CPO 4400 - Kurdish Politics: Identity, Violence, and Democracy

Section: 0001

College of Sciences

School of Politics, Security, and Intl Affairs

Course Information

Term: Spring 2025
Class Meeting Days: TR
Class Meeting Time: 09:00AM - 10:20AM
Class Meeting Location: CB1 O308
Modality: P
Credit Hours: 3.00

Instructor Information

Mehmet Gurses
Office Location: HPH 202A
Office Hours:
Tu Th 10:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.
Email: gurses@fau.edu

Course Description

CPO 4400 COS-POLS 3(3,0)Kurdish Politics: Identity, Violence, and Democracy: PR: POS 2041, or INR 2002, or ENC 1102 Comprehensive analysis of Kurdish politics in the context of Middle Eastern politics, including the role of nationalism and identity, ethnic conflict, resistance, and gender. Occasional.

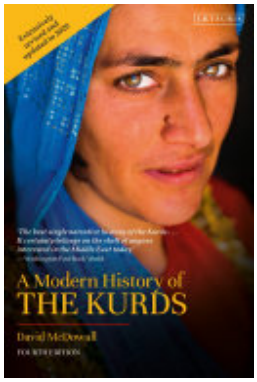
Kurds are one of the native peoples of Mesopotamia and the second-largest ethnolinguistic group in Turkey, Iraq, and Syria, with a population estimated at 30 to 40 million. Kurdish politics is increasingly becoming an important issue on both regional and global stages.
The course has three main parts. The *first section* introduces the Kurds, their identity, and their complex relationships with neighboring peoples, alongside discussions on ethnic identity, nations, and nationalism following the decline of old empires in the early 20th century. In the *second section*, we examine the Kurdish question within the context of the modern nation-states of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Syria, discussing the emergence of these states and the specific Kurdish issues within them. The *third section* focuses on contemporary global dynamics affecting the Kurds, exploring their potential role in stabilizing the region and contributing to inclusive, secular governance.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- This course aims to give students a theoretical understanding of ethnicity and nationalism, focusing on Kurdish politics in the broader region. Students will learn about the fourth largest people in the Middle East, their century-long struggle for rights and recognition, the ensuing violence, and the prospects for peace and democracy in the broader region.
- Another main objective of the course is to help students think critically and learn how to tie seemingly local and regional issues to the larger global politics.

Course Materials and Resources



A Modern History of the Kurds
ISBN: 9780755600786
Authors: David McDowall
Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing
Publication Date: 2021-03-25

Course Assessment and Grading Procedure

Examinations: There will be four quizzes, each contributing 10% to your overall grade, and a final exam for 20% of your total grade. The quizzes will primarily consist of true/false, multiple-choice questions, although they may include short essay prompts. In contrast, the final exam will focus solely on essay questions. Please note that failing to complete an exam by the designated deadline will result in an automatic score of zero.

Term Paper & Group Discussion (20%): Each student is expected to participate in a class discussion/simulation toward the end of the semester. We will apply what we have learned from the class to discuss the prospects for peace and democracy in the broader region and how the Kurds can contribute to it. Your task is twofold. First, the class will be divided into three groups, representing (1) the Kurds, (2) their respective states, and (3) the United States. Each group will present its case, followed by a discussion on how to better integrate the demands of the Kurds into the political framework. Second, every student must submit a brief written discussion (1-2 pages). Your final grade will be determined by a combination of your individual report, your participation within the group, and the overall performance of your group.

Class Participation: Participation is worth 20% of your total grade. Students are expected to arrive for each class prepared to discuss the assigned reading material. You are expected to be attentive to class lectures, participate in class discussions and exercises, respect the views and work of classmates, and refrain from all disruptive behavior (including the use of cellular telephones and laptop computers for anything other than class notes). Lectures and other class materials are designed to clarify and expand on class readings, expecting you to have read and developed a general understanding of the topics addressed in the readings. You will be rewarded for your constructive contribution to the discussion.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	94-100%
A-	90-93%
B+	87-89%
B	84-86%
B-	80-83%
C+	77-79%

Letter Grade	Percentage
C	74-76%
C-	70-73%
D+	67-69%
D	64-66%
D-	61-63%
F	0-60%

Policies for Course Grade

Makeup Work Policy

Missed/Late Assignments

Attendance

Course Accessibility

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Academic Integrity

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Code of Conduct at Student Conduct and Integrity Office. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in:

a. Academic misconduct is defined as any submitted work or behavior that obstructs the instructor of record's ability to accurately assess the student's understanding or completion of the course materials or degree requirements (e.g., assignment, quiz, and/or exam). Examples of academic misconduct include but are not limited to: plagiarism, unauthorized assistance to complete an academic exercise; unauthorized communication with others during an examination, course assignment, or project; falsifying or misrepresenting academic work; providing misleading information to create a personal advantage to complete course/degree requirements; or multiple submission(s) of academic work without permission of the instructor of record.

b. Any student who knowingly helps another violate academic behavior standards is also in violation of the standards.

c. Commercial Use of Academic Material. Selling of course material to another person and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the University and the instructor of record. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, the instructor of record's slide deck, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, and handouts.

d. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements. The solicitation of assistance with an assignment, lab, quiz, test, paper, etc., without authorization of the instructor of record or designee is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to asking for answers to a quiz, trading answers, or offering to pay another to complete an assignment. It is considered Academic Misconduct to solicit assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements, even if the solicitation did not yield actual assistance (for example, if there was no response to the solicitation).

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule*. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

Title IX

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at Let's Be Clear and UCF Cares.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact:

- Title IX – OIE – Office of Institutional Equity & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
- Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services – Student Accessibility Services & sas@ucf.edu
- Access and Community Engagement (including the Ginsberg Center for Inclusion and Community Engagement, Military and Veteran Student Success, and HSI

Initiatives)

- UCF Compliance and Ethics Office – Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Office & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
- The Ombuds Office is a safe place to discuss concerns.

Reporting an Incident or Issue

If you believe you have experienced abusive or discriminatory behavior by any faculty or staff member, contact the Office of Institutional Equity online or at 407-823-1336. You can also choose to report using the UCF Integrity Line and can report anonymously or as yourself at 1-855-877-6049 or using the online form. UCF cares about you and takes every report seriously. For more information see the Reporting an Incident or Issue Webpage.

Deployed Active-Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Campus Safety

At UCF Public Safety and Police, safety is the top priority. Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise, it's important to be familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In an emergency, always dial 911.
- Every UCF classroom has an **Emergency Procedure Guide** posted on a wall near the door, which will show you how to respond to a variety of situations. This guide can also be found online here.
- In the event of an active threat, remember **AVOID, DENY, DEFEND**. Choose the best course of action and act immediately. Watch the video here to learn more.

    - **AVOID**. Pay attention to your surroundings and have an exit plan. Get as much distance and as many barriers between you and the threat as quickly as possible.
    - **DENY.** When avoiding is difficult or impossible, deny the threat access to you and your space. Lockdown by creating barriers, turning the lights off and remaining quiet and out of sight. Make sure your cell phone is silenced, but do not turn it off.
    - **DEFEND.** When you are unable to put distance between yourself and the threat, be prepared to protect yourself. Commit to your actions, be aggressive and do not fight fairly. Do whatever it takes to survive.
- For emergencies on campus, UCF will utilize the UCF Alert system. All UCF students, faculty and staff are automatically enrolled to receive these email and text alerts, however, it's a good idea to frequently ensure your contact information is up to date.

Financial Aid Accountability

All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete this activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Class Schedule

Week	Topic
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Week	Topic
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