CPO3403 Syllabus

Fall 2017

Instructor Contact

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Course Information

Course Name	• Middle East Politics
Course ID	• CPO3403, Section: **W or On-line**
Credit Hours	• 3 (three)
Semester/Year	• Fall, 2017
W or On-line	• **No Class Meetings** at all, **but** you are **strongly recommended** to watch the lecture videos placed in our Modules

Course Description & Objectives

This interdisciplinary course provides a foundation for understanding the complex socio-political, cultural, and economic structure of the Middle East region, a vague term that includes the States of North Africa, the Persian Gulf, and the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (known as the Near East). This class covers the major approaches, concepts, and methods, which are the necessary tools for analyzing and comprehending the social structure, governmental institutions, in addition to the formal and informal policies of this vital geographic region.

Another purpose of this course is to go beyond stereotypes, and to stimulate students' critical thinking by the analysis of events and issues from both comparative as well as cross-cultural perspectives. The next objective is to provide an accurate and unbiased recent picture of social, economic, legal, political, and security challenges of the Middle Eastern nations in the post-Cold War period. The Middle East is a significant region for the West, because it is the source of the three major monotheistic religions of the world, and many of its natural resources, particularly the fossil fuels, are vital for the survival of the West. In the post-September 11th, the West (especially the U.S.) is amazed by the level of anti-Western and anti-American sentiments in the region. Many ask: Why do they hate us? In response, some argue that we cannot do anything about the situation, while others suggest that the problem could have been avoided by a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the Middle Eastern cultures, societies, and politics. Still others call for a revision of the failed Western policies in the last century in the region. These are some issues that we examine.

Another purpose of this class is to stimulate critical analyses of events and issues in global affairs. It is not my place to train students to be **conservative or liberal people**, but **I use our readings and my lectures to stimulate your minds**. However, **I have no political agenda**, especially since I am politically independent, who does not even belong to any real political party. More importantly, this course will also assist students to improve their written and oral communication skills, to gain an ability to translate knowledge from one context to another, and to apply theory to practice. Gaining this knowledge is important not only for students, but also for government and business employees and those who realize that we live in an increasingly global village.

Format

Our **Web (or on-line**) course consists of only one section, which never meets in a regular classroom. However, you are **STRONGLY encouraged to watch the lecture videos**, during which I give **hints** about quiz and exam questions. There is no required in-class attendance, but students should **think of our Web sessions like a Tuesday/Thursday course**, **which have required assignment deadlines on both Tuesdays and Thursdays.** The recorded sessions are available in an on-line digital format on the course website. These recorded lectures make understanding our courses materials much easier: our experience indicates that **students who watch the videos do much better in our course than those who do not.**

Every week, we start a new Reading Module (or lesson plan) on Tuesdays and we have assignments due on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The required weekly Discussion Postings are always **due on Tuesdays at 11:59pm** sharp. Our three Exam Modules also start on Tuesdays: their Review Sessions are on-line on Tuesdays and the Exams themselves are always on-line on Thursdays. The **three Exam Modules** are modules numbers 4 (First Midterm Exam or Exam 1), 8 (Second Midterm Exam or Exam 2), and 12 (Final Exam). The exams are available for only one day on Thursdays from 6am to 11:59pm. Also, every Thursday (with the exception of National Holidays), we have a quiz which is available only for one day from 6am to 11:59pm.

I prepared **powerpoint lectures** to make sense of a **great deal of readings** that students must complete in our **text and website articles**. Moreover, we heavily rely on our diverse readings (which provide us with a variety of views) and use them as additional lecture materials. In this course, we cover 12 Modules or lessons (consist of 9 Reading Modules and 3 Exam Modules). Each Reading Module covers at least one text chapter, and at least a few articles from our **website**.

This fall, we have a 16-week term. We will finish each course topic in one week with the exception of Modules 9 and 11. We cover these modules in two parts. Again, you complete one module part per week for their weekly assignments, because the reading volume is extensive.

Each reading module is divided into several parts:

1. You start each module from the Module Description Page, listed in the Modules Page. The Module Description Page clearly explains each step that must be completed. The Module Description Page also has links to all assignments that you must complete for that particular module. Thus, **our course modules are set up easily as a one-stop place.**
2. Each **reading module** obviously begins with **required readings**, all of which MUST be completed before our Tuesday required discussion posting deadline at 11:59pm. Of course, you should begin reading ahead of time, since you have access to our text, free website articles, class schedule, and module descriptions.
3. Students are required to discuss the content of readings in our **on-line required Weekly Discussion** (**due every Tuesday by 11:59pm**), which involves every student replying directly to instructor's reading and analytical questions by using the Reply Button inside Instructor's Posting. This means that students MUST read ALL materials before the discussions begin; and they **MUST clearly refer to ALL weekly readings in their posting**. Your arguments in the Postings must be well-documented (**in text MLA style**) by using the author and the page numbers of our weekly readings (see our sample posting). In the last paragraph of the posting, students should connect our readings to a current event issues reported by the national or international media. For this paragraph, students must conduct an Internet Search of Reliable sources (**not Wikipedia or some unknown personal websites**); and they MUST well-document their argument with their own Internet Sources. Remember that the UCF Canvas System does not accept late postings under any condition. Moreover, **I cannot accept any gradable assignment by e-mail or Course Mail**.

4. Students should first complete **ALL Required Readings** (including website readings, book chapters, outlines, summaries, key concepts, and articles) for each module to better understand the subject before the discussions begin.
5. Throughout this term, there are 12 opportunities for posting your Required Weekly Discussion, each of which is worth 2 points. **Students must complete only 5 acceptable postings for the entire term.** Thus, there are penalty of chances; and **no excuse to avoid this major requirement**. I suggest that students complete the first 5 posting opportunities that are the easiest tasks to secure full points. No late or emailed assignment is acceptable for any reason.
6. To promote a **student-centered learning environment**, there is an **Optional Question Forum** for exchanges among students who may have additional questions about the reading materials or current events. This optional forum is to facilitate communications among students, so they can exchange ideas and learn from one another. The goal is to **empower students** by providing them the opportunity to act as teachers to help one another. Those **students who act as teachers learn the materials better** themselves, and those who listen to them tend to identify better with their own peers. This way, most reading **questions are answered and vague points are clarified**. And, we can make sure that the materials are clear for all students. So this Forum should help students with their preparation for the quizzes and tests. Thus, we use the **Question Forum** for the question/answer period by students, for students, and via students themselves. Serving as a monitor, the instructor interjects in the Question Forum only when the students' answers to the questions are not correct (or complete) or he may play the role of the devil's advocate for providing students with different perspectives.
7. For each reading module, the next step is a **quiz** that **covers all reading materials** of that particular module in addition to including questions from our course **syllabus folder** (not just the syllabus document) and class requirements. **There are 9 reading modules, and thus 9 quizzes**. You are required to take at least 5 of these 9 quizzes. However, I suggest that students take all 9 quizzes, so I can drop their lowest 4 quizzes scores. I add up their top 5 quizzes for their final total quiz score.
8. The final step in any module is the Weekly **Optional** (ungraded) **Survey**, which is available if you click on the Module Description Page, or click on the Quiz Page and then scroll down to Survey Section. These surveys are setup to be fully **anonymous** to provide privacy to students who are too shy to ask a direct question from the instructor (via **Course Mail**) or have a criticism of the course or the instructor during a particular module. **These ungraded Surveys include two parts**: the first covers the material highlights, but you may just say **OK** here, and move to the more important second part, where you **place your criticism or praise**. Since the surveys are fully anonymous, students should feel free to express themselves, make any constructive criticism of the lectures, readings, and/or format. As the instructor will not know the identity of the students in survey, then he may address such criticism in the Question Forum. If you have no criticism, you are **NOT required to use these ungraded Optional Surveys**. Of course, you are also welcome to provide any positive input, if you like any aspect of the class to help us maintain the more effective and useful parts of this course. Your input is certainly appreciated, even though you remain anonymous.
9. Our class includes both a **Pre-Test** and a **Post-Test** to measure students' learning level. These tests do not require special preparation. They are placed in Modules 1 and 12, but

they do not show as a part of the grade structure. The instructor sends reminding messages about them. Failure to take these tests would lead any student to be considered **"disengaged"** in this course.

10. Generally speaking, students who take an inactive or passive role in our course will be **considered "disengaged." Disengagement** leads to be penalized by at least a full grade level at the end of the term or even failure in this class, based on the university standards.

As necessary, we may utilize audiovisual resources to further our understanding of the materials, if **our Course Website** technology allows us. All students MUST fully participate in the required course discussions and the question/answer forums. Our course materials (except for our required text) are available on-line.

PowerPoint Information

Some of this course's content is displayed as PowerPoint files. If you do not have PowerPoint installed on your system, you can download a free PowerPoint Viewer from Microsoft for your Windows computer. If you have a Mac or Windows computer you can use OpenOffice.

Teaching Philosophy

Education is a tool for improving the quality of life. Education is not an end in itself but a process. My teaching philosophy is to encourage critical thinking, innovative problem-solving, practical application of theory, and tolerance of diverse ideas and cultures from an international perspective. To achieve these goals, I employ an interactive teaching style, which empowers students by encouraging them to contribute to the ongoing discussion of both familiar and unfamiliar topics and materials. My teaching goals are both to share my academic knowledge and experience with my students and to inspire and help them to become life-long learners.

General Politics

In accordance with the university's rules and regulations, the instructor will pursue the following general policies:

1. The instructor reserves all rights to modify the content of the syllabus, class schedule, and/or the course, as it becomes necessary.
2. With no exception, **students MUST only use Course Mail**, if they need to contact the instructor and/or the class Teaching Assistant (TA).
3. When sending an email to the instructor from your computer or cell, please make sure to use the email subject heading about your question, and always carbon copy the class TA.
4. Students' emails to instructor(s) about their personal class challenges must **not** be shared with the rest of the class. This is breaking the privacy rule and they could be penalized.
5. If you receive no reply from the instructor (and/or TA) within **48-hours** (during regular business days & hours) after sending your message (when he is **not** on a UCF business trip), it means that he has not received the message. Please re-send the original message.

6. Respecting students' **privacy**, the instructor provides student's record only to the student himself/herself on a one-to-one basis. He will not discuss one student's case in front of others in any **public forum**. Students are also not allowed to discuss their private cases in the public forums of our course. Thus, students must **directly contact the instructor via Course Mail (not in class public forums)**, if they have questions about their own records, grades, or particular situations.
7. The instructor **welcomes questions** as well as comments from all students. However, he will not allow any student to intimidate other students or dominate the class discussion. No student is allowed to force his/her ideas on others or create an unhealthy class environment. I support our 1st Amendment right 100%, and tolerate all opinions.
8. Your Participation Score will be penalized for **repeated questions whose answers are already in the syllabus**, class schedule, or course forums.
9. The instructor respects all **religions,** but he follows only the UCF official academic calendar for deadlines of the assignments, quizzes, and exams.
10. Since our course materials are on-line, all students MUST check **Course Mail**, class **Web Forums,** and their e-mails at **least twice each single day** (once in the morning and once at nights) for new class announcements, news, messages and/or updates by the instructor and/or TA. Those who do not check their emails twice daily and claim that they did not know about any announcement would be considered "disengaged."
11. **A student, whose record indicates "disengagement," is penalized based on the rules.**
12. Without exceptions, ALL written **(gradable) assignments** (postings, quizzes, and exams) **MUST be submitted to our Course Website**. The format requirement is single-spaced format, black color font, New Times Roman font, and 10-point font size. You are responsible for grammar and spell checking your work.
13. The Instructor may use students' e-mail addresses from the UCF e-Community. Update your e-mail address at the **Polaris** (UCF Registration) system otherwise you may not receive certain messages.
14. If you have **an official name change** during the term, you must inform the instructor immediately, since UCF does not do that.
15. Students should regularly check our Website Assignments Deadline page and avoid submitting assignments to **our Course Website** at the last minute. The **Website clock** may be different from your own time zone, and that may lead students to miss a deadline. Late assignments are considered missed. **No gradable assignment, posting, quiz, or exam is accepted by e-mail or Course Mail.** It is your responsibility to submit assignments before the **Website** deadlines, Eastern Standard Time (**EST**).
16. **Any grade (or score) dispute** or participation discrepancy must be resolved within a week from the day (and time) when scores are posted or the discrepancy has occurred. No late (or last minute) appeals will be considered.
17. **NOTE:** UCF and the instructor do not accept students' technical excuses during the process of assignments. Based on rules, all technical challenges of students outside the UCF campuses are the responsibility of the students themselves. However, if the technical challenge occurs at one of the UCF supervised-labs in a UCF campus, there is a possibility for a re-take. To document the technical challenge during an assignment, quiz, or test, the student MUST ask the UCF lab supervisor to email the instructor directly to explain the situation. After checking with the UCF technical staff, the instructor may allow a re-take of the assignment or the assessment. There is no exception to this rule.

Make-Up Policy

Theoretically, **there are no make-ups for our quizzes, exams, or Weekly Required Discussion Postings**. However, I drop 4 (out of 9) required quizzes, one (out of 2) required midterm exams, and two (out of 12) Required Discussion Posting for each student throughout the term. Thus, many students consider my "drop system" as a very generous make-up policy.

Remember that the **First Midterm Exam is required for all** without an exception. After taking the First Exam, it can be replaced by the Second Midterm Exam, which has a higher score. However, the First and/or the Second Midterm Exams are *NOT* a replacement for the Final Exam. Also, there is no make-up for the Final Exam or the optional Extra Credit Quiz.

Text

The following book and materials are **required** for our class:

- **John L. Esposito**, *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2002 (ISBN: **0-19-516886-0**).
- Additional reading materials will be available at our Website. You may access them via our Class Website inside each Module.

Rules of Conduct

One of the University of Central Florida's most enduring academic traditions is its *Rules of Conduct code*. The instructor will carefully follow the code and expects all students to do the same. As *The Golden Rule* handbook clearly states, failure to comply with university rules may subject violator(s) to appropriate action by university authorities and/or appropriate civil authorities. Serious violations of university rules will be recorded in the record of the student(s).

UCF Disability Statement

The university if Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center, Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Course Requirements & Grading System

Your final grade is on a Point System. On purpose, I do not put letter grades on your assignments, quizzes, or tests to avoid misleading interpretations of your final grade. I also encourage students to avoid letter grade interpretation of their scores for each assignment or test.

Our course is organized to create **equal opportunity** for students with different learning skills, so if students are not doing well with a particular course requirement, they can still earn enough points to get a desirable final grade. Moreover, there is an opportunity to earn up to 5 optional Extra Credit Points for the final grade.

Criteria	Points
5 (out of 9) Required **Quizzes** (on-line), 10 points each	50 points
5 (out of 12) Required Weekly Discussion Postings, as indicators of active Attendance & **Participation** in our class. **Each Posting is worth 2 points in each Module per week**	10 points
Online First Exam (Required) or Second Exam (Optional)	20 points
Required Final Exam (on-line)	20 points
TOTAL	**100 points**
Extra Credit (on-line)	5 points

Individuals who are active by their early postings, extensive contribution to required Discussion Forums, participating in Optional Forums, and **helping other students** in our Optional (Question and Technical) Forums **are eligible for a higher participation score**. In addition, if their final grade is on the borderline between two grades (e.g., A- & B+), their participation record is the key factor in my decision for a higher grade.

Letter Grade	Points
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	59 and below

Since the grading is based on a **simple point system**, at any time during the term you should be able to add your earned points together to recognize your projected grade. Please feel free to contact the instructor directly, if you have any questions about your grade.

The instructor will use the UCF plus and minus grading system which allows for a more accurate and fair evaluation of student performance. The range for each grade is indicated in the table.

Quizzes

To learn about our course topic, one must understand diverse political issues at national, regional, & international levels. Based on schedule, students are required to read (free of any cost) **articles** linked inside each Module of our **UCF Canvas course** in association with each text chapter. To confirm that module readings are understood, there are **9 CLOSED-BOOK** multiple choice on-line quizzes--each related to one reading module. **Closed-Book means** that **you are not supposed to use the reading materials while you take the quiz.**

Each quiz is worth 10 points (with 10 questions), and it covers **all readings in one module**. You have up to 10-minutes for each quiz. Depending on your Internet Connection to UCF, some students will get cut off at the 10-minute time limit, while others will be in time violation. I strongly suggest that you save and submit your answers before the 10th minute starts. **Time violations are penalized by 1 point for each extra minute.**

Since UCF servers some nights go on backup (sometimes between 12 midnight to 6am) and some students were cut off in the past, our quizzes cannot be open for more than a day. Each required quiz is only open for one Thursday from 6:00am to 11:55pm, see the Quiz Schedule Page. Quizzes are designed for 5 minutes, but **you have ONLY up to 10-minutes to complete each**. The exceptions to this rule are the students registered with the **UCF Student Disability Services.** These students have double time for each quiz, based on UCF and US Government rules. **However, the Disability Students MUST ask the UCF Disability Services to provide the instructor with documentations of their status in the VERY first week of the term**. These students cannot use the extra time until the instructor receives the formal notification from UCF Disability Services.

The quiz questions are multiple-choice and/or true-false in nature. Since **there is no make-up for the quizzes**, it is strongly **recommended** that students **take all 9 quizzes** and maximize their chance of higher total quiz score and avoid possible computer and network technical problems, which may lead to losing the opportunity to submit their quiz. To calculate students' total quiz scores, however, the instructor will **automatically drop their 4 lowest quiz scores** and use only the top 5 out of their 9 quiz scores for each student. Students may earn up to a total of 50 points for their total quiz score.

Note: For some students, quizzes seem more challenging than other assignments. The key issue for success on the quizzes is to **master** the readings. This means that you must fully repeat the readings at least 3 times, which is what I do while preparing for lectures. There is no shame in reading the materials 3 times. For those students, who do not **master** the readings, the 10-minute time limit will seem short. For those who do not master the readings, it is impossible to cheat on the quizzes, because UCF Canvas System chooses 10 random questions (from a large question pool) for each student. **No two quizzes are the same**, because the question pool is very large with at least a couple of hundred questions. Thus, even if a few students take the same quiz together, they will have different sets of quiz questions within their own 10-minute. Moreover, the quizzes may seem to get harder, as the term moves on, so there is no choice, but to **master** (or comprehend, not memorize) the assigned readings.

Exams

There are 3 exams (First and Second Midterm Exams as well as Final Exam) throughout this term. These are all **CLOSED-BOOK** on-line exams. In a **Closed-Book test**, you may mention our text or lecture materials (only from your memory), but you **do NOT directly "quote"** text or lectures **(with page numbers of the readings)**. You also **do NOT document your writing**. Documenting is **citing the authors along with page numbers.** In a closed-book test, quoting and documenting is considered **plagiarism**, which is a punishable act based on UCF rules.

Each exam covers about one-third of the course materials. All students are **required to take the First Midterm Exam without exception**. Those who do not do well on the First test (or Exam 1) are then required to take the Second Midterm Exam (or Exam 2). For these two midterm exams, the instructor drops the lowest score for each student, but he firmly suggests that students take both midterm exams to maximize their Midterm score. If you miss the First or Second Midterm Exam, it will automatically drop as your lowest score. However, the First or Second Midterm Exam is **NOT** a replacement for the Final Exam. The Final Exam is **REQUIRED** for all students without an exception. **The Final Exam covers the last third of the term**. There is **NO make-up** for the Final Exam, so students must take it as scheduled, on the Quiz Schedule page.

Regarding format, each exam will provide **equal opportunity** to students with different learning abilities. In this regard, each **exam has 3 parts: Objective Questions, Short-Answers**, and **Essay Questions**. In the **First Part** of the exam, there will be 7 objective questions (consist of multiple and/or true-false questions), each worth 1 point. There are no choices in this part and all questions must be answered. The **Second Part** of the exam consists of short-answer questions, each of which can be answered briefly in one sentence. In this part, students have options, and are required to **answer only 2** questions, not more and not less. There will be a penalty for answering more or less than 2 questions in this part. Each short-answer question is worth 3 points for a total of 6 points. The **Third Part** of the exam is made of essay questions. Students have options and are required to **answer only one essay** question, which is worth 7 points, including 2 points for the essay outline. Organize your thoughts and write down an **outline** (similar to Modules 4, 8, or 12 Sample Outlines) with at least 5 Roman Numerals (subdivided into at least a couple of points) before starting the essay. For this outline, the **First** and **Last** Roman Numerals refer to the Introduction and Conclusion sections. The **other three** Roman

Numerals must relate to the other three mini questions inside your essay question. The **outline is worth only 2 points**, so take it seriously.

The essay must be an extensive answer (**at least 500 words in length**), which will be evaluated based on following **criteria: clarity, content, organization, comprehensiveness, argument quality**, and **supporting evidence** (facts and examples). Before submitting exam, essay answer must be single-spaced format, New Times Roman font, black color font, and 10-point font size. You are responsible for **grammar and spell checking** your work. There is penalty for violation of these rules. **Hint**: Use at least a separate paragraph for each of your Roman Numerals.

Since UCF servers some nights go on backup (sometimes between 12 midnight to 6am) and some students were cut off in the past, our exams cannot be open for more than a day. Each required exam is only open for one Thursday from 6:00am to 11:55pm, see the Quiz Schedule Page. Exams are designed for 45 minutes, but **you have ONLY up to 60-minutes to complete each**. The exceptions to this rule are the students registered with the **UCF Student Disability Services.** These students have double time for each exam, based on UCF and US Government rules. **However, the Disability Students MUST ask the UCF Disability Services to provide the instructor with documentations of their status in the *VERY* first week of the term**. These students cannot use the extra time until the instructor receives the formal notification from UCF Disability Services.

Canvas System **does not save your answers**, if you violate the time even by a micro second. Depending on your Internet Connection to UCF, some students will get cut off at the 60-minute time limit, while others will be in time violation. I strongly suggest that you save and submit your answers before the 60th minute starts. **Time violations are penalized by 1 point for each extra minute.**

Extra Credit

There is one **Optional Extra Credit** opportunity worth 5 points throughout the term. This Extra Credit is a Quiz that covers a number of **Optional Reading Assignments** in Module 12 at the end of the term. This quiz has the same format and requirements as a regular quiz, so read the Quiz section. The Extra Credit Quiz is listed on the Quiz Page (and/or the Module 12 page) of our website in addition to our Class Schedule. The difference between the Extra Credit Quiz and other quizzes is that you have only 5 questions and have only 5 minutes for Extra Credit Quiz.

Since UCF servers some nights go on backup (sometimes between 12 midnight to 6am) and some students were cut off in the past, this extra credit quiz cannot be open for more than a day. It is only open for one day from 6:00am to 11:55pm, see the Quiz Schedule Page. Extra Credit Quiz is designed for 2.5 minutes, but **you have ONLY up to 5-minutes to complete it**. The exceptions to this rule are the students registered with the **UCF Student Disability Services.** These students have double time for the Extra Credit Quiz, based on UCF and US Government rules. **However, the Disability Students MUST ask the UCF Disability Services to provide the instructor with documentations of their status in the *VERY* first week of the term**. These students cannot use the extra time until the instructor receives the formal notification from UCF Disability Services.

Again, the UCF Canvas System may either cut you off or keep you in time violation (depending on your Internet Connection to UCF). I suggest that you save and submit this quiz before the 5th minute. There is penalty point for time violations. One point is subtracted for each extra minute beyond 5 minutes. Disability Students have double time for Extra Credit Quiz, based on UCF rules.

Participation

In our W (fully on-line) course, I look at students' **on-line participation record** in our **Required Discussions**, and our Optional Forums. I also see how often they help their peers or share useful information with our class. Those who have a strong record will get my help for a higher final grade in our class. If you have missed many required postings, you are strongly encouraged to complete the Optional Posting in Module 12 and/or the Extra Credit assignment (worth 5 points), which is also in Module 12.

What do I mean by participation? **Participation means students actively contributing to required weekly course discussions by following my instructions**. Students may present explanation, opinion, or relevant comments about an issue, based on my instructions in each Web Discussion Forum. However, simply **asking questions or bombarding the instructor with emails (**whose answers are already in the syllabus**) is not participation**.

In fact, students who ask questions whose answers are already in the syllabus will be considered **disengaged** (in the class), and their participation score **will be penalized significantly**. Students, who want participation score, should gain recognition from the instructor by actively contributing to the required discussions **(on time and before the weekly deadlines).** In this course, we have one **REQUIRED** discussion forums: **Discussion Posting**. There are also 3 Optional forums: Questions, Tech Help, and "From the Grape Wine." Students who want recognition for their activities should help their peers in these Optional Forums.

I expect ALL my students **(without an exception)** to participate on time in our **Required Weekly Discussion Forum each week:** Discussion Postings. By the way, I do not accept late postings by e-mails to me.

Are there any weekly participation grades? You will **receive weekly scores** or grades for your required weekly Discussion Postings. Your weekly posting are evaluated on **pass/fail basis after meeting at least the minimum standards describe in posting instructions**. If you are not sure about the acceptability of your work, then please make your postings by Sunday night. On Monday mornings, the instructor and/or class TA will send messages to students whose works are unacceptable (failed). Such students will have time before Tuesday evening deadlines to revise their postings to meet the minimum standards. **If you make your posting after Sunday night, there is no time for instructor/TA's comments, so you would take a chance**. Thus, you may not earn participation points. If you post by Sunday and receive no comments the next day, that means your work met the minimum standards and is acceptable.

How do you calculate your participation score? It is easy to calculate your participation score. For each Discussion Posting, give yourself two points if you made an acceptable On-Time

Posting that followed ALL instructions (see the **Discussion Posting Guidelines** section). You may earn up to 10 points for your Discussion Postings. We have 11 required weekly Discussion opportunities, but you need to successfully complete only 5 based on the Discussion Posting guidelines which support our Department mission. There is no partial scores for the posting: It is either acceptable or not. This means a maximum of 10 points for the Discussion Forum. **From the Total Participation Score** earned by the Required Postings, **I may subtract Penalty Points for**: (1) failures to follow class rules (listed in our Website and my e-mails); and (2) disengagement in our course.

There is also an Optional Posting based on the Extra Credit Readings in Module 12 at the end of the term. Those who miss more than 1 week of Required Discussion Posting are strongly encouraged to use this opportunity to neutralize 1 missed weekly posting worth 2 points.

To encourage good academic behavior, individuals who are active by their early postings, extensive contributions to required Discussion Forums, **helping other students** in our **Question & Technical Help Forums**, and participating in Optional Forums are eligible for my assistance to their final grade, when their total scores fall on the borderline between two grades (such as A- & B+). Their active participation record will be the key factor influencing my decision for a higher grade.

PLEASE Note: The **instructor may subtract points from** the final participation score of those **students who repeatedly violate syllabus rules** throughout the term. Such violations include: not using Course Mail, asking questions whose answers are already in the syllabus, and repeating errors for which they had received my comments.

Other Assignments

If the students take a laid back attitude towards the readings or the class discussion, the instructor may assign additional oral and/or written assignments in form of reports or research projects to stimulate participation.

Make-Up Policy

Theoretically, **there are no make-ups for our quizzes, exams, or Weekly Required Discussion Postings**. However, I drop 4 (out of 9) required quizzes, one (out of 2) required midterm exams, 5 (out of 11) Weekly Required Discussion Posting for each student throughout the term. Thus, many students consider my “drop system” as a very generous make-up policy. Remember that the **First Exam is required for all students, without an exception**. Those, who do not do well on Exam 1, are required to take Second Midterm Exam, which can be a replacement only for Exam 1. However, the First and/or the Second Midterm Exams are NOT a replacement for the Final Exam. Also, there is no make-up for the Final Exam or the optional Extra Credit Quiz.

Technical Challenges

Unless there is a well-documented UCF computer, server, or network crash at one of the UCF locations, the responsibility of the technical problem is fully with the students.

It is partially **due to Tech Problems** that we have such a **generous drop policy** in our course to minimize the impact Tech Problems. **To avoid Tech Problems**, I encourage the students to use UCF computers and Internet Network located at any of 10 different area campuses located in Central Florida region, if they can. This is especially **important for Exams and Quizzes**, which **are open only for one day** (Thursday 6:00am till 11:59pm). You have a full week for each weekly required posting, so if you cannot connect to our Website one day, you can try it later.

In fact, one reason that our quizzes and exam are **available only from 6am till 11:59pm** is that many of the UCF computers, servers, and network go to a backup (or repair) process between 12 (midnight) and 6am. Thus, I decreased the chance of my students being cut off from the UCF during an exam or a quiz. Moreover, there is statistically less chance of computer crashes on Thursdays, so all our Exam and Quizzes are available *ONLY* on Thursdays.

Since different students use different equipment, software, and networks, it is the students' responsibility to make sure that their system is compatible with UCF and Canvas server to avoid Technical Problems. For this information, please check the **Technical Support** button on the first menu of our Course Website, especially please do the "**Browser Check**."

Based on our recent experience, here are some useful suggestions:

1. **If you can**, use UCF computers and network, instead of less secure home (or office) service.
2. **If you have the option**, use wired instead of wireless services that tend to cut off occasionally.
3. **Use reliable Internet Browsers** that have no problems with UCF network.
4. **Avoid internet pick time** to take your quizzes and exams.
5. Temporarily, **suspend your computer Fire Walls**, when you connect with UCF to take a test.
6. **Do NOT give to others your PID & NID** numbers or username & passwords.
7. **If you can**, use UCF labs, to have an authorized witness, if a local crash occurs.
8. If you use your peer's computer to take our quizzes (or exams), then you must login to **My-UCF** or **Canvas**, after your peer **computer has been off (for at least 3 minutes). Violators may experience Tech Problem, and their scores automatically go to ZERO.**
9. If you have any Technical Problem, please contact UCF Online Support about tech issues.

Fall 2017 Class Schedule & Assignments:

Date	Topic	Reading & Assignments
Mon 8/21/17	**UCF Semester Begins**	UCF Fall Term officially begins
Tues 8/22	**Module 0**: **Course Orientation**	**Read:** • Instructor's Welcome Message • Syllabus Folder, Class Schedule & All Instructor's Postings on Forums in Discussion Section • **NOTE**: Reading class rules is important, since all quizzes cover them. Violation of class rules leads to penalty points for the lack of FULL engagement in our class. **Assignments:** • Online Course Instructions Video lecture. • Background Lecture on the **Middle East**. • Confirm your access to course by replying to instructor's **"I am" Message.** • Complete **Student Background Survey**. • **NOTE**: You must **always** use our Course Mail for e-mailing Dr. Sadri & Class TA.
Thurs 8/24	**Module 0**: **Course Orientation**	**Assignments:** • Online Video Lecture**.** **New Students' Assignments:** • Confirm your access to course by replying to instructor's **"I am" Message**. • Complete **Student Background Survey**. • **Orientation Quiz:** available 6:00am-11:59pm (covering Orientation Module) • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today • **NOTE**: You must **always** use our Course Mail for e-mailing Dr. Sadri & Class TA.
Thurs 8/24	**Module 0**: **Course Orientation**	• UCF Late Registration: Last Day to Drop

Friday 8/25	**Module 0**: **Course Orientation**	**Assignments:** • UCF Late Registration: Last Day to Add
Tues 8/29	**Module 1: Introduction**	**Read:** • Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 1 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 8/31	**Module 1: Introduction**	**Assignments:** • **Quiz 1:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 1 Readings & Syllabus folder materials). • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Tues 9/5	**Module 2: States, Beliefs, & Ideologies**	**Read:** • Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 2 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 9/7	**Module 2: States, Beliefs, & Ideologies**	**Assignments:** • **Quiz 2:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 2 Readings & Syllabus folder materials). • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Tues 9/12	**Module 3: Groups, Classes, & Families**	**Read:** • Listed readings in our module.

		Assignments: • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 3 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 9/14	**Module 3: Groups, Classes, & Families**	**Assignments:** • **Quiz 3:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 3 Readings & Syllabus folder materials). • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Tues 9/19	**Module 4**: **First Midterm Exam**	**Review Assignment:** • Online Review Session One • Review your required readings & notes • Email (via Course Mail) your questions about readings and the exam to Class TA and Dr. Sadri at the same time
Thurs 9/21	**Module 4**: **First Midterm Day**	**Assignment:** • **First Midterm Exam Day.** • Our Exam is available **only on-line** • It is **ONLY today** from 6:00am to 11:59pm at our website (covering Modules 1-3).
Tues 9/26	**Module 5: Patrimonial Leadership**	**Read:** • Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 5 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 9/28	**Module 5: Patrimonial Leadership**	**Assignments:** • **Quiz 4:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 5 Readings & Syllabus folder materials).

		• Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Tues 10/3	**Module 6: Leaders & Change**	**Read:** • Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 6 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 10/5	**Module 6: Leaders & Change**	**Assignments:** • **Quiz 5:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 6 Readings & Syllabus folder materials). • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Tues 10/10	**Module 7:** **Political Institutions**	**Read:** • Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 7 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 10/12	**Module 7:** **Political Institutions**	**Assignments:** • **Quiz 6:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 7 Readings & Syllabus folder materials). • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Tues 10/17	**Module 8**: **Second Midterm Exam**	**Review Assignment:** • Online Review Session One • Review your required readings & notes • Email (via Course Mail) your questions about readings and the exam to Class TA

		and Dr. Sadri at the same time
Thurs 10/19	**Module 8**: **Second Midterm Day**	**Assignments:** • **Second Midterm Exam Day.** • Our Exam is available **only on-line** • It is **ONLY today** from 6:00am to 11:59pm at our website (covering Modules 5-7).
Tues 10/24	**Module 9-Part 1:** **Regional Conflicts:** **Arab-Israeli Conflict**	**Read:** • Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 9-1 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 10/26	**Module 9-Part 1:** **Regional Conflicts**: **Arab-Israeli Conflict**	**Assignments:** • **No Quiz before we also finish Module 9-Part 2** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Mon 10/30		**UCF Withdrawal Deadline**
Tues 10/31	**Module 9-Part 2:** **Regional Conflicts** **Persian Gulf Conflicts**	**Read:** • Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 9-2 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 11/2	**Module 9-Part 2:**	**Assignments:**

	Regional Conflicts: **Persian Gulf Conflicts**	• **Quiz 7:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering both Modules 9-1 & 9-2 and Readings & Syllabus folder materials). • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Tues 11/7	**Module 10: Oil, Politics, & Development**	**Read:** • Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 10 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 11/9	**Module 10: Oil, Politics, & Development**	**Assignments:** • **Quiz 8:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 10 Readings & Syllabus folder materials). • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Tues 11/14	**Module 11-Part 1:** **Country Studies: Large States**	**Read:** • Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 11-1 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 11/16	**Module 11-Part 1:** **Country Studies: Large States**	**Assignments:** • **No Quiz before we also finish Module 11-Part 2** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Tues 11/21	**Module 11-Part 2:**	**Read:**

	Country Studies: Small States	• Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Required Module 11-2 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night.
Thurs 11/23	**Module 11-Part 2:** **Country Studies: Small States**	**NO REQUIRED CLASS ASSIGNMENT: Thanksgiving Holiday** **Assignments:** • **NOTE: Quiz 9 moves to the next** Thursday (11/30/17) due to Thanksgiving Holiday • **Quiz 9:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering both Modules 11-1 & 11-2 and Readings & Syllabus folder materials). • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Tues 11/28	**Module 12:** **Extra Credit**	**Optional Read:** • Listed readings in our module. **Assignments:** • Finish **ALL** readings before **Watching Video Lecture & Making your posting.** • Post the **Optional Module 12 Discussion,** due by 11:59pm Tuesday night. This posting makes up for one **Online Review Assignment:** • Review all your required readings & notes • Email (using Course mail) any questions you may have about our readings and exam to Class TA and Dr. Sadri.

Thurs 11/30	**Module 12:** **Extra Credit**	**Assignments:** • N**OTE: Due to Thanksgiving Holiday Quiz 9 moved to this day.** • **Quiz 9:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Modules 11-1 & 11-2 and Readings & Syllabus folder materials). • **Optional Extra Credit Quiz:** Also, **available only today** 6:00am-11:59pm (covering only **Optional Extra Credit Readings**) • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today.
Sat 12/2		**Last Day of UCF Fall 2017 Term Classes**
Sun 12/3		**UCF Study Day Before Final Exam**
Thurs 12/7	**Module 12:** **Final Exam Day**	**Assignments:** • **Final Exam Day.** • Our Final Exam is available on-line **ONLY today** from 6:00am to 11:59pm at our website (covering Modules 9-11).