Poli 341: Foreign Policy: The Middle East
Fall 2014

Professor: Julie M. Norman, PhD (julie.norman2@mcgill.ca)
Office: Leacock ###
Office Hours: TBA

Course Meetings:
Lectures: MW(F) (No Friday classes after Sept. 5), 10:35-11:25 am, Duff Theatre 1
Conferences: All students must register for a weekly conference. Schedule TBA.

Teaching Assistants:
TBA

Description:
This course examines the changing regional security environment and the evolving foreign policies and relationships of Arab states in three areas – inter-Arab relations, relations with non-Arab regional powers (Israel, Iran, Turkey), and global relations. We will begin by exploring historical foundations in the region, then examine how different actors at the state, civil society, and grassroots levels are influencing regional and global dynamics. The majority of the course follows a thematic approach in studying the Middle East, combined with country case studies, culminating with an analysis of the “Arab Spring” uprisings and current issues. The course aims to provide students with a contextual understanding of contemporary Middle East politics and foreign policy.

Course Materials:
- Additional readings available online via MyCourses (Go to “Content,” then “Readings” then click on appropriate week), or via e-journals or links where indicated.
- Socrative Student Response System. Have access to www.socrative.com on a laptop, or download the free Socrative app to your smartphone, for use in class. (See “Class Resources” folder on MyCourses for instructions.)

Grading
- Participation (10 points): Students are expected to attend lectures and conferences and actively participate in discussions and activities. Preparation includes completing assigned readings before class and staying informed about current events in the region.
- Presentation/facilitation (10 points): Students will sign up to facilitate the reading discussion in one conference meeting with team members. (More details on MyCourses under “Assignments”)
- Short Paper (20 points): Reading Analysis: 4-5 page analysis (critical review) of the readings assigned for one week of the course in Weeks 3-6. These papers should be critical analyses of the readings, NOT summaries. Students are encouraged to think about why readings are or are not persuasive, compare and contrast the readings, and link the ideas to insights from other readings and discussions. (More details on MyCourses under
“Assignments.”) The paper is due to your TA in conference during the week when the assigned readings are due. You may choose the week, but note that Week 6 (Oct. 6-8) is the last week to submit.

- **Midterm (30 points):** In-class midterm scheduled for **Wednesday, Nov. 12.** All students are expected to be present on the day of the exam.

- **Final (30 points)**
  Note that there are several options for the final assignment. **All finals are due on Wednesday, Dec. 3, the last day of class. No late finals accepted.**
  - 1) Complete the **take-home essay exam.**
  - OR
  - 2) With professor's approval, write a **research paper** (10-12 pp, double-spaced) to further analyze the foreign policy of one or more states in the Middle East region. Topics due by Nov. 15 (via discussion thread on MyCourses).
  - OR
  - 3) With professor's approval, analyze one or more countries’ foreign policies through a creative **project** of your choice (such as producing a short film, podcast, website, visual presentation, etc). Students can choose to work individually or in pairs for projects. Project proposals due by Nov. 15 (via discussion thread on MyCourses).

**Statement of Academic Integrity: Don’t be a cheater!**
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information).

**Language Policy**
In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

**Schedule**

**PART I: BACKGROUND & HISTORY**

**Week 1: Sept. 3-5: Introduction**
- Fred Lawson, "International Relations Theory and the Middle East,” (Fawcett, Ch. 1)
- Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs* 72.3 (Summer 1993), 22-49.

Recommended:
- Fawcett, Introduction

Week 2: Sept. 8-10: History & Regional Dynamics
- Eugene L. Rogan, “The Emergence of the Modern Middle East into the Modern State System” (Fawcett, Ch. 2)
- Peter Sluglett, “The Cold War in the Middle East” (Fawcett, Ch. 3)
- Bahgat Korany, “The Middle East since the Cold War” (Fawcett, Ch. 4)
- Gregory Gause, “Is This the End of Sykes-Picot?” Washington Post May 20, 2014 (http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/05/20/is-this-the-end-of-sykes-picot/)

Recommended:

Part II: Arab State Relations & Identity

Week 3: Sept. 15-17: State Sovereignty and (National) Identity (Egypt)
- Raymond Hinnebusch: “The Politics of Identity in Middle East International Relations” (Fawcett, Ch. 7)

Recommended:

Week 4: Sept. 22-24: Beyond the State? Regionalism, Alliances, & Sectarianism (Arab League, Syria)
- Louise Fawcett, “Alliances, Cooperation and Regionalism in the Middle East” (Fawcett, Ch. 9)
- Matteo Legrenzi and Marina Calcutti: “Middle East Security: Continuity Amid Change,” (Fawcett, Ch. 10)

Recommended:
Week 5: Sept. 29-Oct. 1: Political Economy and Economic Cooperation (Saudi, Gulf states)
- Giacomo Luciani, “Oil and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East” (Fawcett, Ch. 5)
- F. Gregory Gause, III, “The International Politics of the Gulf” (Fawcett, Ch. 14)
- Elizabeth Dickinson, “How Qatar Lost the Middle East,” Foreign Policy 5 March 2014 (http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/03/05/how_qatar_lost_the_middle_east)

Recommended:
- Hazem Beblawi, “The Rentier State in the Arab World,” in The Arab State, online at http://books.google.ca/books?id=IglJkRFLu2cC&lpg=PA189&ots=icE1HEPDr
- Michael Herb, All in the Family: Absolutism, Revolution, and Democracy in Middle Eastern Democracies (SUNY Press, 1999).

Part III: Beyond Arab States: Regional Relations
Week 6: Oct. 6-8: -Islam, Islamists and International Relations (Iran)
- Peter Mandaville, "Islam and the International Relations of the Middle East" (Fawcett, Ch. 8)
  http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/president-of-iran-hassan-rouhani-time-to-
  engage/2013/09/19/4d2da564-213e-11e3-966c-9c4293c47eb_story.html?hpid=z1
- Daniel Brumberg, “Reinventing the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Foreign Policy (February
  2014).
  http://mideastafrica.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2014/02/19/reinventing_the_islamic_republ-
ic_ofiran

Recommended:
- Colin Dueck and Ray Takeyh, “Iran’s Nuclear Challenge,” Political S
  cience Quarterly
  122, no. 2 (Summer 2007): 189 – 205.
  (http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/moving-human-rights-front-and-center-with-
  iran/2013/09/06/a3e84aa4-1670-11e3-804b-d3a1a3a1f2c_story.html)
- Tamir Moustafa, “Conflict and Cooperation Between the State and Religious
  Institutions in Contemporary Egypt,” International Journal of Middle East Studies 32
- R. Stephen Humphreys, “Islām and Political Values in Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria,” Middle East
- Mohammed Ayoob and Hasan Kosebalaban, eds., Religion and Politics in Saudi Arabia: Wahhabism and the
- Nawaf E. Obaid, “The Power of Saudi Arabia’s Islamic Leaders,” Middle East Quarterly VI.3 (September 1999):
  51-58.

NO CLASS OCT 13 (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)

Week 7: Oct. 15: Guest Speaker, Amin Meleika, Egypt Consul General (TBC)
- Raymond Hinnebusch and Anoush Ehteshami, “Policy-Making in the Middle East: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Turkey” (Fawcett, Ch. 11)

Week 8: Oct. 20-22 Case Studies: Israel & Turkey
- Charles Smith, “The Arab-Israeli Conflict” (Fawcett, Ch. 11)
  - Yuval Diskin, “The changing face of the Middle East presents new opportunities for
  Israeli-Palestinian peace,” Ha’aretz 6 July 2014
  - Tarik Oguzu, “The Arab Spring and the Rise of the 2.0 Version of Turkey’s Zero Problems
  127-140.

Recommended:
- Marwan Muasher, “Palestinian-Israeli Direct Talks: The Case for a Regional Approach,” Carnegie Commentary
- Avi Shlaim, “The Rise and Fall of the Oslo Peace Process” (Fawcett, Ch. 12)
  - Bruce Maddy-Weitzman, “Arabs vs. the Abdullah Plan,” Middle East Forum XVII. 3 (Summer 2010),
    3-12 (http://www.meforum.org/2729/arabs-vs-abdullah-plan)
- Hootan Shambayati, “The Rentier State, Interest Groups, and the Paradox of Autonomy: State and Business in
  Turkey and Iran,” Comparative Politics, Vol. 26, No. 3 (April 1994), pp. 307-331
Part IV: Relations with World Powers & International Community

Week 9: Oct. 27-29: Middle East Relations with Europe, Asia, Canada
- Rosemary Hollis, “Europe in the Middle East” (Fawcett, Ch. 17)

Recommended:

Week 10: Nov. 3-5: The United States & Mid East Foreign Policy (Iraq)
- Philip Robins, “The War for Regime Change in Iraq” (Fawcett, Ch. 15)
- Michael C. Hudson, “The United States in the Middle East” (Fawcett, Ch. 16)

Recommended:

Week 11: Nov. 10-12: Review and Midterm

Nov 12: MIDTERM

Part V: Arab Uprisings, Current Issues, & New Media

Week 12: Nov. 17-19: Arab Spring & Aftermath (Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen)
- Augustus Richard Norton, “The Puzzle of Political Reform in the Middle East,” (Fawcett, Ch. 6)

Recommended:
Week 13: Nov. 24-26: Satellite and Social Media in the Middle East

Recommended:
- Habibul Haque Khondker, “Role of the New Media in the Arab Spring,” Globalizations, Vol. 8, No. 5 (October 2011), pp. 675-679 (e-journal)
- Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, & Zahar, “The New Arab Media,” Beyond the Arab Spring
- Wael Ghonim, Revolution 2.0
Film: Control Room

Dec. 1-3: Presentations, Reflections, & Wrap-Up

Finals due Dec. 3 (no late exams or papers)