

# Strategic Survey of the Middle East

## DSS 5313

Summer 2021  
Online course

Dr. Daniel E. Szarke  
deszarke@utep.edu

### Course overview

This graduate course provides a strategic overview of socio-economic issues, political contexts, and security challenges facing Middle Eastern states, including physical, cultural, historical, and environmental patterns and problems in the region. Additionally, political instability, insurgencies and counterinsurgency efforts in the region will be discussed. The nations in the area are examined in light of the themes of security and development.

### Course objectives

Introduce students to important themes in a strategic survey of the region, to include but not limited to:

- a. Historical and cultural context in the region
- b. Sunni-Shi'i historical background
- c. Strategic importance of regional water supplies
- d. Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- e. Country by country, as well as regional analysis

### Course requirements and grading

Reading the assigned texts each week provides a starting point toward an understanding of the course subject material. Students are expected to reflect upon these texts through active participation in weekly discussion boards as well as comments on the posts of others in the course. Active participation demonstrates your grasp of the material and is part of your grade. The success of this class is dependent upon the preparation and participation of its members.

Students will also compose a final paper leveraging course readings and discussions to examine a significant related topic. While the span of acceptable topics is generally broad, students are encouraged to write on a more specific topic of their choosing in order to keep their paper focused. Your paper should **present an argument** demonstrating original thought with a consistent structure, leveraging additional resources while drawing upon course material.

### **Total course points: 1000 points**

**NB: All assignment due times are based on Mountain Time (UTEP time)**

### **Course Points 1: Quiz and Discussion Board Grading – 550 points**

- **Part 1:** Weekly Quizzes (15-point Week 1 Syllabus Quiz, 30-point Weekly Quiz on Weeks 2-6 totaling 150 points, 60-point Final Quiz) – **225 points total**

- **Week 1 Quiz:** This quiz is based strictly on content in the syllabus (and is open note/syllabus); all other weekly quizzes will be based on content from assigned readings.
- **Students will complete all Weekly Quizzes (1 hour allotted) not later than Saturday at 3 PM.**
- **Final Quiz (3 hours allotted): Due Friday of the last week of class by 10 PM**
- All quizzes are open book/notes. **Remember to place direct quotes from any sources in quotations and cite them!**

- Part 2: Online discussion board (DB) posts and comments/replies on readings for each Section (generally two Sections per week, 13 total sections, 25 points/section) – **325 points total**

- Posts for each Section (two Sections each week, except Week 7) are **due not later than Saturday at 1 PM** each week. Postings after 1 PM on Saturday will automatically receive a letter grade deduction.
- These posts will respond to basic issues and questions raised in each week's readings. **The posted questions in the DB are suggestions only – students are free to raise other issues in their posts.**
- Outside readings may be used, **but should be secondary** – base your posts on the assigned readings.
- Replies to another student are **due not later than Sunday afternoon at 1 PM** each week. Comments/replies posted after 1 PM on Sunday will automatically receive a letter grade deduction.
- Quiz answers and DB posts/replies will be graded on content, grammar, and presentation (i.e., logical introduction, synthesis, and conclusion). Answers should not simply repeat what you read, but should show insight (and an argument, where applicable) into the readings.

### **Course Points 2: Participation – 100 points**

- Students are expected to participate in weekly discussions throughout the course – not simply during the graded postings/replies noted above – participation scores are based on active online engagement.

### **Course Points 3: Research Paper, to include Summary Question/Response – 350 points**

The final class assignment is to research an issue/problem in the Middle East of particular interest to you. The research paper will review the issue/problem you have selected and can include original research as desired. There is one intermediate deadline (July 24); however, students should begin to plan the paper even earlier.

**July 24: Research Paper Proposal due:** Two-paragraph description of the problem or issue to be studied, including 10 citations of books/articles specific to the topic.

**August 14: Research Paper due.** The research paper should discuss the question of interest and why it is a significant problem (briefly), and describe/analyze the issue you have identified in the literature. **Do not devote space in the paper to summarizing assigned course readings on your topic.** The research paper is an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to synthesize the material presented in the relevant literature to a practical question of interest. The paper and summaries (see next) are due August 14.

**You will make a short summary of the key findings of your research paper.** Please post your summary by August 14 for the entire class to read. The class will be required to ask questions of different authors. Each student must ask at least one question to five different authors. Questions are due August 16. Answers to questions will be due by August 19.

- Final paper will be 8-12 pages in length (12-pt Times New Roman font, double-spaced, using endnotes, which are **not included** in the page count – no footnotes permitted). The paper is **due not later than Saturday, August 14 at 5 PM**. Each 24-hour period delay will result in a 10% reduction in the grade (e.g. receipt of the paper on Sunday at 8 AM results in maximum score of 90%, receipt of the paper on Sunday at 5:30 PM results in maximum score of 80%).
- **Final paper will be submitted to the instructor via Blackboard**
- See Final Paper Guidelines on Blackboard for the rubric and further guidance

### **Discussion and Analysis Expectations**

Throughout the class we will discuss issues and other literature on the Middle East. Each analysis/discussion must demonstrate a mastery of the details as well as the literature on the topic. Each student writes up his/her own analysis/discussion. The grading will include the quality of the discussion, outside research, and the ability to participate in the discussion of the topic. Students are encouraged to question assumptions and theories in the readings or related issues and make pertinent comments that might encourage further comments/debates. Particularly insightful comments will be scored higher. All posts are required to be written professionally; students should carefully proofread all entries before posting.

### **Books and resources (the following are required)**

Held, Colbert, and John Thomas Cummings. *Middle East Patterns: Places, People, and Politics*. 6th ed., Boulder, CO, Westview Press, 2014. ISBN: 978-0-8133-4877-3.

**NB: This edition of Held and Cummings is currently available online through the UTEP Library. It is also available for purchase through online vendors, if desired. Combined with other resources, all required readings are available online.**

\*Additional required readings are linked below, or are available through UTEP library resources\*

### **Regional current events resources**

Al Ahram: <http://english.ahram.org.eg/>

Al Arabiya: <http://english.alarabiya.net/>

Al Jazeera: <http://aljazeera.com/>

BBC Middle East: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/middle\\_east/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/middle_east/)

Haaretz: <http://www.haaretz.com/>

## Course Calendar and Outline

The following is the sequence of topics and required reading assignments for the course, with appropriate article links listed within each reference below. The listed chapters are from the required text, Middle East Patterns: Places, Peoples, and Politics by Held and Cummings. Your professor reserves the right to alter this calendar as circumstances dictate. All changes will be sent to students.

### **\*Important Reading Note\***

Key points to identify from the physical geography portions of the readings include strategic implications for the region, e.g., strategic waterways and rivers, access to water, oil reserves, and physical barriers to include but not limited to mountain ranges. You are not expected to read physical geography sections in great detail, but you are expected to recognize potentially important strategic effects as you review them.

## **PART I: Historical and Strategic Geopolitical Contexts**

### **Week 1**

#### ***What is the Middle East?***

How does one define ‘The Middle East’? What are the historical origins of contemporary Middle East nation-states? What are significant geographic features in the Middle East, and what drives their strategic importance? What are the historically significant centers of power?

### **Section 1: Introduction to ‘The Middle East’**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 1 & 2 (**NB: Held and Cummings is our primary text**)
- Davison, Roderic H. “Where Is the Middle East?” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 38, no. 4, 1960, pp. 665–675. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/20029452](http://www.jstor.org/stable/20029452). Accessed 8 June 2021.
- Keddie, Nikki R. “Is There a Middle East?” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, vol. 4, no. 3, 1973, pp. 255–271. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/162159](http://www.jstor.org/stable/162159). Accessed 8 June 2021.

### **Section 2: Historical and Cultural Patterns**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 3

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- Davis, Simon. “The Persian Gulf in the 1940s and the Question of an Anglo-American Middle East.” *History*, vol. 95, no. 1 (317), 2010, pp. 64–88. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/24429140](http://www.jstor.org/stable/24429140). Accessed 9 June 2021.
- W. Taylor Fain. “John F. Kennedy and Harold Macmillan: Managing the ‘Special Relationship’ in the Persian Gulf Region, 1961-63.” *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 38, no. 4, 2002, pp. 95–122. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/4284260](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4284260). Accessed 9 June 2021.

- Mawby, Spencer. “Orientalism and the Failure of British Policy in the Middle East: The Case of Aden.” *History*, vol. 95, no. 3 (319), 2010, pp. 332–353. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/24428763](http://www.jstor.org/stable/24428763). Accessed 9 June 2021.
- Al-Sahlawi, Mohammed A., and Øystein Noreng. “A Century After Sykes-Picot: Restructuring the Middle East Through Iraq, Kurdistan, and the Arab Spring.” *The Journal of Energy and Development*, vol. 39, no. 1/2, 2013, pp. 1–52. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/24812894](http://www.jstor.org/stable/24812894). Accessed 10 June 2021.

**\*Complete DB posts and Weekly Quiz by deadlines noted above**  
**NB: Remember that your Week 1 Quiz is strictly on the syllabus**

### Week 2

#### *Social Patterns and Regional Development*

How do demographics, religion, and social patterns influence the region? What is the role of natural resources with respect to development? How does water play a role in contemporary regional issues?

### **Section 3: Demographic, Religious, and Social Patterns**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 4
- “Sunni and Shi’a. A Political History. Interview with Laurence Louer.” Sciences Po: Center for International Studies (February 25, 2020). <https://www.sciencespo.fr/cei/en/content/sunnis-and-shi-political-history-interview-laurence-louer>
- Holtmann, Philipp. “A Primer to the Sunni-Shia Conflict.” *Perspectives on Terrorism*, vol. 8, no. 1, 2014, pp. 142–145. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/26297127](http://www.jstor.org/stable/26297127). Accessed 14 June 2021.

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- Dangor, Suleman. “The Many Voices of Islam.” *Religion and Theology* 11.3-4 (2004): 331-342.
- “The Sunni-Shia Divide,” Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/sunni-shia-divide/>

### **Section 4: Natural Resources and Development**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 5, 6, 7
- Ross, Michael L. “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics*, vol. 53, no. 3, 2001, pp. 325–361. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/25054153](http://www.jstor.org/stable/25054153). Accessed 15 June 2021. **NB: Skim article for main thrust of argument, in-depth read is not required.**
- POMEPS Studies 33: The Politics of Rentier States in the Gulf, January 2019, [http://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/POMEPS\\_Studies\\_33.pdf](http://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/POMEPS_Studies_33.pdf). **NB: Only required to read the Introduction, pp. 3-7.**

- Hvidt, Martin. “Economic and Institutional Reforms in the Arab Gulf Countries.” *Middle East Journal*, vol. 65, no. 1, 2011, pp. 85–102. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/23012095](http://www.jstor.org/stable/23012095). Accessed 15 June 2021.

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- Ross, Michael L. “Will Oil Drown the Arab Spring? Democracy and the Resource Curse.” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 90, no. 5, 2011, pp. 2–7. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/23041770](http://www.jstor.org/stable/23041770). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Lucas, Russell E. “Monarchical Authoritarianism: Survival and Political Liberalization in a Middle Eastern Regime Type.” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, vol. 36, no. 1, 2004, pp. 103–119. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/3880140](http://www.jstor.org/stable/3880140). Accessed 15 June 2021.

**\*Complete DB posts and Weekly Quiz by deadlines noted above**

### Week 3

#### *Geopolitics and the Israeli-Palestinian Issue*

What are critical geopolitical issues in the region? Where do these issues intersect with vital U.S. national security interests (or to what extent do they)? What influence does the historical background hold for the future of Israeli-Palestinian relations?

**Special note: Certain subjects this week may be, for some, emotionally-charged issues. Remember to keep all posts respectful and discuss the merits and pitfalls of different arguments without attacking any individual. By design, you will likely read arguments you may not have considered in the past in an effort to force you to think critically. Where do you agree/disagree, and why? Use academic (not emotional) support for your arguments.**

#### **Section 5: Geopolitics**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 8, 9
- Observer Research Foundation. “Water Scarcity in Middle East: Beyond an Environmental Risk – Analysis,” Eurasia Review (May 7, 2021). <https://www.eurasiareview.com/07052021-water-scarcity-in-middle-east-beyond-an-environmental-risk-analysis/>
- Tharoor, Ishaan. “The Secret Pact That Became a Scapegoat for All of the Middle East’s Problems.” *The Washington Post* (17 May 2016). [www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/05/17/the-secret-pact-that-became-a-scapegoat-for-all-of-the-middle-east-s-problems](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2016/05/17/the-secret-pact-that-became-a-scapegoat-for-all-of-the-middle-east-s-problems).
- “A Century On: Why Arabs Resent Sykes-Picot.” *Al Jazeera*. <https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/2016/sykes-picot-100-years-middle-east-map/index.html>.
- Harrison, Ross. *U.S. Foreign Policy Towards the Middle East: Pumping Air into a Punctured Tire*. Arab Center for Research & Policy Studies, 2019, [www.jstor.org/stable/resrep19950](http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep19950). Accessed 15 June 2021. **NB: Read pp. 1-8, 12-13.**

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- Venter, Al J. “The Oldest Threat: Water in the Middle East.” *Middle East Policy* 6.1 (1998): 126–136.
- Simon, Steven, and Jonathan Stevenson. “The Road to Damascus.” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 83, no. 3, 2004, pp. 110–118. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/20033979](http://www.jstor.org/stable/20033979). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Ackerman, Seth. “Al-Aqsa Intifada and the U.S. Media.” *Journal of Palestine Studies*, vol. 30, no. 2, 2001, pp. 61–74. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/jps.2001.30.2.61](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/jps.2001.30.2.61). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Pappé, Ilan. “Post-Zionist Critique on Israel and the Palestinians: Part I: The Academic Debate.” *Journal of Palestine Studies*, vol. 26, no. 2, 1997, pp. 29–41. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/2537781](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2537781). Accessed 15 June 2021.

## **Section 6: Israel and Palestine**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 13
- Fredericksen, Harald D., "Water: Israeli strategy, implications for peace and the viability of Palestine" (2004). Macro Center Working Papers. Paper 9. [http://docs.rwu.edu/cmpd\\_working\\_papers/9](http://docs.rwu.edu/cmpd_working_papers/9).
- Beinlin, Joel and Lisa Hajjar, “Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Primer.” (Washington, DC: Middle East Research and Information Project, 2014). <https://merip.org/palestine-israel-primer/>
- Plitnik, Mitchell and Christopher Toensing, “‘The Israel Lobby’ in Perspective,” *Middle East Report* 243 (Summer 2007). <https://merip.org/2007/06/the-israel-lobby-in-perspective/>

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- Miller, Jim, and Richard B. Parker. “Communications.” *Middle East Journal*, vol. 57, no. 4, 2003, pp. 707–713. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/4329968](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4329968). Accessed 15 June 2021. (Note: Intended to be read in entirety – letter/response – this correspondence provides two contradictory views of the USS Liberty incident on June 8, 1967.)
- Ben-Meir, Alon. “Why Syria Must Regain the Golan to Make Peace.” *Middle East Policy* 5.3 (1997): 104–112.
- Kramer, Martin. “Israel and the Post-American Middle East: Why the Status Quo Is Sustainable.” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 95, no. 4, 2016, pp. 51–56., *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/43946932](http://www.jstor.org/stable/43946932). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Odeh, Adnan Abu. “Two Capitals in an Undivided Jerusalem.” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 71, no. 2, 1992, pp. 183–188. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/20045132](http://www.jstor.org/stable/20045132). Accessed 15 June 2021.

**\*Research paper proposal due by July 24**

**\*Complete DB posts and Weekly Quiz by deadlines noted above**

## PART II: Regional Contexts

### Week 4

#### *From the Levant to Iraq*

Why does the conflict in Syria persist? What are the internal dynamics that lead to conflict in Lebanon? Why is Cyprus divided, and what does this mean for petroleum exploitation in its waters? How does Jordan maintain relations with its neighbors in a dynamic environment? What is the impact of diversity in Iraq on the political and security situation in the country?

### **Section 7: Syria, Lebanon, Cyprus, Jordan**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 10, 11, 12
- Ghadbian, Najib. “The New Asad: Dynamics of Continuity and Change in Syria.” *Middle East Journal*, vol. 55, no. 4, 2001, pp. 624–641. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/4329687](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4329687). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Joseph Daher, “The Roots and Grassroots of the Syrian Revolution,” *OpenDemocracy* (April 4, 2014). <https://www.opendemocracy.net/joseph-daher/roots-and-grassroots-of-syrian-revolution-part-3-of-4>
- Pearlman, Wendy. “The Revolution Began,” excerpts from *We Crossed a Bridge and It Trembled*, Custom House (2017), *Harper’s Magazine* (June 2017). <https://harpers.org/archive/2017/06/the-revolution-began/>
- Schulhofer-Wohl, Jonah. “How the U.S. fragmented Syria’s rebels.” *The Washington Post* (September 22, 2014). <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2014/09/22/how-the-u-s-fragmented-syrias-rebels/>
- Matthiesen, Toby. “Syria: Inventing a Religious War,” *The New York Review* (June 12, 2013). [https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2013/06/12/syria-inventing-religious-war/?lp\\_txn\\_id=1254178](https://www.nybooks.com/daily/2013/06/12/syria-inventing-religious-war/?lp_txn_id=1254178)

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- De Waal, Thomas. *Cyprus: In Europe, In Limbo*. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2018, pp. 49–60, *Uncertain Ground: Engaging with Europe’s De Facto States and Breakaway Territories*, [www.jstor.org/stable/resrep26907.9](http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep26907.9). Accessed 16 June 2021.
- Çirakli, Mustafa. *TRNC-RoC Cooperation: A Critical Missing Piece for Eastern Mediterranean Stability*. Edited by Michaël Tanchum, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 2021, pp. 27–37, *Eastern Mediterranean in Uncharted Waters: Perspectives on Emerging Geopolitical Realities*, [www.jstor.org/stable/resrep28863.6](http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep28863.6). Accessed 16 June 2021.
- Lucas, Russell E. “Jordan: The Death of Normalization with Israel.” *Middle East Journal*, vol. 58, no. 1, 2004, pp. 93–111. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/4329976](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4329976). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Little, Douglas. “Cold War and Covert Action: The United States and Syria, 1945-1958.” *Middle East Journal*, vol. 44, no. 1, 1990, pp. 51–75. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/4328056](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4328056). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- “The Context, Causes, and Consequences of Syrian Displacement.” *The Consequences of Chaos: Syria's Humanitarian Crisis and the Failure to Protect*, by ELIZABETH FERRIS



and KEMAL KIRIŞCI, Brookings Institution Press, Washington, D.C., 2016, pp. 1–32. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/10.7864/j.ctt1c2cqws.6](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7864/j.ctt1c2cqws.6). Accessed 15 June 2021.

## **Section 8: Iraq**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 14
- Sluglett, Peter. “Imperial Myopia: Some Lessons from Two Invasions of Iraq.” *Middle East Journal*, vol. 62, no. 4, 2008, pp. 593–609. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/25482570](http://www.jstor.org/stable/25482570). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Wuthrich, F. Michael. “Review Article: The Kurdish Question in Turkey, Iraq and Beyond.” *Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 48, no. 2, 2012, pp. 303–310. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/23217105](http://www.jstor.org/stable/23217105). Accessed 16 June 2021.

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- Takeyh, Ray. “The Iran-Iraq War: A Reassessment.” *Middle East Journal*, vol. 64, no. 3, 2010, pp. 365–383. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/40783105](http://www.jstor.org/stable/40783105). Accessed 15 June 2021.

**\*Complete DB posts and Weekly Quiz by deadlines noted above**

### **Week 5**

#### ***The Arabian Peninsula to Egypt***

How and why have recent political alliances shifted (or not) in the region vis-à-vis Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, and the Gulf States? How are petro-states contending with a future that will eventually rely to a lesser degree on petroleum? What does this petroleum-diminished future portend for the region? Why are different states embroiled in the conflict in Yemen? What does Egypt’s future look like under Abdel Fattah al-Sisi?

## **Section 9: Saudi Arabia, Gulf States, Oman, Yemen**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 15, 16, 17, 18
- POMEPS Briefings 31: The Qatar Crisis, October 2017, <https://pomeps.org/the-qatar-crisis-pomeps-brief-31>. **NB: Only required to read pp. 3-7, 10-16.**

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- Al-Suwaidi, Abdulla. “The United Arab Emirates at 40: A Balance Sheet.” *Middle East Policy* 18.4 (2011): 44-58.
- Al-Atawneh, Muhammad. “Is Saudi Arabia a Theocracy? Religion and Governance in Contemporary Saudi Arabia.” *Middle Eastern Studies* 45:5 (2009): 721-737.
- Dekmejian, R. Hrair. “Saudi Arabia’s Consultative Council.” *Middle East Journal*, vol. 52, no. 2, 1998, pp. 204–218. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/4329186](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4329186). Accessed 15 June 2021.

- Forstenlechner, Ingo and Emilie J. Rutledge. “The GCC’s ‘Demographic Imbalance’: Perceptions, Realities and Policy Options.” *Middle East Policy*, vol. 18, no. 4, 2011, pp. 25-43.

### **Section 10: Egypt**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 19
- Fahmy, Khaled. “We Did Not Risk Our Lives Simply to Change the Players.” CNN.com (July 3, 2013). <http://www.cnn.com/2013/07/03/opinion/egypt-morsy-khaled-fahmy/>
- Moll, Yasmin. “The Wretched Revolution.” *Middle East Report*, no. 273, 2014, pp. 34–39. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/24426602](http://www.jstor.org/stable/24426602). Accessed 15 June 2021.

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- Blanga, Yehuda. “The Path that Led to the Cease-Fire Ending the War of Attrition and the Stationing of Missiles at the Suez Canal.” *Middle Eastern Studies* 48:2 (2012): 183-203.
- Stevenson, Tom. “Sisi’s Way: In Sisi’s Prisons.” *London Review of Books* (February 19, 2015). <http://www.lrb.co.uk/v37/n04/tom-stevenson/sisis-way>

**\*Complete DB posts and Weekly Quiz by deadlines noted above**

### **Week 6** ***Turkey and Iran***

How has Turkey’s shift under President Erdogan and the AKP influenced its foreign policy? What has been the traditional role of the military in Turkish politics? What should U.S. policy be with respect to Iran? What is Iran’s role in the greater Middle East?

### **Section 11: Turkey**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 20
- Kirişci, Kemal. “Turkey and Its Post-Soviet Neighborhood.” *Current History*, vol. 112, no. 756, 2013, pp. 271–276. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/45319239](http://www.jstor.org/stable/45319239). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- POMEPS Briefings 30: Turkey’s Coup Attempt, August 2016, <https://pomeps.org/briefing-30-turkeys-coup-attempt>. **NB: Only required to read pp. 5-14.**

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- Kirişci, Kemal. *The EU, Turkey, and the Arab Spring: Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Integration*. Edited by Senem Aydın-Düzgit et al., Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), 2013, pp. 195–220, *Global Turkey in Europe: Political, Economic, and Foreign Policy Dimensions of Turkey’s Evolving Relationship with the EU*, [www.jstor.org/stable/resrep09869.19](http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep09869.19). Accessed 15 June 2021.

- Sayari, Sabri. “Turkish Foreign Policy in the Post-Cold War Era: The Challenges of Multi-Regionalism.” *Journal of International Affairs*, vol. 54, no. 1, 2000, pp. 169–182. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/24357694](http://www.jstor.org/stable/24357694). Accessed 15 June 2021.

## **Section 12: Iran**

Required readings:

- Held and Cummings, Chap 21
- Amuzegar, J. (Ed.). (2014). *The Islamic Republic of Iran: Reflections on an Emerging Economy* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://0-doi-org.lib.utep.edu/10.4324/9781315754871>  
**NB: Read pp. 206-218, “The Islamic Republic of Iran: Facts and Fiction”.**
- Rahigh-Aghsan, Ali, and Peter Viggo Jakobsen. “The Rise of Iran: How Durable, How Dangerous?” *Middle East Journal*, vol. 64, no. 4, 2010, pp. 559–573. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/40926500](http://www.jstor.org/stable/40926500). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- POMEPS Studies 28: New Analysis of Shia Politics, December 2017, [http://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/POMEPS\\_Studies\\_28\\_NewAnalysis\\_Web.pdf](http://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/POMEPS_Studies_28_NewAnalysis_Web.pdf). **NB: Only required to read the Introduction, pp. 3-5, and The Iranian Revolution and Sunni Political Islam, pp. 36-38.**

**NB: Research paper and posted summary due Saturday, August 14**

**\*Complete DB posts and Weekly Quiz by deadlines noted above**

### **Week 7**

#### ***Middle East Engagement and Prospects, Research Paper Discussions***

What are prospects for the future and what do they hold for engagement by the United States (and others) in the region? What of divisions within and between nation-states in the region?  
What are the prospects for pluralism?

**NB: In this section, feel free to explore additional articles and sources beyond those listed below. Ensure they are cited in any discussion board threads. The following list includes a (very small) cross-section of articles that may at times challenge conventional thought on Middle East engagement and prospects.**

## **Section 13: Middle East Engagement and Prospects**

Required readings:

- Gordon, Philip H. *U.S. Strategy and Policy in the Middle East*. Council on Foreign Relations, 2016, [www.jstor.org/stable/resrep30003](http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep30003). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Simon, Steven, and Jonathan Stevenson. “The End of Pax Americana: Why Washington's Middle East Pullback Makes Sense.” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 94, no. 6, 2015, pp. 2–10., [www.jstor.org/stable/43946534](http://www.jstor.org/stable/43946534). Accessed 15 June 2021.

- Shadi Hamid, Peter Mandaville and William McCants, “How the United States Changed its Approach to Political Islam,” *Atlantic* (2017).  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/10/america-political-islam/541287/>
- Glaser, Charles L., and Rosemary A. Kelanic. “Getting Out of the Gulf: Oil and U.S. Military Strategy.” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 1, 2017, pp. 122–131. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/44823237](http://www.jstor.org/stable/44823237). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Abdo, Geneive. “The New Sectarianism: The Arab Uprisings and the Rebirth of the Shi’a-Sunni Divide.” *Brookings* March/April (2013).  
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-new-sectarianism-the-arab-uprisings-and-the-rebirth-of-the-shia-sunni-divide/>
- Bellin, Eva. “The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective.” *Comparative Politics*, vol. 36, no. 2, 2004, pp. 139–157. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/4150140](http://www.jstor.org/stable/4150140). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Gause, F. Gregory. “Why Middle East Studies Missed the Arab Spring: The Myth of Authoritarian Stability.” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 90, no. 4, 2011, pp. 81–90. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/23039608](http://www.jstor.org/stable/23039608). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- “I will Return Saudi Arabia to Moderate Islam,” Interview with Mohammad bin Salman, *The Guardian*, October (2017). <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/24/i-will-return-saudi-arabia-moderate-islam-crown-prince>

For further exploration (Optional, not required):

- Ewers, Elisa Catalano. *Hearing on Assessing U.S. Policy Priorities in the Middle East*. Center for a New American Security, 2019, [www.jstor.org/stable/resrep28741](http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep28741). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Hamid, Shadi. “The End of Pluralism.” *The Atlantic* (2014).  
[https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/07/the-end-of-pluralism/374875/?single\\_page=true](https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2014/07/the-end-of-pluralism/374875/?single_page=true)
- Ajami, Fouad. “The End of Pan-Arabism.” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 57, no. 2, 1978, pp. 355–373. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/20040119](http://www.jstor.org/stable/20040119). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Stepanova, Ekaterina. *Russia’s Foreign and Security Policy in the Middle East: Entering the 2020s*. Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), 2020, [www.jstor.org/stable/resrep29461](http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep29461). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Serwer, Daniel. *Recalculating U.S. Policy in the Middle East: Less Military, More Civilian*. Middle East Institute, 2016, [www.jstor.org/stable/resrep17600](http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep17600). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Steven Heydemann, “Upgrading Arab Authoritarianism,” *Brookings Institute* (2007).
- Heydemann, Steven. “Civil War, Economic Governance & State Reconstruction in the Arab Middle East.” *Daedalus*, vol. 147, no. 1, 2018, pp. 48–63. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/48563406](http://www.jstor.org/stable/48563406). Accessed 15 June 2021.
- Bellin, Eva. “Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring.” *Comparative Politics*, vol. 44, no. 2, 2012, pp. 127–149. *JSTOR*, [www.jstor.org/stable/23211807](http://www.jstor.org/stable/23211807). Accessed 15 June 2021.

**\*Complete DB posts by deadlines noted above**

**NB: Three-hour long Final Quiz is due Friday, one day earlier than previous weeks**

## Important Notes

### Respect for others in sharing ideas; Netiquette:

As is the case with many academic courses, students may be exposed to provocative thoughts or ideas, including those professed by the instructor. These thoughts may or may not reflect my own line of thinking, and indeed may well be intended to encourage students to either defend a particular point of view or to consider and/or counter alternative perspectives. As such, my role in this course is not to provide you with prescriptive answers; rather, it is intended to guide and encourage students to think more broadly about the subject matter. **In all cases, discussion participants are expected to demonstrate respect for others in their exchanges.**

Please realize that attempts at humor, and satire in particular, may be misconstrued online. Emoticons such as a smiley face :) may help communicate humor to your reader. Further tips on 'Netiquette' may be found at [www.albion.com/netiquette](http://www.albion.com/netiquette).

### Academic Integrity:

**Academic Dishonesty is NEVER tolerated by UTEP. All cases are reported to the Dean of Students for Academic Sanctions.** These sanctions may include expulsion. All work submitted must be original; students may not submit graded work from another course.

### Forms of academic dishonesty may include:

*Collusion*— lending your work to another person to submit as his or her own;

*Fabrication*— deliberately creating false information on a works cited page, and

*Plagiarism*— the presentation of another person's work as your own, whether you mean to or not (e.g., copying parts of or whole papers off of the Internet).

### Disability Services:

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 915-747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass).

Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and CASS at The University of Texas at El Paso.

### Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet specific objectives.