

# PSPA 253

## Politics and Government in the Middle East

### Course Description

This course is a survey of political institutions and processes in selected Middle East countries. We examine the dynamics of decision-making in Syria, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco and Algeria. In doing so, we evaluate the outcome of these countries' political processes and consider the major challenges confronting their regimes.

### Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, participants should be able to understand the following about these countries:

- \*The sources of the dilemma of their political and economic development
- \*Their decision-making mechanisms and relationship to processes of political evolution
- \*Acquaintance with the gap between political elites and publics
- \*Major challenges confronting them especially since the end of the Cold War and implementation by the U.S. of an aggressive politico-military doctrine in the region
- \*Prospects for future change.

### Readings

#### **Required**

***The Arab World: Nation, State and Democracy.*** London, UK: Zed Books, 1992. (by Fawzy Mansour).

***Sudan in Crisis: The Failure of Democracy.*** Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 1999. (by G. Norman Anderson).

***Culture and Counterculture in Moroccan Politics.*** Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1996. (by John P. Entelis).

***Saudi Arabia: Government, Society and the Gulf Crisis.*** London, UK: Routledge, 1993. (by Mordechai Abir).

***The Algerian Civil War 1990-1998.*** London, UK: Hurst & Company, 2000. (by Luis Martinez).

***Syria: Revolution From Above.*** London, UK: Routledge, 2001. (by Raymond Hinnebusch).

***The Politics of Egypt: State-Society Relationship.*** London, UK: RoutledgeCurzon, 2002. (by Ninette S. Fahmy).

### Recommended

***Middle East Dilemma: The Politics and Economics of Arab Integration.*** London, UK: I.B. Tauris, 1999. (by Michael C. Hudson, ed.).

***War of Visions: Conflict of Identities in the Sudan***. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1995. (by Francis M. Deng).

Stephen O. Hughes, ***Morocco under King Hassan***. Reading, UK: Ithaca Press, 2001.

Graham E. Fuller, ***Algeria: The Next Fundamentalist State?*** Rand, np, nd, Prepared for the United States Army.

Denis Sullivan and Sana Abed-Kotob, ***Islam in Contemporary Egypt***. London, UK: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999.

St John Gould, ***Morocco***. London, UK: Routledge, 2002.

E. George Joffe, ***Algeria***. London, UK: Routledge, 2003.

Sarah Yizraeli, ***The Remaking of Saudi Arabia: The Struggle Between King Sa'ud and Crown Prince Faysal, 1953-1962***. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 1997.

Abdel Salam Sidahmed, ***Politics and Islam in Contemporary Sudan***. Surrey, UK: Curzon, 1997.

Nikolaos Van Dam, ***The Struggle for Power in Syria: Politics and Society***. London, UK: I.B. Taurus, 1996.

Said K. Aburish, ***The Rise, Corruption and Coming Fall of the House of Saud***. London, UK: St. Martin's Press, 1996.

#### Grading System:

Mid-term Examination	30%
Term Paper	35%
Final Examination	35%

#### Reading Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

Read Fawzy Masour, ***The Arab World: Nation, State and Democracy***,  
The Setting, pp.33-49.  
The Past, pp.50-80.

Week 2: Arab Realities

Read Fawzy Masour,  
The Present, pp. 81-115.

Weeks 3 & 4: Sudan & the Politics of Civil War

For week 3, read G. Norman Anderson, ***Sudan in Crisis: The Failure of Democracy***,  
The Cycle of Democratic and Military Rule, pp. 3-22.

The Democracy of Sadiq al-Mahdi: Internal politics and the Economy, pp. 25-43.

America and Sudanese Democracy, pp. 47-62.

The Civil War in the Southern Sudan, pp. 65-121.

For week 4, read G. Norman Anderson,  
Paralysis of Domestic Politics and Economic Reform, pp. 125-197.

Weeks 5 & 6: Morocco & the Politics of Change

For week 5, read John P. Entelis, *Culture and Counterculture in Moroccan Politics*,  
Introduction, pp. 1-22.  
General Cultural Patterns, pp. 23-42.  
Culture and Politics, pp. 43-74.

For week 6, read John P. Entelis

Subcultures, pp. 75-104.  
Cultural Continuity and Change, pp. 105-120.  
Culture, Counterculture, and Politics: Summary and Forecasts, pp.121-131.

Weeks 7 & 8: Saudi Arabia & the Politics of Uncertainty

For week 7, read Mordechai Abir, *Saudi Arabia: Government, Society and the Gulf Crisis*,  
Ruling Class and Elites in Saudi Arabia, pp. 3-26.  
Modernization and Struggle for Political Reform, pp. 27-50.  
The Reign of Faysal, pp. 51-68.  
The Reign King Fahd, pp. 98-124.

For week 8, read J. E. Peterson, *Saudi Arabia and the Illusion of Security*, Adelphi  
Paper no. 348.

Chapter 1, Saudi Conceptions of National and Gulf Security, pp. 15-42.  
Chapter 2, The Internal Dimensions of Saudi Security, pp. 44-57.  
Chapter 3, The Impact of 11 September 2001, pp. 60-77.

Weeks 9 & 10: Algeria & the Politics of Bloodshed

For week 9, read Luis Martinez, *The Algerian Civil War 1990-1998*,  
Introduction, pp. 1-22.  
The Shaping of the Civil War, pp. 23-93.

For week 10, read Luis Martinez

The Mainsprings of Civil War, pp. 94-170.

Weeks 11 & 12: Syria & the Politics of Transition

For week 11, read Raymond Hinnebusch, *Syria: Revolution From Above*,  
Chapter 1, Introduction: Conceptualizing the Syrian Ba'th State, pp. 1-14.  
Chapter 2, The Formation of Modern Syria, pp. 15-46.  
Chapter 3, The Ba'th Revolution from Above (1963-70), pp. 47-64.  
Chapter 4, Power and Politics under Asad, pp. 65-88.  
Chapter 5, State-Society Relations under Asad, pp. 89-114.  
Chapter 6, The Political Economy of Development, pp. 115-138.

For week 12, read Eyal Zisser, "Syria at a Crossroads," pp. 7-27 and Paul Rivlin,  
"The Syrian Economy in the 1990s," pp.29-62 in Eyal Zissr and Paul Rivlin, *Syria:  
Domestic Political Stress and Globalization*.

Weeks 13 & 14: Egypt & the Politics of Representation

For week 13, read Ninette S. Fahmy, *The Politics of Egypt: State-Society Relationship*,

Chapter 2, The Historical Relationship between the State and the Peasants, pp. 30-43.

Chapter 3, The Constitutional and Legal System in Egypt and the Change to a Multi-Party System, pp. 44-65.

Chapter 4, Political Parties in Egypt, pp. 66-98.

Chapter 5, Egyptian Professional Associations, pp. 99-148.

For week 14, read Ninette S. Fahmy,

Chapter 6, Labor and Business Organizations, pp. 149-176.

Chapter 7, The Local System in Egypt: A Blocked Avenue for Participation and Representation, pp. 177-197.

Chapter 8, The State, Peasant Politics and Development: The Inherent Dilemma, pp. 198-220.

Week 15: The Future of Arab Politics