

## University of Calgary

### Sociology 401: Political Sociology of the Middle East Spring 2008

Instructor: Ali Rezaei  
Office: SS 940  
Class: T TH 14:00- 16:45  
Classroom: SH 274  
Office Hours: T TH 12 – 1 pm  
Phone: 220-5267  
Email: [arezaei@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arezaei@ucalgary.ca)

#### Course Description:

The goal of this course is to offer an overview of the historical and social bases of politics in the modern Middle East. The course is an introductory survey of the historical roots of political conflicts in the Middle East with emphasis on colonial encounters, state formation and social movements in the region.

#### Course Objectives:

1. To familiarize students with historical understandings of political conflict;
2. To examine major sociological theories of state formation in the region. Class discussions will be focused on the relevance of theoretical concepts to the study of state- society relations in the region;
3. To develop analytical skills in comparative analysis of political conflicts and social movements.

#### Required Texts:

James L. Gelvin, 2008, *The Modern Middle East: A History*, Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

*SOCI 401.26, Political Sociology of the Middle East, Book of Readings, Spring 2008*, prepared by A. Rezaei, available at the University of Calgary bookstore.

#### Suggested Texts and resources:

Alan Richards, and John Waterbury, 2007, *A Political Economy of the Middle East*, Third Edition, Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press.

William L. Cleveland, 2005, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press.

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/mideast/mideast.htm>

<http://www.mideastweb.org/history.htm>

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/meres.htm>

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/me.htm>

#### Student Evaluation:

1. **Research Project:** 40%

The project has two parts. The **first part** is a 1 page research proposal on a topic related to the general area of the course (**due date: June 3, 2008 in class**). This can

include any issue related to politics and society in the Middle East, such as schools of historiography, Orientalism, colonial encounters, state and government policies, development policies, social movements, women's issues, war and peace, coverage of Middle East issues in the news media, human rights issues, the social and political aspects of literature and arts (music, cinema, architecture), cultural practices, freedom of the press, secularization, religious and political activism, democratization, and legal developments in the region. You may also choose a book, on topics related to the region's issues, to summarize and critically evaluate.

The **second part** is a 10-12 page, double-spaced, **paper (due: June 26, 2008 in class)** that investigates the topic you submitted as your research proposal. At this stage you should be able to develop your initial question, give a brief review of existing literature on the topic, and use theoretical concepts and comparative analysis to write on the question by using other related material (historical narratives, legal documents, statistical data, facts and figures).

**All research findings will be briefly presented in class.**

## **2. Examinations:**

There will be one mid-term and a final exam composed of short essay questions. The dates and assigned weights are as follows:

<b>Mid-term</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Project Paper</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>30%</b>

Date to be announced by the Registrar

The final exam is cumulative and covers all materials studied during the term.

**Exam dates are strictly enforced. In case you miss the mid-term exam you must contact me within 24 hours. If you provide a documented, legitimate, reason you will have the choice of adding the weight of the midterm to your final exam or writing a makeup exam.**

## **Grading Scale:**

Letter grades will be assigned on the basis of the following scale:

A <sup>+</sup>	95-100
A	90-94
A <sup>-</sup>	87-89
B <sup>+</sup>	80-86
B	75-79
B <sup>-</sup>	70-74
C <sup>+</sup>	67-69
C	63-66
C <sup>-</sup>	60-62
D <sup>+</sup>	57-69
D	53-56
D <sup>-</sup>	50-52
F	0-49

**To receive a passing grade in this course, all requirements must be completed.**

**Intellectual Honesty:** Integrity in scholarly activity should be strictly observed. Please consult the University Calendar, pages 53-56, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism and other academic misconduct.

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

### **Week 1: Introduction: the Middle East in History**

May 15-May 20; Plan of the course, Course outline, Review of basic concepts

Video: New Frontiers

-James Gelvin, 2008, Pp. 1-66

### **Week 2: Early Encounters with the West and 'Modern- State' formation**

May 22- May 27; James Gelvin, 2008, Pp. 69-138; and Pp.171-196

-Alan Richards and John Waterbury, 2007, "The Emergence of the Public Sector," *A Political Economy of the Middle East*, Boulder, Co. Westview Press, Ch. 7, pp. 179-210, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp. 1-17.

-Haldun Gulalp, 2005, "Enlightenment by Fiat: Secularization and Democracy in Turkey", *Middle Eastern Studies*, **41**(3): 351-372, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp. 18-39.

### **Week 3: Political development and intellectual currents**

#### **June 3: Project proposal due (in class)**

May 29- June 3;

-James Gelvin, 2008, Pp. 139-167; and Pp.197-205

-Nazih Ayubi, 1994, *Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Arab World*, London: Routledge, pp. 120-157, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp. 66-84.

-M. Hakan Yavuz, 2003, *Islamic Political Identity in Turkey*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.15-35, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp.85-95.

- Ihsan Dagi, 2005, "Transformation of Islamic Political Identity in Turkey: Rethinking the West and Westernization", *Turkish Studies*, **6** (1): 21-37, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp. 21-37.

### **June 10: Midterm Exam**

### **Weeks 4 and 5: The Arab-Israeli Conflict**

June 5- June 17

-James Gelvin, 2008, Pp.206-221

-Video: Holy Land

-Benny Morris, 2001, "Revisiting the Palestinian exodus of 1984", in Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim (eds.), *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948*, Pp. 37-59, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp.263-276.

-James, Gelvin, 2008, Pp. 271-281

-Nadim Rouhana, 2006, "Zionism's Encounter with the Palestinians: the Dynamics of Force, Fear, and Extremism", in Robert I. Rotberg (ed.), *Israeli and Palestinian*

*Narratives of Conflict: History's Double Helix*, Philadelphia: Pennsylvania University Press, pp. 115-141. in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp. 213-226.

-Mordechai Bar-On, 2006, "Conflicting Narratives or Narratives of Conflict: Can the Zionist and Palestinian Narratives of the 1948 War Be Bridged?" in Robert I. Rotberg (ed.), *Israeli and Palestinian Narratives of Conflict: History's Double Helix*, Philadelphia: Pennsylvania University Press, pp. 142-173, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp. 227-243.

-Video: Shattered Dreams

-Neil Lochery, 2007, "The Politics and Economics of Israeli Disengagement, 1994-2006," *Middle Eastern Studies*, 43(1): 1-19, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp. 244-262.

### **Week 6: State-society relations and oil**

#### **June 19- June 24**

-James Gelvin, 2008, Pp.223-246

-Video: Crude Diplomacy

-James Gelvin, 2008, Pp.247-270

-Lisa Anderson, 2006, "Searching Where the Light Shines: Studying Democratization in the Middle East", *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9: 189-214, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp. 40-65.

Asef Bayat, 2002, "Activism and Social Development in the Middle East", *Int. J. Middle East Stud.* 34: 1-28, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp.113-140.

### **Week 7: Gender issues in the Middle East**

#### **June 26: Project Paper Due**

-Leila Ahmed, 1992, *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical roots of a Modern Debate*, New Haven: Yale University Press, pp. 144-168, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp.141-153.

-Ziba Mir-Hosseini, 2006, "Muslim Women's Quest for Equality: Between Islamic Law and Feminism", *Critical Inquiry* 32: 629-645, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp.154-170.

-Shahrazad Mojab, 2001, "Theorizing the Politics of 'Islamic Feminism'", *Feminist Review* 69: 124-146, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp.171-193.

-Ruth Halperin-Kaddari, 2004, *Women in Israel: A State of their Own*, Ch. 11, pp.227-262, in *SOCI 401.26 Book of Readings*, Spring 2008, pp.194-212

**Exam Policies:** You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a "make up" exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferred

exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

**Ethics Research:** Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including

any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

**Academic Misconduct:** cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

**The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP)** legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

**Safewalk:** The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

## **Academic Accommodation**

Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. **It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.**

## Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.