CPO3403 Syllabus

Summer D 2018

Instructor Contact

Instructor	• **Dr. Houman A. Sadri** • Instructor's Web site
Office	• Howard Phillips Hall (Build. 14), Room 302 • Orlando Campus • 4000 Central Florida Blvd • Orlando, FL 32816-1356
Office Hours	• **On-line** by Course Mail • **Or by appointment** via email, phone, Skype, or office visit.
Phone	• (407) 823-6023 • **NOTE: Dr. Sadri will be at the UCF business trip to Russia from May 25th to June 25th, but he is accessible via Course Mail, as always.**
Email	• Via Course Mail

Course Information

Course Name	• Middle East Politics
Course ID	• CPO3403, Section: **W or On-line**
Credit Hours	• 3 (three)
Semester/Year	• Summer D, 2018
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, 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 US) 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 an 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 gave **hints** about quiz and exam questions. There is no required in-class attendance, but students should **think of our Web session like a Tuesday/Thursday course**, **which has 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 short summer term we have only 9 weeks to finish the task of a 16-week term. Thus, we finish 2 modules each week with the exception of week 1 (Module 0 or orientation), week 7 (Module 10), and week 9 (Module 12 about Final Exam and Extra Credit assignment), when we cover only one module.

Each reading module is divided into seven parts:

1. Each reading module begins with **required readings**, all of which MUST be completed before our Tuesday required discussion posting deadline at 11:59pm. Of course, you may begin reading ahead of time, since you have access to our text, free website articles, Class Schedule, and Modules.
2. 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** (meaning document or cite) **ALL weekly readings in their posting**. Your arguments in the Postings must be well-documented (**in-text or MLA style**) by using the author and the page numbers of our weekly readings. 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, we **cannot accept any gradable assignment by e-mail or Course Mail**.
3. 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.
4. Moreover, 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.

5. 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 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.
6. The final step in any module is the Weekly **Optional** (ungraded) **Survey**, which is available if you click on the Module Description 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.

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 (or "CC") 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 our class public forums)**, if they have questions about their own records, grades, or particular situations.
7. The instructor encourages and **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 impose his/her ideas on others or create an unhealthy class environment.
8. You would be considered a "disengaged" student, if you **repeatedly violate Instructor/TA instructions, ignore their comment, or ask questions whose answers are already in the syllabus**, class schedule, course forums, or by emails. Participation scores of disengaged student are penalized.
9. The instructor follows only the UCF academic calendar schedule. With our generous drop policy, there is no need for changes.
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 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 and claim that they did not know about any announcement would be considered "disengaged."
11. **Students whose records indicate "disengagement" are penalized based on the rules.**
12. Without exceptions, ALL written **(gradable) assignments** (postings, quizzes, and exams) **MUST be submitted to our Course Website , based on canvas time clock**. 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. In case on an emergency, 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 Class Schedule Deadlines and avoid submitting assignments to **our Course Website** at the last minute. The **Website clock** may be different from your own time, 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. With the help of Course Development staff and the UCF Technical staff, the instructor will check all students' claims about their difficulty with the website or problems in submitting postings, quizzes, or exams. **The scores of students who make false technical claims will be severely penalized.**

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 6 (out of 11) Required Discussion Posting for each student throughout the term. Thus, many students consider my "drop system" as a very generous make-up policy. Plus, we have an optional posting in Module 12.

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

First of all, please do not trust the Canvas Grade-book statistics, which are not the correct representation of your efforts in our class. One major weakness of Canvas is its inability to use our generous drop policy in its statistical calculations. So Canvas can only average your raw scores. This method does not work in our class. Therefore, Canvas statistics tend to underestimate your performance, so ignore them.

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
Participation in Required Weekly **Web Discussions,** **1 posting for each Module Part, each posting is worth 2 points. You could earn up to a maximum of 10 points from 5 postings. There are 11 module discussion postings, so you have many opportunities to earn the 10 points.**	10 points
First or Second **Midterm Exam** (on-line): Each worth 20 points. First Exam is required for all without exception.	20 points
Final Exam (on-line) is worth 20 points	20 points
TOTAL	**100 points**
Extra Credit (on-line)	5 points

Note: Students are expected to participate in our **required on-line discussion** forums. In fact, students **are strongly encouraged to complete the first 5 Weekly Discussions Postings which are significantly easier than the rest.**

Individuals who are active by their early postings, extensive contribution to our Public Discussion Forums, participating in Optional Forums, and **helping other students** in our Optional (Question and Technical Help) 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. In addition to reading questions, **all quizzes have random questions from the Syllabus Folder.**

There are 9 quizzes: one quiz at the end of each Reading Module. You are required to take at least 5 out of 9 quizzes. 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 11:59pm, 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 choose 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.

Midterm Exam One (or **Exam 1**) is **REQUIRED** for all students without exception. Those who do not take it risk earning a failing grade in this class. If your Exam One score is 16 or more (or at least a B), then Exam 2 is NOT required for you. Of course, you are more than welcome to take it and increase your midterm score in our class, as I would drop the lowest midterm grade for each student to increase their chance for a higher final grade in our course.

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 11:59pm, 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 in the Module 12 Description Page 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 11:59pm, 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

For the on-line students (in W courses), **Attendance is equal to active Participation**. I look at students' **required online activities, participation record** in our Required Discussions, and Assignments. I also see how often they help their peers in our **three Optional Public Forums** (i.e., Question, Help, From-the-Grapevine) 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.

What do I mean by participation? **Participation means students actively contributing to required course discussions, following all my instructions, and helping their peers**. 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/TA with emails (**whose answers are already in the syllabus**) is not considered participation**.

In fact, student who ask questions whose answers are already in the syllabus will be considered **disengaged** (in the class), and their participation score **will be affected, based on the rules**. 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 Optional Forums like, Questions, Help, and "From the Grapevine." **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:** Discussion Posting, which are linked inside each Module Description Page.

Are there any weekly participation grades? You will **receive weekly scores** or grades for your required weekly Discussion Postings (available in the course Grade Book). Your weekly posting are evaluated on **pass/fail basis**. 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 Teaching Assistant or TA) will send messages to students whose works are unacceptable (failed). Such students will have time before deadlines to revise their postings and make them acceptable. **If you make your posting after Sunday night, there is no time for instructor's (or TA's) comments, so you take a chance**. Thus, you may not earn discussion posting points, even after you put a good deal of time and efforts into it. If you post by Sunday and receive no comments, it means your work is acceptable.

How do you calculate your participation (based on discussion posting) score? It is easy to calculate your participation/discussion score. For each acceptable Required Weekly Discussion Posting, give yourself "2" points (as show in Grade book), if you made an On-Time Posting that followed ALL instructions (see the **Discussion Posting Guidelines** section). You may earn up to 10 points for your 5 Discussion Postings (one for each module). We have 11 required weekly Discussions Posting opportunities. There are 2 points for each Discussion Postings for a maximum of 10 points total.

From the Total Participation/Discussion Score earned by the Required Postings, **I subtract Penalty Points for**:

1) Inactivity in the course;

2) failures to follow class rules (listed in our Website and my e-mails); and

3) disengagement in our course.

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

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 & 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: inactivity, not using Course Mail, asking questions whose answers are already in the syllabus, and repeating errors for which they had already received comments and suggestions in their assignments and exams.

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 **four (out of 9)** required quizzes, **one (out of 2)** required midterm exams, **six (out of 11)** Weekly Required Discussion Posting for each student throughout the term. Thus, **many students consider my "drop system" as a generous make-up policy.**

Remember that the **First Exam is required for all students, without an exception**. Those, who earn 15 (or less out of 20 points) 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 with the students themselves.

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** (Thursdays 6:00am till 11:59pm). You have a full week for each set of weekly required postings, 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 Fridays, so all our Exam and Quizzes are available ONLY on Fridays.

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 Mozilla Firefox or Internet Explorer** (version 7 or older) that has less number of crashes 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 other students 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 **MyUCF** or **WebCourses**, 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.

Class Schedule & Assignments

Date	Topic	Reading & Assignments
Mon 5/14	**UCF Semester Begins**	UCF Summer D Term officially begins
Tues 5/15	**Module 0: Course Orientation**	**Read:** • Instructor's Welcome & Orientation Postings (**See Module Zero or M0 Video lectures Parts 1&2**) • Syllabus, Class Schedule, & All Instructor's Postings on All Forums in Discussion Section • **NOTE:** Reading class rules is important, since all quizzes cover them. Your violation of class rules leads to participation penalty points for the lack of FULL engagement in our class. **Assignments:** • **See Module Zero or M0 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • Background Video Lecture on the **Middle East**. • Confirm your access to course by replying to instructor's **"I am" Message** in the Last Forum under Discussion Button • Complete the **Student Background Survey.** • **NOTE:** You must **always** use our Course Mail for simultaneously e-mailing our class Teaching Assistant (TA) & Dr. Sadri.
Thurs 5/17	**Module 0:** **Course Orientation**	**Assignments:** • On-line Video Lecture on the **Middle East (See Module Zero or M0 Video lectures Parts 1&2).** • **Module 0** assignments are due today by 23:55. **New Students' Assignments:** • Confirm your access to course by replying to instructor's **"I am" Message** in the Last Forum under Discussion Button • Complete the **Student Background Survey.** • **NOTE: You must always use our Course Mail for e-mailing Dr. Sadri.**
Thurs 5/17		UCF Late Registration: Last Day to Drop
Fri 5/18		UCF Late Registration: Last Day to Add

Tues 5/22	**Module 1:**
	
	Introduction: Political Development
		Read:
		
		• **Reading 1: Political Development**
		• **Esposito**, Chapters 1-4 (**the entire book**)
		• **Website** Articles:
		  o Fromkin, How the Modern Middle East Map Came to be Drawn
		  o Hoffmann, "Why don't they like us?"
		  o Kandell, "Iraq's Unruly Century"
		  o Lewis, "Freedom & Justice in Modern the Middle East"
		  o Sadri, "Non-Alignment as a Foreign Policy"
		  o Munson, "Lifting the Veil"
		
		Assignments:
		
		• **See M1 Video lectures Parts 1&2**
		• Finish **ALL** readings before your postings
		• Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday.

Tues 5/22	**Module 2:**
	
	Belief & Ideology
		Read:
		
		• **Reading 2: States, Beliefs, & Ideologies.**
		• **Website** Articles:
		  o David, "In the Name of Islam,"
		  o Hanif, "Islam: Sunnis & Shiites"
		  o Mazrui, "Islamic & Western Values"
		  o Sachedina, ""What is Islam?"
		  o Sardar, "My Fatwa on the Fanatics."
		  o ***The Economist***, "Guns & Votes"
		
		Assignments:
		
		• **See M2 Video lectures Parts 1&2**
		• **Finish ALL readings before your postings**
		• Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday.

Thurs 5/24	**Module 1:** **Introduction**	**Assignments:** • **See M1 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Quiz 1: available only today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 1 Readings & Syllabus)** • **Take the Pre-Test which is open from 5/24 to 5/25/18.** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today

Thurs 5/24	**Module 2:** **Belief & Ideology**	**Assignments:** • **See M2 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Quiz 2: available only today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 2 Readings & Syllabus)** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today

Tues 5/29	**Module 3:**
	
	Classes & Groups
		Read:
		
		• **Reading 3: Classes, Groups, & Families**
		• **Website** Articles:
		  o Bayat, "Cairo's Poor"
		  o Beinin, "Working Class & Peasantry"
		  o Cockburn, "Iraq's Resilient Minority"
		  o Khazen, "Political Parties in Postwar Lebanon"
		  o Mustikhan, "Different Faces of Islamic Fundamentalism"
		  o ***The Economist***, "The Bloody Stalemate Persists"
		  o ***The Economist***, "From Crisis to Crisis"
		
		Assignments:
		
		• **See M3 Video lectures Parts 1&2**
		• **Finish ALL readings before your postings**
		• Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday..

Tues 5/29	**Module 4:** **First Midterm Exam**	**Review Assignment:** • Review all your required readings & notes • **See M4 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • Post any questions you may have about our readings and exam on **Question Forum** • **On-Line Review Session**
Thurs 5/31	**Module 3:** **Classes & Groups**	**Assignments:** • **See M3 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Quiz 3: available only today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 3 Readings & Syllabus)** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today
Thurs 5/31	**Module 4:** **First Midterm Day**	**Assignments:** • **First Midterm Exam Day.** • Our Exam is available on-line **ONLY today** from 6:00am to

		11:59pm at our website (covering Modules 1-3).

Tues 6/5	**Module 5:**
	
	Traditional Leadership
		Read:
		
		• **Reading 4: Patrimonial Leadership**
		• **Website** Articles:
		  o Asquith, "Turning Page on Iraq's History."
		  o Hirst: "The Syrian Dilemma."
		  o Klieman, Shifting Power in Mid East
		  o Stone, "Doctor, Philosopher, Renaissance Man"
		  o *The Economist*, "Deadlock in the Desert"
		
		Assignments:
		
		• **See M5 Video lectures Parts 1&2**
		• **Finish ALL readings before your postings**
		• Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday.

Tues 6/5	**Module 6:**
	
	Modern Leadership
		Read:
		
		• **Reading 5: Leaders & Change**
		• **Website** Articles:
		  o Alterman, "Mid East's Info Revolution
		  o David, "In the Name of Islam"
		  o Maynes, Mid East in the 21st Century
		  o Sardar, "My Fatwa on the Fanatics"
		  o Sontag, "The Erdogan Experiment"
		  o Wester, "Preemption and Just War"
		  o Murphy, "Egypt Vote Shows"
		  o Markoff, U.S. Group Reaches
		
		Assignments:
		
		• **See M6 Video lectures Parts 1&2**
		• **Finish ALL readings before your postings**
		• Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday.

Thurs 6/7	**Module 5:** **Traditional Leadership**	**Assignments:** • **See M5 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Quiz 4: available only today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 5 Readings & Syllabus)** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today

Thurs 6/7	**Module 6:** **Modern Leadership**	**Assignments:** • **See M6 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Quiz 5: available only today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 6 Readings & Syllabus)** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today

Tues 6/12	**Module 7:**
	
	Governmental Institutions
		Read:
		
		• **Reading 6: Institutions: Military, Bureaucracy & Legislature**
		• **Website** Articles:
		  o Khazen, "Political Parties in Postwar Lebanon"
		  o Molavi, "Letter From Iran"
		  o Sontag, "The Erdogan Experiment"
		  o ***The Economist***, "From Crisis to Crisis"
		  o Alvi, "Human Rights of Women"
		
		Assignments:
		
		• **See M7 Video lectures Parts 1&2**
		• **Finish ALL readings before your postings**
		• Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday.

Tues 6/12	**Module 8:** **Second Midterm Exam**	**Review Assignment:** • Review all your required readings & notes • **See M8 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • Post any questions you may have about our readings and exam on **Question Forum** • **On-Line Review Session**
Thurs 6/14	**Module 7:** **Governmental Institutions**	**Assignments:** • **See M7 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Quiz 6: available only today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 7 Readings & Syllabus)** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today
Thurs 6/14	**Module 8:** **Second Midterm Day**	**Assignments:** • **Second Midterm Exam Day.** • Our Exam is available on-line **ONLY today** from 6:00am to

		11:59pm at our website (covering Modules 5-7).
Tues 6/19	**Module 9: Regional Conflicts** **Part 1: Arab-Israeli Conflict**	**Read:** • **Reading 7: The Arab-Israeli Conflict** • **Website** Articles: o Alterman, "The US & Egypt" o Asmus, Does Israel Belong in the EU and NATO?" o Sayre, "Economics of Palestinian Return Migration" o Schenker, "Palestinian Challenges" o Wasserstein, "The Politics of Holiness in Jerusalem" o Wurmser, "Israeli Dilemmas" o Farsakh, "Time for a Bi-National State" o Allen, "Social Security" **Assignments:** • **See M9-1 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Finish ALL readings before your postings** • Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday.
Tues 6/19	**Module 9: Regional Conflicts** **Part 2: Gulf Conflicts**	**Read:** • **Reading 8: The Wars & Revolutions in the Persian Gulf** • **Website** Articles: o Del Castilo, "Saudi Arabia's Identity Crisis" o Russell, "Iran in Iraq's Shadow" o Wiley, "Saudi Arabia: Land of Contrasts" o De Parle, "Fearful of Restive Foreign Labor" **Assignments:** • **See M9-2 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Finish ALL readings before your postings** • Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday.
Wed 6/20		**UCF Withdrawal Deadline**
Thurs 6/21	**Module 9: Regional Conflicts** **Part 1: Arab-Israeli Conflict**	**Assignments:** • **See M9-1 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today

Thurs 6/21	**Module 9: Regional Conflicts** **Part 2: Gulf Conflicts**	**Assignments:** • **See M9-2 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Quiz 7: available only today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering All Module 9 Readings & Syllabus)** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today

Tues 6/26	**Module 10:**
	
	Economic Development
		Read:
		
		• **Reading 9: Oil, Politics & Development**
		• **Website** Articles:
		  o Bennett, "Will Iraq Start to Unravel?"
		  o Lunde, "The Seas of Sindbad"
		  o Peterson, "The Nature of Succession in the Gulf"
		  o Salehi-Isfahani, "Labor & the Challenges of Econ Restructuring"
		  o Fattah, "Avoiding Political Talk,"
		  o Munson, "Lifting the Veil"
		
		Assignments:
		
		• **See M10 Video lectures Parts 1&2**
		• **Finish ALL readings before your postings**
		• Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday.

Thurs 6/28	**Module 10:** **Economic Development**	**Assignments:** • **See M10 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Quiz 8: available only today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering Module 10 Readings & Syllabus)** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today

Tues 7/3	**Module 11: Country Studies**
	
	Part 1: Large States
		Read:
		
		• **Website** Articles:
		  o Alterman, "Iran: Came the Revolution"
		  o Bennett, "Will Iraq Start to Unravel?"
		  o Byman, "Iraq After Saddam"
		  o Chehabi, "Eighteen Years Later"
		  o Del Castillo, "Saudi Arabia's Id Crisis"
		  o Russell, "Iran in Iraq's Shadow."
		  o Wiley, "Saudi Arabia: Land of Contrasts"
		  o Molavi, "A New Day in Iran"
		  o Iran, pp. 55-71
		  o Iraq, pp.72-84

		o Saudi Arabia, pp. 152-160 **Assignments:** • **See M11-1 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Finish ALL readings before your postings** • Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday.
Tues 7/3	**Module 11: Country Studies** **Part 2: Small States**	**Read:** • **Website** Articles: o David: "In the Name of Islam." o Hoffmann, "Why Don't They Like Us?" o Peterson, "Nature of Succession in Gulf" o Peterson, "Dubai Puts Politics Aside" o DeParle, "Fearful of Restive Foreign Labor" o Bahrain (pp. 38-42) o Kuwait (pp. 108-114) o Oman (pp.143-147) o Qatar (pp.148-152) o UAE (pp.194-198) **Assignments:** • **See M11-2 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Finish ALL readings before your postings** • Your **Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday.
Thurs 7/5	**Module 11: Country Studies** **Part 1: Large States**	**Assignments:** • **See M11-1 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens
Thurs 7/5	**Module 11: Country Studies** **Part 2: Small States**	**Assignments:** • **See M11-2 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • **Quiz 9: available only today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering Module 11 Readings & Syllabus)** • Weekly Optional Survey Opens today
Tues 7/10	**Module 12:**	**Optional Extra Credit Readings:**

	Final Exam	• **Website** Articles:
		  o Sadri, "Surrounded: ..."
		  o Murphy, "Egypt Vote Shows Unease
		  o The Economist, "The Bloody Stalemate"
		  o Farsakh, "Time for a Bi-National State"
		  o The Economist, "From Crisis to Crisis"
		  o Markoff, "US Group Reaches"
		  o The Economist, "Deadlock in the Desert"
		  o Fattah, "Avoiding Political Talk"
		  o The Economist, "Guns & Votes"
		  o DeParle, Fearful of Restive Foreign Labor
		  o Allen, Social Security
		  o Munson, Lifting the Veil
		  o Alvi, Human Rights of Women
		  o Molavi, Anew Day in Iran
		
		Optional Assignments:
		
		• Your **Optional Discussion Posting** is due by 23:59pm Tuesday..
		• **See M12 Video lectures Parts 1&2**

Tues 7/10	**Module 12:** **Final Exam**	**On-line Review Assignment:** • Review all your required readings & notes • **See M12 Video lectures Parts 1&2** • Post any questions you may have about our readings and exam on **Question Forum** • On-Line Review Session • Instructor available during extended Office Hours in (Orlando Campus) Phillips Hall, Room 302 for assistance **Optional Assignments:** • **Optional Extra Credit Quiz:** available **only** today 6:00am-11:59pm (covering only **Optional Extra Credit Readings**)
Thurs 7/12	**Module 12:** **Final Exam Day**	**Assignments:** • **Final Exam Day.** • Our Exam is available on-line **ONLY today** from 6:00am to 11:59pm at our website (covering Modules 9-11).

		• **Take the Post-Test which is open from 7/12 to 7/13/18.**