

THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STUDIES

THE MIDDLE EAST AND POLITICAL ISLAM

Fall 2015

Annon Aran

Senior Lecturer in International Relations of the Middle East
City University

The course covers the basic elements of Middle East history and politics with special emphasis on political Islam. It begins with a broad introduction to the main features of the region and the historical background to the twentieth century. The contemporary period is then analysed in greater detail by focusing on the rise of the state system, the establishment of Israel, the emergence and discrediting of Arab nationalism, and the post-Cold War Middle East. All these twentieth century developments are examined for their own sake but also because of their contribution to the rise of political Islam, which is studied in the second part of the course. It will elaborate on political Islam as ideology and its ambiguous relationship with the nation-state, democracy and human rights and violence. The course will attempt to link the study of Islam and the Middle East with the events on and after September 11th and the Arab uprisings of 2011 in an in-depth manner.

READINGS

Part I: Middle East Politics

- 1 Introduction: General Characteristics of the Middle East
- 2 Mehran Kamrava, *The Modern Middle East: A Political History since the First War*, (University of California Press, 2011, 2nd ed.), Chapter 1: 'From Islam to the Great War'
- 3 Kamrava, Chapter 2: 'From Territories to Independent States'
- 4 Kamrava, Chapter 3: 'The Age of Nationalism'
- 5 Kamrava, Chapter 4: 'The Arab-Israeli Wars'
- 6 Kamrava, Chapter 5: 'The Iranian Revolution'
- 7 Kamrava, Chapter 6: 'The Gulf Wars and Beyond'

Part II: Political Islam

- 8 Fred Halliday, *Middle East in International Relations*, Chapter 7 (CUP, 2005)
- 9 Fred Halliday, *Middle East in International Relations*, Chapter 7 (CUP, 2005).
- 10 Louise Fawcett, *International Relations of the Middle East*, Chapter 16 (OUP, 2013).
- 11 Louise Fawcett, *International Relations of the Middle East*, Chapter 6 (OUP, 2013).

You can also consult:

Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations: Power, Politics and Ideology*, (Cambridge, 2005)

Roger Owen, *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East* (Routledge, 2004)

M. E. Yapp, *The Near East since the First World War: A History to 1995* (Longman, 1996)

William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East* (Westview, 2000)

This being a seminar, there will be no formal lectures. Students will instead give short class presentations (10 minutes) on topics chosen from the list above. A class discussion will then follow, in which students are required to contribute actively. **To do this, all students must complete the required reading for each class.**

In addition two term papers of 2500 words each are required. The questions and due dates are given below.

ESSAY QUESTIONS:

Mid-term paper due Tuesday 27 October

Final paper due Thursday 10 December

For these papers you can choose any two of the following questions:

1. Account for the emergence and survival of the Middle East state system.
2. What are the causes of the Arab-Israeli conflict?
3. Why has there been so much conflict in the Gulf?
4. What is political Islam?
5. What were the causes and consequences of the Iranian Revolution?
6. Critically assess US Foreign Policy towards the Middle East since 1956.
7. What are the main reasons behind the “democratic deficit” in the Middle East?