

Bowie State University
School of Arts and Sciences
Department of History & Government

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Learning Activities

Course: Government & Politics of the Middle East (3 Credits)

Course # & Section: Govt 327

Office Bldg.: MLK Bldg., Rm 0207

Schedule:

Office Phone: (301) 860-3611

Class Location:

E-Mail:

Off. Hrs:

Course Description: This course is a comparative study of the major governments and political issues in selected Middle Eastern states. Emphasis will be on the region's peoples, political conflicts, and leadership patterns.

Course Prerequisites: The prerequisites are Govt 130, Govt 140, or permission of the instructor.

The Required Text:

James A. Bill & Robert Springborg. (3rd or latest ed.). *Politics in the Middle East*. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman/Little, Brown Higher Education.

Disability Policy Statement for Accommodations: Students with any form of disability and would like to be considered for accommodations should immediately communicate their interests to Dr. Michael S. Hughes [Coordinator of Disability Support Services (DSS) & Academic Advisement Specialist]. His office in the new Business/Graduate Studies Building (Room 1328), and he can be reached (301) 860-4067. It is also important to share such an interest or desire for ADA assistance with the instructor of the course.

Instructional Modes: The methods would include these graded learning activities:

- traditional lectures with assigned readings and handouts to illuminate/challenge students
- in-class/online participation/discussions and study group/collaborative presentations
- viewing and interpretive analysis of the relevant/appropriate CD/Video-tapes
- written assignments (an essay, two quizzes, two examinations, extra-credit projects), and
- (possibly) inviting outside professionals and experts as guest lecturers or speakers.

Learning Objectives & Expected Outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will

- Develop a critical understanding of the nature and uniqueness of the contemporary Middle Eastern political history, political development and challenge to modernization
- Be able to engage in a comparative study and analysis of the similarities and differences with respect to their political structures, institutions and processes, and use the knowledge gained to contrast Middle Eastern states with those in other parts of African and Europe
- Discuss of some their inherent problems based on their methods of operation and democratic ideals or experiences of the particular countries
- Focus of some selected states and discuss their formation, ideologies, class structure and the impact of religion on social stratification
- Confront their inherent politics of patrimonial leadership and traditionalism
- Have clear understanding of the politics of Oil in the region and its impact on development or democratic arrangements
- Conduct researches using the library references and internet technologies
- Articulate their challenges as modern democracies and suggest way to resolve issues to deal with the Arab-Israeli conflicts

Performance Evaluation Criteria, Grading System & Students' Responsibilities: Students Performance Evaluation will be based on the following:

- i) *Film Critique/Emerging Issue = 10%
- ii) *Mid-Term Examination = 30%
- iii) Book Report or Synopsis = 10%
- iv) 2 Study Group Presentations = 10% (collaborative learning activity, after Mid-Term)
- vi) Bi-Weekly Online Conference = 10% (online learning activity via the Blackboard/ANGEL)
- vii) *Final Examination/Evaluation = 30% (5 Interpretive Essay Questions)
- viii) *Extra-Credit Opportunities = 10% (TBA by the Instructor)

Note Well: that every assignment that has “*” mark must be submitted in Microsoft Word 2003 Compatible document (or in a rich text) format, for easy access it with great ease.

b) The Grading System: The attainment of the learning objectives will be measured by a midterm examination, study group presentations, weekly online conference participation and the final examination. And competency is determined by the attainment of a cumulative grade of "C" or better according to the following calculations:

90+ = A

80+ = B

70+ = C

60+ = D

50+/- = F.

c) Part of Students Responsibilities

i) Students are required to attend classes regularly, learn the assigned materials, ask questions and participate in graded class activities: deliberations, discussions, presentations, examinations, online conferences, and the essay paper.

ii) Students are required to log-in and participate in the Blackboard/ANGEL interactive, conference discussions with other students and the faculty/mediator, and this form of information communication is usually done asynchronously via the Discussion Board. This is a time to read the materials posted on the Conference section, develop one's own written responses and/or read what other students have posted and respond accordingly/respectfully/intelligently. The instructor monitors and records attendance!

Note: Students are expected to use every **Wednesday** session for the online conference activities, and know that these activities are promptly recorded. When posting answers, comments or responses, just type in the appropriate space and "submit." And be advised that whatever is written and posted, in the online conference forum, is public and be careful about what is said and how it is conveyed to avoid any misrepresentation or misinterpretation.

Write clearly, intelligibly, responsibly, straight to the point, and do not engage in any personal conversations (attacks) nor resort to the use of vulgar words and language. Respect the differences in people and understand that we are all in this endeavor to learn for self-improvement, and do not try to compete with anyone but to learn with others collaboratively/cooperatively as we try to share and exchange information packaged as knowledge. So let's make learning a pleasurable, fun and an enriching experience!

iii) Every student is advised that excessive absences may result in the final grade of "F" in

the course. Students are required to enroll in the Blackboard/ANGEL in order to be permitted to have access to the course and participate actively. Not participating in the Blackboard conferences and other activities is a form of unexcused absence in the course. Students should be able to access Course information (Syllabus and other materials, lecture notes, updated announcements, assignments, directions, etc.) from the BSU Online. Attendance roll is taken anytime students log-in and submit the required written responses, online. For the face-to-face sessions, the instructor takes attendance. Please know that missing classes (whether online or in face-to-face) for more than five times is serious and the student is putting oneself in a precarious situation.

iv) Bowie State University does not recognize academic dishonesty as a legitimate means for fulfilling the requirements of a course. Therefore, “cheating” in any aspect of the assigned course work is jeopardizing one’s academic progress and success, and which result in having a grade of zero for that particular examination or in the course. Know that “plagiarism” which is cheating is serious form of academic dishonesty and should not be encouraged nor condoned. To avoid it, always make sure that one cites all the used sources appropriately.

For writing papers or responses, it is important to refer to the following manuals of style: the American Psychological Association (APA), the Modern Language Association of America (MLA), and the American Political Science Association Manual which is The Chicago Manual/Turabian Style.

v) Students are responsible for all the graded assignments in this course, and need to make sure that they are neatly done and submitted as at when due without exceptions. Try to read and study the assigned materials before and after each class session, come to classes prepared and ready to learn, learn to work with other students to share and communicate information without necessarily having to cheat, and try to organize to have extra-curricular study sessions if need be.

d) Instructions and Guidelines for the Written Graded Assignments

i) **Book Report & Summary:** Each student will prepare a book report and summary, about 5-10 pages with proper citations, and must address the following issues:

- the authors' thesis stated in a few sentences
- author’s purpose in or for writing the book
- what is the book’s methodology or approach?
- what targeted audience does the author have in mind?
- what is the possible conclusion that can be drawn from reading the book?
- how would you assess the book in terms of its value and quality?
- what is the rationale for the book, and whether you agree or disagree with the author?
- what arguments would you have to explain/justify its strength or weakness?
- did you interview or communicate with the author, when, how, and about what?

- share any other comments, remarks or suggestions

ii) The Guideline for the Graded Written Assignments (Film Critique):

Each student will be required to submit a short paper of no less than three -five pages long, typed and double-spaced (excluding bibliography page) on the assigned reading topic. The instructor will be looking for the following:

1. Clarity of thesis statement or statement of the problem
2. Excellent organization & coherence of presentation to reflect originality of thought
3. Depth of research demonstrated by accurate information, critical thinking & analysis
4. The clear use of Footnotes or Endnotes
5. Correct bibliographic & in-text citation formats
6. No more than one internet source used
7. Correct grammar, syntax, brevity of language with precise choice or economy of words.

Note well that “any plagiarism will result in a final failing grade of an F. This includes copying, paraphrasing someone, borrowing or stealing materials from the internet or any other sources without proper notations and/or accurate citations.”

iii) The Film Critique & Analysis: The instructor will suggest some films or documentaries for the assignment. The written critique will be 5-10 pages with the appropriate manual style for writing requirements, and formatted as follows:

- a) Name of the Film or Documentary (and a very brief background information)
- b) Major Thesis (Major reason each film or documentary was written/done and the main argument(s) the author/producer intends to advance)
- c) Arguments (State the main philosophical or scientific assumptions that each author makes both as the reason for the book and the recommendations and observations therein)
- d) Analysis of Arguments (here students should assess the strength or weakness of the author’s argument, methodology, reasoning, plot, etc.
- e) Importance or relevance of the film or documentary (this is the heart of the assignment). Here, students may justify why anyone would believe the author or producer and whether the film was worth the effort or not. Use any other relevant films or works watched or viewed to support the critical analysis and arguments, for or against. And also try to discuss or reflect on the lessons learned from this unique learning experience.

iv) **Individual Weekly Conference Participation:** The instructor will develop weekly assignments for students to participate in and complete as individuals, for a possible total of 15% of the final grade. Each week, students are required to have a major response on the assigned materials and post the responses as at when due, and also must respond to the postings or responses of two or more students within the time frame. See the posted Rubric in the Weekly Conference area, but check these Netiquette links for basic social ethics for group communication:

1. <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>
2. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netiquette>
3. <http://www.yourhtmlsource.com/starthere/netiquette.html>
4. <http://www.dtcc.edu/es/rfc1855.html>
5. <http://www.techterms.com/definition/netiquette>

v) **Study Group/Collaborative Presentation:** Each student will work with a specific study group and assigned a chapter from the text for quality summary, presentation and discussion. The reading assignments will be placed in the Study Group area (via the Menu), but the presentations and question-answer sessions will be posted in the Weekly Conference area at the appropriate time (normally, beginning after the Mid-Term Examination period). After the Study Groups have completed their readings and posted their presentations, then all the students will be required or expected to read and ask them questions which they (the Groups) have to address and provide intelligent answers to. Study Group Presentations to have some of the following items:

- Names of the Study Group Members (who participated)
- Title of the Reading Assignment or Chapter & Page Numbers
- Author's Name(s)
- Major Thesis or what the Chapter is all about
- Outline of the Supporting Arguments
- Analysis: This portion is an assessment of the strong and weak points of what the assignment is all about. Address the implications of the author's work
- Application: State how the reading applies to "real" organizations. Use examples
- Conclusions: State the major points about the relevance and impact of the work.

Some Important Announcements: Information & Dates:

English Proficiency Examination: After completing ENGL 101 and 102, Composition and Literature I and II, students must take and successfully pass the Bowie State University English Proficiency Examination. Transfer students who completed their English composition requirements at another university should take the English Proficiency Examination during their first semester of enrollment at the University.

Technical Assistance: For technical questions or instructions, please call (301) 860-4357 or (301) 860-HELP and someone, possibly Mrs. Mariann Hawken (the Blackboard Administrator), will help you. For additional information, check and click on the Tech/OIT Support via the Course Menu.

Course Modifications: The instructor reserves the right to make some necessary adjustments and appropriate changes or modifications) to course with your consent and due communication.

Inclement Weather: In cases of inclement weather, please tune in to a local radio or television station and also monitor for BSU announcements. The area media may announce whether BSU will be opened or closed, but such an announcement depends on the severity and degree of weather inclemency. Many of these sources will begin announcing late openings and closings by 6:00 a.m. Consult university publications for the information or call (301) 860-4000.

Units of Instruction & Schedule of Learning Activities with Reading Assignments

Weeks/Dates	Learning Modules & Objectives	Required Reading Assignments
Weeks 1-2:	<u>Module One: Introduction to the Study of Political Science and Comparative Governments</u> Political Development and the Challenges of Modernization in Patrimonial/Traditional Societies, pp. 1-30	Regularly Check the Course Orientation and also the Announcement sections via the Menu for an updated Information
Weeks: 3-6:	<u>Module Two: States, Beliefs and Ideologies in the Middle East, pp. 31-84; The Challenge of Revolution in the Persian Gulf, pp. 369-398</u>	Lectures in the Course Content Area, Handouts
Weeks 7-8:	<u>Module Three: The Genes of Politics: Groups, Classes and Families, pp. 85-136; and the Politics of Oil and Sustainable Development in the Region, pp. 399-449</u>	Lectures in the Course Content Area, Handouts
Wks 9-13	<u>Module 4: The Politics of Patrimonial Leadership &</u>	Lectures in the Course Content Area, Handouts

	Theocracy, pp. 137-176; and the Politics of Leadership & Change, pp. 177-229	
Wks 14-15:	<u>Module 5</u>: The Arab-Israeli Conflicts and the Question of Palestine State, pp. 300-368	Lectures in the Course Content Area, Handouts, and Chapters 9-14 and other Important Links for Additional Materials

Bibliography