

CPO 3403 (05B1) Politics of the Modern Middle East

Spring 2014

MWF 4th, 101 Anderson Hall

Dr. Patricia J. Woods

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Office hours:

Monday 5th and 6th periods

Friday 5th period

Preliminary Syllabus

What are some of the major issues in the Middle East today? What is Muslim popular opinion – *really* – on issues such as gender politics, democratization, etc. What are “nomads” and how do they figure in the Middle Eastern past, present, and future? What about urban cities, both rich and poor, in the Middle East? What roles do women really play, beyond the little that we hear (usually negative) in the U.S. press? We will address four major books on these topics and center our work in class around these readings to develop our own answers to these questions.

You are not asked to take a specific political opinion in this class. Our daily training will be in learning to identify the central argument of the text, the evidence the author presents to support his or her argument, and to evaluate how the argument and evidence “fit” together. We will leave “opinion” out of our discussion and seek to develop our best “analytical” explanations of the readings. From there, you are very welcomed to develop your own opinions, hopefully with some relation to the texts we have read throughout the semester.

LEARNING GOALS OF THE CLASS: The analytical reading, writing, and speaking skills that you develop will typically help you to **read faster**; to **find “central arguments”** in readings where you may not have seen them before; to **develop the skill of writing abstracts** – short digests of a reading or argument; and to develop the skills to **speak about readings in concise, digest form**, as well as more extended detail when necessary. All of these are skills that are important in almost any profession you go in to after university. In addition, you will **learn** a great deal **about the Modern Middle East**.

These are the learning goals of the class and I would ask you to evaluate the class on that basis.

Grade Distribution

10% Participation: presentations, debates, in-class assignments

30% Abstracts (seven); possible pop quizzes

30% Midterm Essays

30% Final Essays

Readings:

- John Esposito, **Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think**. Gallup Press, 2008.
- Reşat Kasaba, **A Moveable Empire: Ottoman Nomads, Migrants, and Refugees**. Univ. of Washington Press, 2009.
- Singerman and Amar, **Cairo Cosmopolitan: Politics, Culture and Urban Space in the New Globalized Middle East**. AUC Press, 2009.
- Isobel Coleman, **Paradise Beneath Her Feet: How Women Are Transforming the Middle East**. Council on Foreign Relations, 2013.

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS

Participation

Your participation grade is based upon your active participation in class discussions; demonstration of having read the readings assigned for each day; and presentations to the class, which may be as individuals or study groups. Because you cannot participate if you are not in class, attendance is important. Each class missed over three absences will take 0.5 points off your final grade.

Abstracts and Pop Quizzes

Each student will submit seven typed, double-spaced abstracts of 5-7 sentences for seven readings of his or her choice. Abstracts should *explain*, in the space allotted, the central argument of the reading through three major pieces of evidence offered by the author. Abstracts are due approximately every two weeks, as indicated on the SAKAI site for this course. Abstracts can be turned in *early*; can be turned in at any time before that abstract is due; and must be written about a reading that we have not discussed in class.

I reserve the possibility of giving you pop quizzes. If it is clear from discussions that the class is reading the assigned readings for each class, there will be no pop quizzes. If it is apparent to me that people are not reading, you will have up to ten pop quizzes. Quizzes may be in the form of identification, multiple-choice, short essays, or abstracts. If the class is reading and participating well, there will be no pop quizzes.

Exams I and II

There will be two exams in this course. They will both be composed of take-home essays. You will receive the prompts for the essay questions two weeks before the due dates for the exams. (You will receive them by an email to the class.) Please double-space all answers, and be very careful to follow all space requirements. Please include a reference list and in-text citations (following Chicago Manual of Style reference guide for social science in-text citations). You *are* allowed to draw from your writing in your study questions and film assignments to construct your essays. Make sure to have a balance between new writing and drawing from your existing writing; and, if you do so, make sure to bring them together in a coherent manner, both analytically and in terms of style. Writing for essay questions should focus on clear, concise, direct writing in active voice (please avoid passive voice). The concepts are complicated enough; clear, concise, direct language is considered best in comparative politics for expressing and explaining them.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES/INFO

- **Attendance & makeup policy:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.
- **Cell phone and texting policy:** Please don't.
- **Grade Disputes:** Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors, for which you should contact the instructor), the dispute must be in writing and be submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why he or she believes that he or she should have received such a grade.

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

- A 100-93 (4.0)
- A- 92-90 (3.67)
- B+ 89-87 (3.00)
- B 86-83 (3.0)
- B- 82-80 (2.67)
- C+ 79-77 (2.33)
- C 76-73 (2.0)
- C- 72-70 (1.67)
- D+ 69-67 (1.33)
- D 63-66 (1.0)

D- 62-60 (0.67)

E 59- (0)

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#hgrades>
<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluation Process: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Reading Schedule

Section 1. NOMADIC PEOPLES, VARIATIONS IN SOCIAL FORMATIONS, & THE INSTITUTIONAL TIES AMONG THEM

Week I

Introductions

Chapter one, *Kasaba, A Moveable Empire*.

Week II

Chapters two and three, *A Moveable Empire*.

Week III

Chapters four and five, *A Moveable Empire*.

Section 2. PUBLIC OPINION ON CRITICAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS GENDER, DEMOCRATIZATION, ETC.

Week IV

Introduction and chapter one, *Who Speaks For Islam?*

Week V

Chapters two and three, *Who Speaks For Islam?*

Week VI

Chapters four and five, *Who Speaks for Islam?*

Section 3. URBANANIZATION, URBAN CULTURES, AND THE TRADITIONAL VS. MODERN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Week VII

Introduction and chapter one, *Cairo Cosmopolitan*

Week VIII

Chapters two and three, *Cairo Cosmopolitan*

Exam I Due Today

Week IX

Chapters four, five and six, *Cairo Cosmopolitan*

Week X

Chapters seven, nine, and ten, *Cairo Cosmopolitan*

Week XI

Chapters fourteen and nineteen, *Cairo Cosmopolitan*

Section 4. WOMEN'S MOBILIZATION AND WOMEN'S LIVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Week XII

Chapters one and two, *Paradise Beneath Her Feet*

Week XIII

Chapters three and four, *Paradise Beneath Her Feet*

Week XIV

Chapters five and six, *Paradise Beneath Her Feet*

Week V

Chapters seven and eight, *Paradise Beneath Her Feet*

Exam II Due Friday, May 2 by NOON to 222 Anderson Hall