic-cultural context of political institutions and processes in the Middle East</li> <li>• Overcome the problem of “Middle East exceptionalism” and be able to understand Middle East politics through a comparative approach, using major theories developed in political science</li> <li>• Apply course information to analyze and explain new cases and deliver class presentations</li> </ul>	
Teaching methods: Lectures, class discussion, videotapes/slides	
Course Outline	
<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics</b>
1	The Study of the Middle East
2	Cultural and Historical Background
3	Islam in the Middle East I

4	Islam in the Middle East II
5	Jihad: Muslim Perspectives
6	Gender and Middle East Politics
7	State in the Middle East I
8	State in the Middle East II
9	Development in the Middle East: State-Led Growth and its Discontents
10	Islamic Activism: Terrorism or Politics from Below?
11	A Political Economy of Islamism
12	Democratization in the Middle East
13	Where We Are in Middle Eastern Studies
14	Overcoming Middle East Exceptionalism
15	Review

Assessment methods:

Class participation: 10%  
 Quizzes: 30%  
 Take-home essay: 15%  
 Final exam: 45%

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
IR1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of International Relations and be able to apply them to historical and current events					X
IR2	Understand the historical processes of political structures and institutions					X
IR3	Be able to follow the world political conjuncture					X
IR4	Grasp the structures and functions of international/regional/intergovernmental organizations		X			
IR5	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects				X	
IR6	Understand the international legal framework	X				
IR7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on international relations				X	

PS1	Understand the fundamental concepts and theories of the field of Political Science and be able to apply them to historical and current events		X			
PS2	Understand the historical processes, structures, and functions of political institutions				X	
PS3	Be able to analyze the dynamics that form the political substructure of various events and phenomena, as well as their effects			X		
PS4	Understand the mechanisms of political change (such as voting, lobbying, political movements, legal reforms, revolution, etc.)					X
PS5	Possess knowledge about those fundamental issues that shape political and societal life (such as race, gender, class, environment, security, religion, identity, etc.)					X
PS6	Acknowledge that political phenomena can be explained differently by different schools of thought				X	
PS7	Grasp and question the causes and consequences of economic developments and their impact on politics					X
8	Think independently, creatively, and critically					X
9	Be an entrepreneur and take initiative				X	
10	Have self-confidence				X	
11	Have the ability to carry out systematic comparisons and rightly differentiate similarities and differences					X
12	Be open-minded and prepared to work together with people from different cultures and groups				X	
13	Be aware and a follower of social responsibilities as well as political rights and freedoms			X		
14	Internalize work ethics and behave accordingly			X		
15	Be able to speak and deliver presentations in front of public					X
16	Understand, read, and write in English				X	
17	Have the ability to observe, analyze, and report				X	
18	Be able to implement the principles and methods of scientific research		X			
19	Understand and interpret statistical data	X				
20	Be prone to team work				X	
21	Possess computer and technological literacy	X				

\*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Reading	70 hrs
Lectures and discussions	40 hrs
Written assignment	30 hrs
Examinations	10 hrs
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>150 hrs (25X6) 6 ECTS</b>

Prepared by : Seda Demiralp

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