Course program and reading list
Semester 2 Year 2022

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy M.A

Islam and Nationalism in the Middle East

Lecturer:

Prof. Shaul Mishal  smishal@idc.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:

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Course No.: 24205  Course Type: Lecture  Weekly Hours: 2  Credit: 2

Course Requirements:
Final Paper

Language: English

Course Description

The course provides a comprehensive examination of Islamic trends and national movements in the contemporary Middle East. It focuses on the major ideologies and their influences on the geopolitics of the region and socio-political developments. The course will present conceptual frameworks to follow visions, environments, preferences and a variety of strategies and actions of states and non-state actors, movements and organizations that play a significant role in shaping Arab politics and societies.
**Sessions** are held once a week on Wednesday, 11:30-13:00. **Attendance is mandatory as classes overlap only in part with material from the assigned readings.** Students are allowed to miss up to three classes during the semester.

One cannot expect the readings to provide an adequate substitute for class participation and discussion.

The first seven meetings will cover **key issues and concepts** to improve our modes of thinking and understanding of Islam and Nationalism with regard to Middle East politics and societies. Towards the mid semester, the course will focus on six separate Arab parties while applying our **analytical tools, conceptual framework and background knowledge** developed earlier in the course. The course will divide into **six discussion groups**. Students will be assigned to one of the following Arab actors: Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan, and the Palestinians. All group members must attend during their group presentation.

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**Course Goals**

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**Grading**

Students will be graded based on a midterm paper (20%), case study presentation (20%) and final paper (60%).

**Midterm Paper – 20%**. Students are expected to write a 3-page paper, 1.5 spaced, font 12 Times New Roman, with standard margins and academic sources and citations from the syllabus and beyond. The paper should compare between nationalism and Islam in the Middle East based on the conceptual framework developed and relevant material discussed during the course (i.e., visions, environments, preferences and a variety of modes of action). The paper is due on May 19, session 9. Guidelines will be posted on the Moodle.

**Presentation – 20%**. Each group will present a case study on a Middle Eastern party (Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Jordan or Palestinians) based on the four parameters of the VSAR model and other conceptual frameworks. The presentation should be coherent, well-developed and analytical rather than descriptive. Each student will be responsible for specific aspects of the case study (one or more of the four parameters: Vision, Space, Agenda, Resources). All students will be required to relate to the the other presentations and comment on how it affects their own case study.
Final Paper and – 60% (on an individual basis). Each student will submit a 5-page paper based on his/her discussion topics for the presentation, and on the reading materials of the first seven sessions of the course. The final paper is due on July 30. The paper should be coherent, well-developed and analytical rather than descriptive.

Learning Outcomes

Lecturer Office Hours
TBD

Tutor Office Hours
TBD

Teaching Assistant
Iftah Burman

Additional Notes

Reading List

Readings: The readings for each week are listed below and can be found in the course Moodle. Since the sessions are intended partially to provide a forum for discussion of assigned readings, one should make a point of completing mandatory requirements and reflecting about the week's reading before each session. It is highly recommended to follow the current events in the Middle East relating to the Arab Muslim world as published in international and regional sites and newspapers.

Electronic sources for continuous updating throughout the course:
Course Schedule:

Weeks 1-3: Core Issues and Key Concepts

Shaul Mishal & Eliran Bar-El, “The Communal Dimension of the Arab Spring”, The Journal of South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (JSAMES) – This article contains the conceptual framework for this course.


Optional:


Harris Hyun-soo Kim and Chaeyoon Lim, "From virtual space to public space: The role of online political activism in protest participation during the Arab Spring", International Journal of Comparative Sociology, pp.1-26.

Video Material


**Weeks 4-5: Arab Nationalism**


Optional:


**Video Material**

"Tribalism Driving Reconstruction of the Mid-East", TheMediaLine (6:38 mins). http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i61gnnel8Qs

"Navigating Libya's tribal maze", Al Jazeera English (2:30 mins). http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSWNdmj0Rps

**Weeks 6-7: Islam**


Optional:


Khalil al-Anani, Inside the Muslim Brotherhood: Religion, Identity and Politics, Oxford University Press, 2016, ch.2 (Debating Islamism and Theorizing the Brotherhood).


Video Material

The History of Islam Parts 1-8 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oxwyvd-MJ5Y


"The 5 Pillars of Islam", TrueTube (9 mins). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jb8Yk8LaUoc
"The Islamic Call To Prayer - What Is the Adhan?", The Nusaybah Project (8:37 mins).
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDVX-SKESuc

"What is Hajj? The Pilgrimage of Muslims", Niagara Foundation, USA (8:14 mins).
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwk0zl7Y9Yc

The Caliph, parts 1 & 2, Al Jazeera English (48:54 mins & 48:43 mins). Part 1:

Group Discussions

Week 8: Egypt – Nationalism & Islam


**Video Material**

"Egypt in rare protests, Egyptians demand President el-Sisi's removal", Al Jazeera English (5:22 mins). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMTMr9bq7BY

"The Rise of Egypt's Abdel Fattah el-Sisi”, NowThis World (8:11 mins). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EG241L-dAs


"What's Behind the Egypt-Ethiopia Nile dispute?" Start Here, Al Jazeera English (6:47). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdizU0arrJ0

**Week 9: Syria – Nationalism & Islam**


**Video Material**


"Syria: Seven years of war explained”, BBC (5:45 mins). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CoLOL_DbuQQ&has_verified=1

**Week 10: Saudi Arabia – Islam & Nationalism**


Buddhika Jayamaha, Kevin S. Petit, Jahara Matisek, William Reno, Matthew A. Rose and Molly Jahn, "The Great Saudi-Iranian Proxy Game", Middle East Quarterly, Fall 2019
https://www.meforum.org/59294/the-great-saudi-iranian-proxy-game


https://mondediplo.com/2018/11/03/qatar

https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/picking-up-the-pieces-the-path-to-gulf-reconciliation/

“Resolving the Gulf Crisis outside the Gulf”, Crisis Group, January 26, 2021.

Video Material

"Saudi Arabia & Iran's cold war", Start Here, Al Jazeera English (7:41 mins).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dNLlxk-loew

"Saudi Arabia’s Ambitious Plan to Transform Its Economy", Woodrow Wilson Center (11:09 mins).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWLKdcYobKs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5IBa88Vkm6g

“Qatar: Gulf crisis one year on - What's next for Qatar?”, Al Jazeera English (57:50 mins).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIlh1d43VJc

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpPpXM7hSXk

“Bahrain | Shouting in the dark”, Al Jazeera English (50:55 mins).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaTKDMYOBOU

Week 11: United Arab Emirates (UAE) – Nationalism & Islam


Video Material

“What's behind the dispute between Saudi Arabia and the UAE?” Inside Story, Al Jazeera English (25:25 mins). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxqgmpE8e-g

"What does the UAE want with a Yemeni island؟”, Al Jazeera English (24:25 mins). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WxqgmpE8e-g

Why did the UAE enter the war in Yemen and why did they withdraw from it, in “The UAE don't want to be associated with the Yemen humanitarian crisis”, France24 English (9:53 mins). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8E6SyNAXeU

Week 12: Jordan – Islam & Nationalism


Asher Susser, Jordan: Preserving Domestic Order in a Setting of Regional Turmoil, Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandies University, March 2008, No.27.


Video Material


"How can Jordan solve its economic crisis?", Counting the Cost, Al Jazeera English (25 mins) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRKs3FxknT4

"Jordan's Angry Tribes", People and Power, Al Jazeera English (25 mins). https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z8AoMqDjtjo
"Is Jordan running out of water?", BBC News (4:21 mins) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWnid7QA19I

13. Palestinians– Nationalism & Islam


