PO 245 PM: POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST/Spring 2007

Prof. Farbod | Room Z102, Zinzendorf | Office Hrs: T & R: 11-12 AM
(O) 861-1570 | email: mefnf01@moravian.edu | OR by appointment

The students will learn to critically examine a number of issues and themes in the politics of the Middle East. Selected topics include but are not limited to: a critique of prevalent Western ethnocentric views of the Middle East; examination of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, politics in pre- and post-revolutionary Iran, pre- and post-invasion Iraq, religious (both Islamic and Jewish) fundamentalisms in the region, resource politics, in particular that of oil, the U.S. foreign policy, the "war on terror," and the prospects for peace, democracy, and prosperity in the region. The students will benefit from a less detailed look at other nations of the region such as Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Afghanistan. However, the focus will be on significant themes rather than a country-by-country presentation. The class will also benefit from viewing a number of critical documentaries dealing with some of the more controversial aspects of politics in the region that are often shunned by the mainstream media.

Required Books: *The Iranian Labyrinth*, *Hiro* | *The Freedom*, *Parenti*
Beyond Chutzpah, *Finkelstein* | *Devil's Game*, Dreyfuss

Course Requirements:

a. ***Class Participation***: (10%)
   1) I expect and welcome consistent participation in class discussions in the form of questions, commentaries, challenges, and so on. Students should keep up with the news about and from the Middle East.
   2) Unexcused class absences will cost a student in reduced final grade. Each unexcused absence, after the first, will reduce a student's final grade by 5 points; thus, a total of three absences will result in the loss of the participation grade.

b. ***Quizzes***: (25%)
   There will be a total of FIVE quizzes administered at the **beginning** of designated class sessions. Each quiz shall take no more than ten minutes and is comprised of a couple of basic questions covering the readings for that class period. There shall be **no make-ups** regarding quizzes.

c. ***Research Paper****: (25%)*
   Write 6 double-spaced pages on a topic of interest to you. You should have a topic in mind by the end of October; an introduction written by the end of the first week in November; an outline ready by the second week; and be ready to research and write the paper thereafter. Remember that research requires going to sources **outside** of those assigned in class. Topics must deal with political issues and themes in the Middle East that are significant and contemporary. You may choose to research themes, issues, or historical events that are several decades old. However, the key here is whether they are relevant to an understanding of contemporary Middle East issues. I would suggest clearing the topic with me before you start the research project. Due date: Two weeks before our last class session (not the Final Exam date).

d. ***A Mid Term AND A Final Exam****:* (20% each): Times will be announced in class.

e. ***Extra Credit Opportunities****: (5% each)*
   Each student may take advantage of up to two extra credit opportunities as they present themselves in the course of this term. I will announce these as they come by during our class sessions.

Evaluation*:		
	Class Participation	10%
	Quizzes (5)	25%
	Mid-Term Exam	20%
	Term Paper	25%
	Final Exam	20%

Class Readings will be assigned on a class-by-class basis.

Attendance Policy: Students are encouraged to attend classes regularly. Absence due to illness requires written confirmation from a healthcare provider. Any other absence requires satisfactory explanation otherwise it will be marked and incorporated into the course grade determination.

Academic Honesty Policy: In cases of cheating or plagiarizing in any way, I will follow the appropriate procedures as they appear in the College Student Handbook.

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* It is within my purview to apply qualitative judgment in the determination of any and all grades.