Politics of the Middle East

	Course	**CPO 3403**
	Professor	**Dr. Anca Turcu**
	Term	Spring 2016
	Credits	3
	Class Meets	UCF Orlando West Campus Building 11, Room 315 Thursday 6:00-8:50 PM

Office Phone	407-582-5642
Office Location	Building 11, Room 227
Email Address	Anca.Turcu@ucf.edu
Office Hours	Thursdays 4:00-6:00 PM or by appointment
Other Information	I encourage students to contact me if they have questions, problems, or concerns. You can contact me by official university e-mail. You can also call my office or contact me in person during office hours. If office hours are in conflict with your schedule, contact me to make an appointment during the week.

General Course Information

Course Description	The class provides an overview of several countries in the Middle East. Topics covered include Islam, historical contexts, national leaders, institutions, international relations, regional conflicts and alliances.
Learning Objectives	On satisfactorily completing the requirements of this course, students will be able to: • describe the main characteristics of the Middle East as a region and of several countries in the area • discuss politics and policy-making in the Middle East • analyze the strengths and shortcomings of governmental systems across the region • understand the causes and context of the Arab Spring movement

	• understand the causes and context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and other conflicts in the area • evaluate possible paths towards conflict resolution
Required Readings	***Textbook*** It is imperative that students use the edition indicated below. All assigned chapters have to be read **prior** to coming to class. "The Middle East" by Ellen Lust (editor), CQ Press, 13th Edition, (2013)
Canvas	Canvas will be used to send e-mails, post announcements, exam reviews, changes to the syllabus and assigned articles; and host a discussion forum and post grades.

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Date	**Topics**	**Reading Assignments**
01/14	1. Syllabus and Introduction 2. The Making of the Middle East: Islam, Tribalism, the Ottoman Empire	Syllabus
01/21	1. The Making of the Middle East: Western Colonization and State Formation 2. Roots of the Araba-Israeli Conflict	1. Chapters: 1, 5
01/28	1. Israel 2. Palestine	1. Chapter 14 2. Chapter 20, 7
02/04	Egypt	Chapter 11
02/11	**Exam 1**	
02/18	Iraq	Chapter 13
02/25	1. Saudi Arabia 2.Yemen	1. Chapter 22 2. Chapter 26 (selected sections and pages TBA)
03/03	Iran	Chapter 12
03/10	**Spring Break**	**No Class**
03/17	**Exam 2**	
3/24	1. Syria 2. Lebanon	1. Chapter 23 2. Chapter 17 (selected sections and pages TBA)
03/31	Turkey	Chapter 25
04/07	1. Prospects for Peace; 2. International Politics of the Middle East	1. Chapters 7 and 2 2. Chapter 9

04/14	Afghanistan & Pakistan	TBA
04/21	**Exam 3**	
04/28	**Final Exam**	**7:00 PM in regular classroom**

Course Policies

Grading Criteria	**Exams** There will be four exams in this class. Three exams are compulsory. If you do not take one of the three exams during the semester, the final exam will be compulsory. If you take the three exams during the semester and you are satisfied with your grade, you can choose not to take the final. If you take three exams and also decide to take the final, your lowest scoring exam will be replaced with the grade you receive for the final exam. There will be no exceptions: even if your grade in the final is lower than the grade you were seeking to replace, the grade in the final will be the one I will take into account in calculating your final grade. Please note that the final exam is comprehensive. Also note that once you sit for an exam you will receive a grade for that exam. Exams will cover material from the readings and from the lectures. Exam #1 will constitute 30% of your final grade, while exams #2 and #3 will each constitute 35% of your final grade. The value of the final exam will be assigned in accordance to the exam you missed during the semester. Bring picture identification to each exam. **Grading Formula** (exam1 *.3)+ (exam2*.35) +(exam3*.35)= final grade **Grading Scale** A (93- 100%), A-(90-92%), 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 (Below 60%).
Make-up Exams	Exams are scheduled well in advance so that you can plan around these dates. No one may make up a test at will. There are two exceptions. First, for personal emergencies (a death in the family, medical problems), students should obtain a note from the dean of students or their physician. Second, for students with extra-curricular activities that conflict with deadlines, arrangements for an alternate test date must be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled test or deadline. Students must provide verification of the activity in order to be eligible for an alternate test date. I do not accept notification after the fact ("I did not take the test last week because I had a match/concert").
Grade Release	

	Please note that grades will not be shared through phone, e-mail or mail. You will have to log on to Canvas in order to find out your grades. Students who have concerns about grades should put them in writing and contact the professor 24 hours after they find out their grade. Students are not allowed to take exams home. The university needs to keep exams and papers for official records, thus students have to return them to the instructor. If a student fails to return an exam or paper, s/he will not be allowed to sit for the next exam or will be given a grade of zero for that exam.
Extra Credit	For now, there are no extra credit opportunities offered in this class. The instructor may modify this policy during the semester and will announce the change in a timely manner.
Media Resources	In order to do well in this and any Political Science class, students should have a good awareness and a good understanding of current events. I encourage students to keep informed through accessing visual, print and web media. Some credible and reliable news outlets include, among others: BBC World, the New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN, The National Public Radio, Financial Times, The Economist, The Atlantic Monthly, Time Magazine, Newsweek, Haaretz, Jerusalem Post. I will provide links to current events through theCanvas Web Link folder. I will prompt you each time I add material to that folder and will let you know if I expect to test you on that material.
Class Attendance	Attendance is required. Lectures cover material that you will not be able to find in the book. I will not provide notes for students missing class.
Federal Financial Aid Requirement	Beginning in the Fall 2014 semester, UCF must comply with a federal financial aid regulation that states that in order to receive federal aid, students must be actively academically engaged (according to a federal definition) in each course in which they are enrolled. As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. **Without verification of this engagement, students will not receive their aid.** In order to document that you began this course, you will be required to complete a short quiz in Canvas during the first week of classes, **no later than January 15th**. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid, or will mean that students will not receive their aid.
Classroom Citizenship	Besides interactive participation, I expect discipline in the class room. Be courteous to others, **be on time** and do not leave early, unless there is a pertinent reason and you have notified me. Do not eat, text or talk to your colleagues during lecture. An important part of being a college student is having manners and respecting those around you. **Turn off** your cell phones and **store them away** in your book bag, for the duration of the class. Set your laptop's volume on mute. **Laptop users:** make sure you are using your laptop exclusively for taking notes

	while in class. Laptop usage is a privilege and I reserve the right to revoke it at any time during the semester if you do not follow these rules.
Academic Integrity	Students must demonstrate a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take this UCF library tutorial: http://infolit.ucf.edu/students/modules/#article116 I will make sure that students suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to disciplinary proceedings. http://integrity.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade
Class Withdrawal	Procedures regarding withdrawal policies can be found here: http://catalog.sdes.ucf.edu/
Student Grievance Procedures	Procedures regarding student grievances can be found here: http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/student%20grievance%20procedure.pdf
Incomplete Grades	Procedures regarding class withdrawal can be found here: http://catalog.sdes.ucf.edu/
Student Accessibility Resources	If you have a disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will also need to contact the Student Accessibility Services: http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/
Religious Holidays	The University of Central Florida welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic or work requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request reasonable accommodation of their religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing and present it to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The instructor or supervisor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course or creating an undue burden for the department. For more details, consult: http://catalog.ucf.edu/policies/academic-regulations#Religious_Observances

Please note that the academic calendar, policies, procedures and assignments listed in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.