



**SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY
MADRID**

**POLS 2590 - M01
Introduction to the Politics of the Middle East and North Africa
Spring 2018**

Barah Mikail
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Monday and Wednesday
16.00 to 17.15
PRH 8

Office hours
Monday and Wednesday 17:30-19:30
Tuesday 11:00-13:00 (by appointment)

Mobile phones are not allowed in the class

**PLEASE READ THIS SYLLABUS CAREFULLY
IT HAS INFORMATION FOR THE COURSE AND
ITS EVALUATION**

Course Description

Over history, the Middle East has been a strategic region that involved several challenges and a large array of international actors. The geopolitical added value of the Middle East remains a reality today. With the “Arab Spring” (2011), the evolutions that have unfolded eventually contributed to bring back the region to the top of the international matters.

The course aims at bringing and referring to some important historical facts to better understanding the realities of the Middle East and North Africa. After referring to some pivotal religious, political and social points, we will delve into the contemporary realities of the Middle East and North Africa. At the end of the course, students will be capable to express their own understanding of the region’s dynamics and realities based on the teachings and the discussions that will take place during the semester.

Course Objectives

1. Understand how historical facts can shed light on contemporary issues
2. Learn to differentiate local and national realities from common regional challenges
3. Identify to what extent the international balance of power can partly determine the evolutions of the Middle East and North Africa
4. Be aware of the religious and sociological nuances that form the region
5. Be capable of determining what elements may determine the future of the Middle East and North Africa
6. Be capable of making your own opinion based on articles and thoughts that reflect opposite points of views

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the main existing trends within Islam
2. Know the main dates of the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
3. Know the contemporary political systems of the countries of the MENA region
4. Explain who are the main actors and what are the main logics for contemporary conflicts in the MENA region
5. Identify the most important countries of the MENA region
6. Explain the motivations of foreign actors towards the MENA region

Research Methods

Students must complete the readings before the date of the course. They will be graded on the basis of a mid-term exam, an oral presentation that will be accompanied by a briefing report, and a final exam. Participation in class will be evaluated.

Recommendations for oral presentations

- **Students are required not to read their presentations.** The idea for you is to understand well the topic you have studied before you share your findings and

ideas with your audience. The more you are comfortable with what you say, the better you will be prepared to engage a debate with your audience.

- **Students have to make their presentation structured, dynamic, provocative when needed and challenging.** The idea is not to get your audience to listen to an enumeration of dates and facts. Instead, you are required to make a clear and concise presentation of the topic before presenting the different views that are part of the debate, expressing what you think personally, defining the solutions you suggest and then bringing two or three open questions that will open the floor for the debate.
- At the end of your presentation, the audience should understand the relevance of the topic, integrate the different perspectives to understand the issue or problem, as well as understand both the most appropriate ways to deal with the subject and the foreseeable consequences for the Middle East and North Africa and the countries that are involved in the region.

You will be assessed based on the way you lead and expose your presentation. You need to show a good knowledge on the topic of the seminar based on relevant bibliography. You need to make an argument and provoke a dynamic discussion.

The criteria for evaluation will be

Your knowledge

Your ability to put your argument forward

Your ability to explain the argument and the points you wish to make

Your ability to provoke a dynamic and lead the discussion

Grade Scale:

A	93%-100%
A-	90%-92%
B+	87%-89%
B	83%-86%
B-	80%-82%
C+	73%-79%
C	67%-72%
C-	60%-66%
D	50%-59%
F	0%-49%

Methods of Evaluation and Grading (% of Final Grade)

20%	Oral presentation
30%	Mid-term exam
20%	Attendance and participation
30%	Final exam

Statement

In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to accreditation requirements, SLU-Madrid regularly assesses its teaching, services and programs for evidence of student learning. For this purpose, SLU-Madrid keeps representative examples of student work from all courses and programs on file, including assignments, papers,

exams, portfolios and results from student surveys, focus groups and reflective exercises. Copies of your work for this course may be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes. If you prefer SLU-Madrid not to retain your work for this purpose, you must communicate this decision in writing to your professor.

While some classes may be primarily lecture, much of the class will involve discussing the readings and current issues. Therefore, student participation is crucial. An active and intelligent participation is required. Each recorded absence beyond three will result in a letter grade reduction in your participation and attendance grade.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Textbook: Michele Penner Angrist (Ed.), *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East*, Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2013

Non-mandatory additional bibliography:

- Allison, William Thomas, **The Gulf War, 1990-91**, Palgrave MacMillan, 2012
- Fromkin, David, **A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East**, Holt Paperbacks, 2009
- Gelvin, James, **The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War**, Cambridge University Press, 2014
- Hazleton, Lesley, **After the Prophet: The Epic Story of the Shia-Sunni Split in Islam**, Anchor, 2010
- Kaya, Taylan, **The Middle East Process and the EU: Foreign Policy and Security Strategy in International Politics**, I. B. Tauris, 2012
- Lust, Ellen (Ed.), **The Middle East**, CQ Press, 2016
- Mansfield, Peter, **A History of the Middle East**, Penguin Books, 2013
- Merlini, Cesare, Roy, Olivier, **Arab Society in Revolt: The West's Mediterranean Challenge**, Brookings Institution Press, 2012
- Morris, Benny, **1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War**, Yale University Press, 2009
- Nizameddin, Talal, **Putin's New Order in the Middle East**, Hurst, 2014
- Oren, Michael, **Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East: 1776 to the present**, W. W. Norton & Company, 2008
- Pollack, Kenneth, **The Arab Awakening: America and the Transformation of the Middle East**, Brookings Institution Press, 2011
- Rodinson, Maxime, **Muhammad**, The New Press, 2002
- Segev, Tom, **1967: Israel, the War, and the Year that Transformed the Middle East**, Picador, 2008

LECTURES

1- Presentation of the course and Introduction to studying the Middle East and North Africa

2- Politics and religion: Reading the Middle East

Reading: Jillian Schwedler, "Religion and Politics", Textbook, Chapter 6, pp. 121-144

3- Sunnis and Shiites: The Origins of Discord

Reading: "Islam: Sunnis and Shiites", Congressional Research Service, 2009, <http://fas.org/irp/crs/RS21745.pdf>

4- From the Abbasids to the Ottoman Empire

Reading: Michele Penner Angrist, "Identity and Politics", Textbook, Chapter 7, pp. 145-166

5- From WWI to WWII: The Mandates

Reading: Michele Penner Angrist, "The Making of Middle East Politics", Textbook, Chapter 1, pp. 9-18

6- The question of Palestine

Readings: UN resolutions number 181 (29th November 1947), 212 (19th November 1948), 194 (11th December 1948) and 303-IV (9th December 1948)
Alaa Tartir, Benoît Challand, "Palestine", Textbook, Chapter 20, pp. 707-716

7- From the Suez crisis to the Six-Day War

Reading: Segev, Tom, *1967: Israel, the War, and the Year that Transformed the Middle East*, Picador, 2008, Chapter 11, pp. 323-337

8- From the October War to the Camp David Accords

Reading: Nathan J. Brown, "Palestine", Textbook, Chapter 16, pp. 393-416

9- The War of Lebanon (1975-1989)

Reading: Paul Salem, "Lebanon", in Lust, Ellen (Ed.), Chapter 16, pp. 591-601

10- The Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988)

Watch documentary on Iran-Iraq War at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzpAQu2jDZo&t=544s>

11- A New World Order

Reading: George Bush, Address Before a Joint Session of the Congress on the Persian Gulf Crisis and the Federal Budget Deficit, 11th September 1990, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=18820>

12- North African Countries: Realities and State of Play

Readings:
Yahia H. Zoubir, "Algeria", Textbook, Chapter 9, pp. 189-216

Driss Maghraoui, Saloua Zerhouni, "Morocco", in Lust, Ellen (Ed.), Chapter 19, pp. 674-679

Laryssa Chomiak, Robert P. Parks, "Tunisia", in Lust, Ellen (Ed.), Chapter 24, pp. 814-820

13- 09/11

Reading: Michael J. O'Neal, Explanation and Analysis of George W. Bush's Address to the Nation on September 11, 2001,

http://salempress.com/store/pdfs/address_to_the_nation.pdf

14- The Iraq War (2003)

Reading: Raymond Hinnebusch, "The U.S: Invasion of Iraq: Explanations and Implications", Critique: Critical Middle Eastern Studies Vol. 16, No. 3, 209-228, Fall 2007, available at: https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/school-of-international-relations/mecacs/workingpapers/us_invasion_iraq_critique.pdf

15- The 2006 Lebanon War

Readings: Paul Salem, "Lebanon", in Lust, Ellen (Ed.), Chapter 16, pp. 601-614

16- The Middle East in 2009: State of play

Reading: Sheila Carapico, "Civil Society", Textbook, Chapter 5, pp. 99-120

17- The Arab Spring (2011)

Reading: Adam Roberts, "The Arab Spring: Why did things go so badly wrong?", The Guardian, 15 January 2016,

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jan/15/arab-spring-badly-wrong-five-years-on-people-power>

18- Libya: Operation Odyssey Dawn

Reading: Jacob Mundy, "Libya", in Lust, Ellen (Ed.), Chapter 17, pp. 615-621 & 640-643

19- The Syrian conflict(s)

Readings: Raymond Hinnebusch, "Syria", Textbook, Chapter 23, pp. 781-806

Readings: Fred H. Lawson, "Syria", Textbook, Chapter 18, pp. 445-472

20- The Yemeni crises

Reading: Sarah G. Phillips, "Yemen", in Lust, Ellen (Ed.), Chapter 26, pp. 895-915

21- The Arab States of the Gulf: Balance of power and aims

Readings:

Michael Herb, "Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates" Textbook, Chapter 15, pp. 359-392

Gwenn Okruhlik, "Saudi Arabia", Textbook, Chapter 17, pp. 417-444

22- A renewed role for regional actors: Turkey and Iran

Readings: Arang Keshavarzian, "Iran", Textbook, Chapter 11, pp. 251-284

Marcie J. Patton, "Turkey", Textbook, Chapter 19, pp. 473-502

23- From al-Qaida to Daesh

Reading: Watch “Creating ISIS”, Frontline, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=foJE1GU3iII>

24- The European Union and the Middle East

Reading: Rosa Balfour, EU conditionality after the Arab Spring, IEMED Papers, 16, read pp. 7-19,
http://www.epc.eu/documents/uploads/pub_2728_papersbalfour_for_euromesco16.pdf

25- The Middle East in 2020: What prospects?

For this session, think of the three topics/issues that you think will have a great importance for the MENA region in the five coming years, and try to define solutions on how to address them. Your ideas will feed a brainstorming session that will aim at determining the most likely scenarios to occur in the region over the five coming years.

MIDTERM EXAM: Monday 19th of February 2018, 16:00-17:15, PRH 8

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday 8TH of May 2018, 15.30 - 17.30, PRH 8

Calendar

Spring 2018

JANUARY

Sunday	7	Spring 2018 new student arrival and University Housing move-in date
Monday-Tuesday	8-9	Spring 2018 new student Welcome Sessions
Wednesday	10	Spring 2018 first day of classes
Sunday	21	Last day to drop a class without a grade W and /or add a class Last day to choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) options
Friday	26	Application deadline for spring semester degree candidates No classes

FEBRUARY

Wednesday	14	Ash Wednesday Registration for Summer 2018 sessions begins
Thursday-Friday	22-23	No classes (Winter Break)
Tuesday	27	Professors' deadline to submit midterm grades

MARCH

Friday	9	Last day to drop a class and receive a grade of W
Thursday	15	Last day to submit Transfer Application for fall semester
Saturday	24	Pre- <i>Semana Santa</i> University Housing move-out date
Monday-Wednesday	26-28	<i>Semana Santa</i> holiday (University closed)
Thursday	29	<i>Jueves Santo</i> holiday (University closed)
Friday	30	<i>Viernes Santo</i> holiday (University closed)

APRIL

Sunday	1	Easter Post- <i>Semana Santa</i> University Housing move-in date
Monday	2	Easter Monday - classes resume
Wednesday	4	Registration for Fall 2018 semester begins

MAY

Tuesday	1	<i>Día del Trabajador</i> holiday (University closed)
Wednesday	2	<i>Día de la Comunidad</i> holiday (University closed)
Thursday	3	Spring 2018 final day of classes
Friday	4	Spring 2018 final exams
Monday-Thursday	7-10	Spring 2018 final exams
Friday	11	University Housing move-out date
Saturday	12	Commencement
Sunday	13	Professors' deadline to submit spring 2018 final grades

THE UNIVERSITY'S ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity." Accordingly, all acts of falsehood demean and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care and community service via which SLU embodies its mission. The University strives to prepare students for lives of personal and professional integrity, and therefore regards all breaches of academic integrity as matters of serious concern.

The governing University-level Academic Integrity Policy can be accessed on the Provost's Office website at: http://www.slu.edu/Documents/provost/academic_affairs/University-wide%20Academic%20Integrity%20Policy%20FINAL%20%2006-26-15.pdf. Additionally, SLU-Madrid has posted its academic integrity policy online: <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/academics>. As a member of the University community, you are expected to know and abide by these policies, which detail definitions of violations, processes for reporting violations, sanctions and appeals. Please direct questions about any facet of academic integrity to your faculty, the chair of the department of your academic program or the Academic Dean of the Madrid Campus.

TITLE IX STATEMENT

Saint Louis University and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and seeking an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have encountered any form of sexual misconduct (e.g. sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, domestic or dating violence), we encourage you to report this to the University. If you speak with a faculty member about an incident of misconduct, that faculty member must notify SLU's Title IX deputy coordinator, Marta Maruri, whose office is located on the ground floor of Padre Rubio Hall, Avenida del Valle, 28 (mmaruri@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 213) and share the basic fact of your experience with her. The Title IX deputy coordinator will then be available to assist you in understanding all of your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus.

If you wish to speak with a confidential source, you may contact the counselors at the SLU-Madrid's Counseling Services on the third floor of San Ignacio Hall (counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu; 915-54-5858, ext. 230) or Sinews Multipletherapy Institute, the off-campus provider of counseling services for SLU-Madrid (www.sinews.es; 917-00-1979). To view SLU-Madrid's sexual misconduct policy and for resources, please visit the following web address:<http://www.slu.edu/Documents/Madrid/campus-life/SLUMadridSexualMisconductPolicy.pdf>.

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS AND LEARNING RESOURCES

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to <http://www.slu.edu/madrid/learning-resources>.

Students with a documented disability who wish to request academic accommodations **must** contact Disability Services to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Once successfully registered, the student also **must** notify the course instructor that they wish to access accommodations in the course. Please contact Disability Services at disabilityservices-madrid@slu.edu or +915 54 58 58, ext. 230 for an appointment. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Once approved, information about the student's eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors via email from Disability Services. For more information about academic accommodations, see "Student Resources" on the SLU-Madrid webpage.

Note: Students who do not have a documented disability but who think they may have one are encouraged to contact to Disability Services.

Final Exam Schedules Spring 2018

	4 May (Fr)	7 May (Mn)	8 May (Tu)	9 May (Wd)	10 May (Th)
08:30-11:30	Mn classes that meet at 9:00 & 9:30	Mn classes that meet at 10:00	Mn classes that meet at 11:00 & 11:30	Tu classes that meet at 9:30	Tu classes that meet at 8:00
12:00-15:00	Tu classes that meet at 11:00	Mn classes that meet at 13:00	Tu classes that meet at 14:30	Mn classes that meet at 12:00 & 12:30	Tu classes that meet at 12:30
15:30-18:30	Mn classes that meet at 14:30	Tu classes that meet at 17:00 & 17:30	Mn classes that meet at 16:00	Tu classes that meet at 16:00	Mn classes that meet at 17:30
19:00-22:00	---	---	Mn classes that meet at 18:30 & 19:00	Tu classes that meet at 19:00	---