

POSC 245/Politics of Third World: Middle East//Fall 2014

Faramarz Farbod//Zinzendorf 102

Office Hours: T 10-11:45 AM or by appointment

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Course Description: In this course we focus on the Middle East. We begin by a critical discussion about what “we” know and how “we” have come to know the region in North America. Common misperceptions abound and we cannot hope to come to any humane understanding of the region without first tackling them. The Middle East contains many countries and even more issues that can be reasonably covered in an introductory course such as this. So, we will focus on a selective number of key issues and countries. These are the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the politics of empire, oil politics, political Islam, the Arab uprisings, the region’s political economy, the “war on terrorism,” and the modern histories of countries such as Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Israel/Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and Egypt. We will also supplement our readings and discussions with a number of critical documentaries/films that present often excluded (from the mainstream) voices and perspectives.

Required Readings: 1) *Kumar*: Islamophobia, 2) *Kinzer*: Reset, 3) *Peled*: The General’s Son, and 4) *Hanieh*: Lineages of Revolt

Grades*: Class Participation	10%	Mid-Term & Final Exams	30% (each)
Book Review	10%	Research Paper	20%

Notes & Explanations:

- **Class Participation:** It will be based on regular attendance plus informed participation in class discussions. To facilitate the latter I require that you bring to each class a discussion item or a question based on the assigned readings for that session. I will call on individuals regularly to share their items.
- **Book Review:** Write a four-page review of *The General’s Son*. A review is more than a simple summary; it involves critical engagement with the substance of the author’s arguments.
- **Research Paper:** Eight typed pages (NOT including the Work Cited and the Title pages) due two weeks before our last class meets. I also require a preliminary information page to be handed two weeks before the Research Paper is due. It must include the following: 1) the paper’s topic, 2) the main research question, 3) the significance of this question, and 4) a preliminary list of sources you’ve ALREADY consulted.
- **Class Readings** are assigned on a class-by-class basis. It is the responsibility of students to find out about assigned readings in case of absence.
- Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability must contact Ms. Elaine Mara, assistant director of academic support services for academic and disability support, at the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.
- **Attendance Policy:** Be there. Be on time. Absences due to illness require 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 sessions begin.

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