NOTE to prospective students: This syllabus is intended to provide students who are considering taking this course an idea of what they will be learning. A more detailed syllabus will be available on the course site for enrolled students and may be more current than this sample syllabus.

Course Name: Politics of the Middle East  
Course Number: PS 399  
Term Offered: Winter ‘16  
Credits: 4  
Instructor name: Abdullah Husain  
Instructor email: husainab@onid.oregonstate.edu  
Instructor phone: 310-600-5766  
Link to instructor http://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/spp/phd/students

For more information, contact: ANDREW EDWARDS, GILK 313. For appointments, see http://oregonstate.edu/cla/polisci/advisors

Course Description
This is a political science course with a comparative politics element. Comparative politics is the study of domestic governments and governing across the globe. Given that the course is about the Middle East, general trends and historical events are shared between different countries that shape today's politics of many countries in the region. So in order to understand domestic government and governance in the Middle East, this course is aimed at providing students with the tools necessary to be able to dissect the complex political landscape in different parts of the Middle East. These general trends include colonialism, oil, religion and nationalism. After an introduction to these themes, the course will focus on the politics of a number of countries around the Middle East to see how these trends manifest themselves in today's local politics.

PS 399. CURRENT PROBLEMS IN POLITICS (1-4).
Selected issues of recent American and international concern such as Vietnam, Central America, or similar topical issues. May be repeated for credit when topic varies. This course is repeatable for a maximum of 16 credits.

Communication
Please post all course-related questions in the General Discussion Forum so that the whole class may benefit from our conversation. Please email your instructor for matters of a personal nature. I will reply to course-related questions and email within 24-48 hours. I will strive to return your assignments and grades for course activities to you within five days of the due date.

Course Credits
This course combines approximately 120 hours of instruction, online activities, and assignments for 4 credits.

Technical Assistance
If you experience computer difficulties, need help downloading a browser or plug-in, assistance logging into the course, or if you experience any errors or problems while in your online course, contact the OSU Help Desk for assistance. You can call (541) 737-3474, email osuhelpdesk@oregonstate.edu or visit the OSU Computer Helpdesk online.

This course is offered through Oregon State University Extended Campus. For more information, contact: Web: ecampus.oregonstate.edu Email: ecampus@oregonstate.edu Tel: 800-667-1465
- COURSE DEMO
- GETTING STARTED

COURSE SITE LOGIN INFORMATION
Information on how to login to your course site can be found HERE.

Learning Resources
Politics and Society in the Contempory Middle East, by Michele Angrist
A History of the Middle East, by William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton (Fifth edition)
The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism, Naomi Klein

Note to prospective students: Please check with the OSU Bookstore for up-to-date information for the term you enroll (http://osubeaverstore.com/Academics or 800-595-0357). If you purchase course materials from other sources, be very careful to obtain the correct ISBN.

Canvas
This course will be delivered via Canvas where you will interact with your classmates and with your instructor. Within the course Canvas site, you will access the learning materials, such as the syllabus, class discussions, assignments, projects, and quizzes. To preview how an online course works, visit the Ecampus Course Demo. For technical assistance, please visit Ecampus Technical Help.

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes
- Learn about historical events in the Middle East that had major impacts on modern politics.
- Identify general political trends in different parts of the Middle East.
- Operationalize and illustrate the comparative characteristics of Middle Eastern systems of governance.
- Articulate and Analyse the recent political events that have been shaping states in the Middle East in the past decade.
- Evaluate the relationship between secular and Islamic political cultures.

This Course Fulfills the Cultural Diversity Baccalaureate Core Requirement:
- Identify and analyze characteristics of a cultural tradition outside of European/American culture.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how perspectives can change depending on cultural or historical contexts.
- Describe aspects of Non-Western culture that influence or contribute to global cultural, scientific, or social processes.

Evaluation of Student Performance
- Discussions – 200 points
- Country Profile Paper – 200 points
- Final Paper Assignments – 100 points
- Final Paper – 300 points
- Total – 800 points

Evaluation Criteria
The following criteria will be used for evaluating written and oral assignments:
[Poor; Average; Good; Very Good; Excellent]

COMMITMENT-did you cover all relevant materials/questions?
AMBITION-did you take each issue to task?
ENGAGEMENT-did you make connections between issues?
CLARITY—was the assignment well prepared and organized?
READINGS/COURSE MATERIALS—did you use appropriate reading and other course materials in your work? [Note: cite everything appropriately] You are also strongly encouraged to use additional resources.
COMPARISON—in general, how did your work compare to the rest of the class?
DIRECTIONS—did you follow directions?

Final Grade Distribution
Letter Grade Percent of point’s possible:
A [95-100%]  A- [90-94%]  B+ [87-89%]
B [83-86%]  B- [80-82%]  C+ [77-79%]
C [73-76%]  C- [70-72%]  D+ [67-69%]
D [63-66%]  D- [60-62%]  F [0-59%]

Course Requirements
Readings: Keeping up with the weekly readings is extremely important for a number of reasons. There will not be any lecture slides or videos (with one exception) for this class so the readings will be the only medium through which information for this course will be conveyed. So make sure you stay on top of them to answer the discussion board questions and to be able to use the readings for the midterm and the final paper.

Online Discussion: The bi-weekly online discussion are going to be used to answer discussion questions about the readings. Students will be given a chance to demonstrate their take on the different readings by discussing the questions and other students answers. Each student will be required to add one original thread and reply to at least two other threads. All threads and responses should be completed by Wednesday of every other week at 5:00PM. Check this schedule below for the weeks when discussion board participation is due. Please do not write everything on the same day the assignment is due. The goal is to foster a healthy discussion over a two-week period so be prepared to post ahead of the deadline and to keep checking on your posts to keep the discussion going until the deadline hits.

Country Profile Paper: For the midterm paper students are required to pick a Middle Eastern country to profile and to pick an issue that is unique to that country to discuss using the course readings. Please make sure you send what country will be profiled and the issue that will be discussed in the paper two weeks before the deadline. The paper should be between 5-10 double-spaced pages in length. Please use Times New Roman for the font and font size 12 with 1” margins. The paper is due on the Wednesday of week 5 at 5:00PM.

Final Paper: The final paper is meant to connect the course material to current political trends and events in the Middle East. Students are required to pick a contemporary political trend or problem in the Middle East and discuss it using the material from the course. The paper should be between 7-15 double-spaced pages in length. Please use Times New Roman for the font and font size 12 with 1” margins. The paper is due on the Friday of week 10 at 5:00PM. Different parts leading up to the final draft will be submitted over the second half of the term as shown in the schedule. These submissions are due on Wednesdays at 5:00PM. More details about the final paper will be posted on Blackboard on week 5.

Course Content

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<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Angrist (1-12)</td>
<td>- Online discussion:</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Cleveland and Bunton (24-33)</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Foreign Intervention</td>
<td>- Angrist (12-14)</td>
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<td>Bunton (162-163, 234-237, 301-322)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
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<td>Readings</td>
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| 3    | Political Economy | - Angrist: Chapter 4  
- Kuran: Why the Middle East is Economically Underdeveloped? Historical Mechanisms of Institutional Stagnation (PDF available online)  
- Timothy Mitchell: Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil (Video link available on Blackboard) |  | - Country and topic for the country profile paper. |
| 4    | Political Islam | - Cleveland and Bunton (122-128, 440-444)  
- Angrist: Chapter 6  
- Alastair Crooke: You Can’t Understand ISIS If You Don’t Know the History of Wahhabism in Saudi Arabia (PDF for parts 1 and 2 are available on blackboard)  
- Aboul-Enein: Al-Ikhwan Al-Muslimeen: The Muslim Brotherhood (PDF available online) |  | - Online discussion |
| 5    | Levant: The Israeli Palestinian Conflict, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon | - Cleveland and Bunton (239-271, 324-326, 330-337, 382-392)  
- Optional: Lebanese Civil War Documentary (YouTube link available on Blackboard) |  | - Country Profile Paper |
| 6    | The Gulf Region | Angrist: Kuwait and the UAE, Saudi Arabia (Chapters 15 and 17) |  | - Online discussion  
- Final Paper Proposal: Submit the topic for the final paper. |
| 7    | Iraq | - Cleveland and Bunton (37-38, 55-56, 326-330, 408-420)  
- Husain – In the Bellies of the |  | - Final paper references: Submit 5 potential references and explain how they |
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<th>Marshes: Water and Power in the Countryside of Ottoman Baghdad - Klein (Part 6: Iraq, Full Circle: Overshock)</th>
<th>will be useful for the final paper.</th>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>- Cleveland and Bunton (301-322) - Angrist: Egypt</td>
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<td>- Online discussion - Research Paper Outline</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>- Cleveland and Bunton (109-111, 275-277, 288-300, 423-440) - Stanglin: CIA formally admits role in 1953 Iranian coup (Link available online)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>The Arab Spring</td>
<td>- Cleveland and Bunton (Chapter 26) - Campante and Chor: Why Was the Arab World Poised for Revolution? Schooling, Economic Opportunities, and the Arab Spring (PDF available on Blackboard)</td>
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<td>- Online discussion - Final Research Paper</td>
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<td>Finals</td>
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**Course Policies**

**Discussion Participation**
Students are expected to participate in all graded discussions. While there is great flexibility in online courses, this is not a self-paced course. You will need to participate in our discussions on at least two different days each week, with your first post due no later than Wednesday evening, and your second and third posts due by the end of each week.

**Term Papers**
Students will be required to submit two major papers throughout the term. One will be a midterm paper that tackles specific issues related to specific countries while the final paper will be due on the last week of class where students are required to submit a paper that tackles Middle Eastern politics on a macro level with a deeper level of analysis.

**Late Papers**
Late papers will be accepted only if they are excused in advance by the instructor. Excused late submissions will generally not be given after the absence has occurred, except under very unusual circumstances.
Incompletes
Incomplete (I) grades will be granted only in emergency cases (usually only for a death in the family, major illness or injury, or birth of your child), and if the student has turned in 80% of the points possible (in other words, usually everything but the final paper). If you are having any difficulty that might prevent you completing the coursework, please don’t wait until the end of the term; let me know right away.

Guidelines for a Productive and Effective Online Classroom
Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email) in compliance with the university’s regulations regarding civility.

Civility is an essential ingredient for academic discourse. All communications for this course should be conducted constructively, civilly, and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. In all you say and do for this course, be professional. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this class policy to the attention of your instructor.

Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this online course, paying particular attention to the following:
- Unless indicated otherwise, please complete the readings and view other instructional materials for each week before participating in the discussion board.
- Read your posts carefully before submitting them.
- Be respectful of others and their opinions, valuing diversity in backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.
- Challenging the ideas held by others is an integral aspect of critical thinking and the academic process. Please word your responses carefully, and recognize that others are expected to challenge your ideas. A positive atmosphere of healthy debate is encouraged.

Statement Regarding Students with Disabilities
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 541-737-4098.

Accessibility of Course Materials
All materials used in this course are accessible. If you require accommodations please contact Disability Access Services (DAS).

Additionally, Canvas, the learning management system through which this course is offered, provides a vendor statement certifying how the platform is accessible to students with disabilities.

Expectations for Student Conduct
Student conduct is governed by the university’s policies, as explained in the Student Conduct Code.

Academic Integrity
Students are expected to comply with all regulations pertaining to academic honesty. For further information, visit Student Conduct and Community Standards, or contact the office of Student Conduct and Mediation at 541-737-3656.

OAR 576-015-0020 (2) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty:
a) Academic or Scholarly Dishonesty is defined as an act of deception in which a Student seeks to claim credit for the work or effort of another person, or uses unauthorized materials or fabricated information in any academic work or research, either through the Student's own efforts or the efforts of another.

b) It includes:

(i) CHEATING - use or attempted use of unauthorized materials, information or study aids, or an act of deceit by which a Student attempts to misrepresent mastery of academic effort or information. This includes but is not limited to unauthorized copying or collaboration on a test or assignment, using prohibited materials and texts, any misuse of an electronic device, or using any deceptive means to gain academic credit.

(ii) FABRICATION - falsification or invention of any information including but not limited to falsifying research, inventing or exaggerating data, or listing incorrect or fictitious references.

(iii) ASSISTING - helping another commit an act of academic dishonesty. This includes but is not limited to paying or bribing someone to acquire a test or assignment, changing someone's grades or academic records, taking a test/doing an assignment for someone else by any means, including misuse of an electronic device. It is a violation of Oregon state law to create and offer to sell part or all of an educational assignment to another person (ORS 165.114).

(iv) TAMPERING - altering or interfering with evaluation instruments or documents.

(v) PLAGIARISM - representing the words or ideas of another person or presenting someone else's words, ideas, artistry or data as one's own, or using one's own previously submitted work. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to copying another person's work (including unpublished material) without appropriate referencing, presenting someone else's opinions and theories as one's own, or working jointly on a project and then submitting it as one's own.

c) Academic Dishonesty cases are handled initially by the academic units, following the process outlined in the University's Academic Dishonesty Report Form, and will also be referred to SCCS for action under these rules.

Conduct in this Online Classroom
Students are expected to conduct themselves in the course (e.g., on discussion boards, email postings) in compliance with the university's regulations regarding civility.

Tutoring
NetTutor is a leading provider of online tutoring and learner support services fully staffed by experienced, trained and monitored tutors. Students connect to live tutors from any computer that has Internet access. NetTutor provides a virtual whiteboard that allows tutors and students to work on problems in a real time environment. They also have an online writing lab where tutors critique and return essays within 24 to 48 hours. Access NetTutor from within your Canvas class by clicking on the NetTutor button in your course menu.

OSU Student Evaluation of Teaching
Course evaluation results are extremely important and are used to help me improve this course and the learning experience of future students. Results from the 19 multiple choice questions are tabulated anonymously and go directly to instructors and department heads. Student comments on the open-ended questions are compiled and confidentially forwarded to each instructor, per OSU procedures. The online Student Evaluation of Teaching form will be available toward the end of each term, and you will be sent instructions via ONID by the Office of Academic Programs, Assessment, and Accreditation. You will log in
to “Student Online Services” to respond to the online questionnaire. The results on the form are anonymous and are not tabulated until after grades are posted.

REFUND POLICY INFORMATION
Please see the Ecampus website for policy information on refunds and late fees.