

POLITICS OF THIRD WORLD (POSC 245 Z) 2013

Spring

Instructor: Faramarz Farbod
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Room: Zinzendorf 102

Office Hrs.: M/TH: 1-2 pm
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Course Description:

In this course we will focus on the Middle East: Israeli-Palestinian conflict, oil politics, Islam, U.S. policy in the region, the Arab uprisings, with attention to Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt. Unfortunately, we in the "west" hold a lot of misperceptions about the people and politics of this region, and as a result have not been able to obtain a more humane understanding of the region's political and historical dynamics. Accordingly, we will spend considerable time tackling issues related to the misrepresentation of the region and will attempt to separate myth from reality as we examine issues and themes pertaining to the region. Lastly, we will view a number of documentaries/films that introduce critical but often neglected or silenced perspectives and voices about important issues.

Required Readings:

(1) *Kumar*: Islamophobia (2) *Kinzer*: Reset (3) *Peled*: The General's Son (4) *Hanieh*: Lineages of Revolt

Grades*:

Participation 10%

Final Exam 30%

Research Paper 30%

Book Reviews (2) 30%

Notes & Explanations:

- **Class Participation:** It consists of consistent attendance plus informed participation in both the *Weekly Takeaway Circles* and the more general class discussions. *Weekly Takeaway Circles:* At the beginning of the semester the students will be organized into groups of 4 to 5. Each group meets once a week in class for about 15 minutes to discuss the assigned readings. We do this before class presentation begins. Each student should come to the Circle

with the assigned reading materials AND his/her takeaway items from the readings. The latter are: (1) a discussion item, and (2) questions about the readings to include difficulties encountered in understanding the materials.

- **Book Reviews:** The first is on *The General's Son* and is due by mid-term. The second is on Islamophobia and is due by the end of March. Book reviews are between 3-5 typed pages long.
 - **Research Paper:** Due two weeks before the final class meeting in April. It must be between 7-9 typed pages not including the Work Cited and the Title pages. *Also note that you must* hand in a typed page two weeks before the Research Paper's due date indicating the following information about your paper: 1) Topic, 2) Significant Question, 3) Why my Significant Question matters, and 4) A list of research sources *already* consulted. Those failing to hand in this page will be penalized by a full grade for their final paper.
 - **Final Exam:** The Final Exam is cumulative. Date to be announced.
 - **Class Readings** are assigned on a class-by-class basis. It is the student's responsibility to find out about assigned readings in case of absence.
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- "Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling [610-861-1510](tel:610-861-1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center."
 - **Attendance Policy:** Be there. And be on time. Absence due to illness requires written confirmation from a healthcare provider. Unexcused absences 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.
 - **E-Devices:** All electronic devices should be turned *off* before class.

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