

Prof. Gregory P. Nowell
Richardson Hall
135 Western Ave - SUNY
Albany NY 12222
518 442 5267
greg.nowell@hotmail.com

POS 367 Politics of the Middle East (call no. 9303)

MWF 12:35 to 1:30 HU 132

Office hours Monday, Wednesday, Humanities B016 (Contact Office) 1:35-2:20

Book orders have been placed exclusively at Mary Jane Books, Quail & Western

Midterm Exam: Wednesday 28 October

Optional “parachute paper” due Wednesday 4 December

Final Exam date: Friday Dec. 11th 10:30am – 12:30pm.

Course Books: Have been ordered exclusively at Mary Jane Books, at the corner of Quail and Western. Generally this will be your least expensive alternative. You may also order books via Internet, and prices vary considerably by vendor. Used books can be had at www.abebooks.com and other sources. Some packet materials will also be available there. A certain number of articles will be on the class web site and/or JSTOR. The academic objective of this course is to explore the political and social organization of the Middle East with an aim to understanding the material underpinnings of seemingly “irrational” tendencies. The main focus is on Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

Authors to buy:

Afary, Janet (1996). *The Iranian Constitutional Revolution, 1906-1911*. NY: Columbia University Press, ISBN 0231103514

Abrahamian, Ervan (2008). *A History of Modern Iran*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 9780521528917.

Chaudhry, Kiren Aziz (1997). *The Price of Wealth: Economies and Institutions in the Middle East*. Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press. ISBN 0-8014-8430-8.

Gold, Dore (2004). *Hatred's Kingdom: How Saudi Arabia Supports the New Global Terrorism*. Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing. ISBN 0-89526-135-9

Hahn, Peter (2012). *Missions Accomplished? The United States and Iraq since World War I*. NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-53338-1

Khoury, Philip S., and Joseph Kostiner, eds. (1991). *Tribes and State Formation in the Middle East*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. ISBN 9780520070806

Course grading. The course grade will be based on a midterm (nominally 40% of the grade each) and one final (nominally 60% of the grade plus adjustments due to attendance and subjective appreciation of such factors as class participation and pop quiz

results. The exams are required, that is, you can't not take an exam and get a passing grade.

Parachute Paper. Students who are unhappy with the results of the midterm may write a short “parachute paper” of about 3 to 5 pages near the end of the semester. If the grade of the parachute paper is higher than the midterm, that grade will be substituted for the midterm grade. (1) There is no guarantee that the paper will lead to a higher grade. (2) Students who punt the midterm are not eligible to write a parachute paper. Papers must follow prof’s required format regarding use of citations and bibliography. (3). The parachute paper is optional. If the paper is not turned in class on the due date (xxx) it means that the student has exercised the option NOT to write the paper. Therefore, there is no such thing as a late parachute paper.

The main on-line source of information will be the BLACKBOARD for this course AND ALSO such materials as are distributed from the prof’s account on docs.google.com.

The purpose of this class is to make students conversant in four aspects of the contemporary Middle East: 1. A general overview 2. Saudi Arabia 3. Iran and 4. Iraq. Additional educational goals include 5. Islamic finance and 6. Other economic aspects of the region including oil.

The principal tools will be: a variety of assigned texts. Certain non-Middle East materials are assigned to show how comparative politics methodologies inform strategic thinking and political analysis.

The principal evaluation metric will be the required in class midterm and final exams, an optional make-up paper, pop quizzes; participation and attendance.

A student who successfully completes this course will understand basic aspects underpinning key past and present conflicts in the Middle East including: imperial rivalries, conflicting systems of property rights, economic dislocations, cultural and religious antagonisms.

Students who require special accommodations for disabilities must signal their needs at the beginning of the semester, per university policy.

Week-by-week schedule

Week 1 – Wednesday 26 August, Friday 28 August. Class Introduction and Organization. General Overview of issues in the Middle East.

Reading: Callimachi, Rukmini “ISIS ENShrines a Theology of Rape,” New York Times, Aug 13, 2015. Religion.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/14/world/middleeast/isis-enshrines-a-theology-of-rape.html>

Week 2 Monday 31 August, Wednesday 2 September, Friday 4 September
General Overview: the U.S. as a Middle Eastern country

FILM: Ferguson “No end in Sight.” On Iraq.

Week 3 NO CLASSES on Monday 7 September.
Wednesday 9 September,
Friday 11 September

General Overview: Oil and the Middle East

Spindle, Bill, and Summer Said (2015)
Aug. 24, 2015 7:42 p.m. “Oil’s Drop Puts Spotlight on Saudi Arabia,”

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/oils-drop-puts-spotlight-on-saudi-arabia-1440459727>

Gellner, “Tribalism and the State in the Middle East,” in Khoury and Khostiner (1990).

Tibi, “The Simultaneity of the Unsimultaneous,” in Khoury and Kostiner (199).

Week 4 Saudi Arabia

Monday 14 September NO CLASS
Wednesday 16 September
Friday 18 September

Kostiner, “Transforming Dualities: Tribe and State Formation in Saudi Arabia,” in Khoury and Khostiner (2009).

Dore Gold, pp. 41-184

Week 5 Saudi Arabia

Monday 21 September:

Wednesday 23 September NO CLASS

Friday 25 September

Tues Dore Gold, pp. 41-184

Week 6 Saudi Arabia

Monday 28 September,

Wednesday 30 September,

Friday 2 October

Chaudhry, 43-136, 139-192

Week 7 Saudi Arabia,

Monday 5 October

Wednesday 7 October,

Friday 9 October

Chaudhry, 193-307

Week 8 Iraq (British and U.S. invasions of).

Monday 12 October

Wednesday 14 October

Friday 16 October:

Hahn, pp. 7-66.

Vinogradov (1972)

<http://tinyurl.com/vinogradov-1920-revolt-in-Iraq>

Week 9 Iraq.

Monday 19 October

Wednesday 21 October

Friday 23 October:

Hahn, pp. 113-197.

Anderson, New Yorker, "Inside the surge."

<http://tinyurl.com/anderson-inside-the-surge>

U.S. military analogies:

Willis, After the Blitzkrieg

<http://tinyurl.com/willis-after-the-blitzkrieg>

Siegrist, Apache Insurgency

<http://tinyurl.com/siegrist-apache-insurgency>

Week 10

Monday 26 October,

Wednesday 28 October,

Friday 30 October,

Tuesday: In class question period for exam

=> **Wednesday 28 October: MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 11 Iran

Monday 2 November

Wednesday 4 November

Friday 6 November:

Afary 17-59; 63-115

Abrahamian, pp. 34-62

Week 12 Iran

Monday 9 November

Wednesday 11 November,

Friday 13 November

Afary, 258-342

Abrahamian, pp. 63-96

Shuster, *Strangling of Persia*

chapters X, XI, 247-318 (available on google books and archive.org; also hard copies)

Week 13 Iran

Monday 16 November

Wenesdeay18 November,
Friday 20 November

Richards, Helmut (1975). "America's Shah Shahanshah's Iran," MERIP Reports, No. 40. (September), pp. 3 -26. (JSTOR)

Abrahamian, pp. 97 to end

Week 14

Monday 23 November,
Wednesday 25 November Thanksgiving Break

Monday: catch up session, discussion

Week 15

Monday 2 December
Wednesday 4 December
Friday 6 December

Property rights in the Middle East

4 December: Due date for optional "parachute paper" **HARD COPY REQUIRED**

Baer, Gabriel (1997). "The Waqf as a Prop for the Social System: 16th through 20th Centuries," *Islamic Law and Society*, v. 4 no. 3, pp. 264-297. (Posthumous publication of 1979 paper) (JSTOR)

<http://tinyurl.com/baer-Waqf-as-a-prop-for-social>

Dumper, Michael (1993). "Forty Years Without Slumbering: Waqf Politics and Administration in the Gaza Strip, 1948-1987" *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, v. 20, no. 2, pp. 174-190. (JSTOR)

Powers, David S. (1989) "Orientalism, Colonialism, and Legal History: the Attack on Muslim Family Endowments in Algeria and India," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, v. 31 no. 3 pp. 535-571. (JSTOR)

Shaham, Ron (1995). "Jews and the Shari'a Courts in Modern Egypt," *Studia Islamica*, no. 82, pp. 113-136. (JSTOR)

Samara, Adel (2000). "Globalization, the Palestinian Economy, and the 'Peace Process,'" *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Winter, 2000), pp. 20-34.

Week 16 Tuesday 9 December Last day of class conclusion and discussion of exam. Final Exam week runs Thursday 11 December through Thursday 18 December. **Our exam is Friday Dec. 11th 10:30am – 12:30pm.**

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR POS 367

THIS IS NOT A BUY LIST

Afary, Janet (1996). *The Iranian Constitutional Revolution, 1906-1911*. NY: Columbia University Press, isbn 0231103514

Anderson, Jon Lee (2007). "Inside the Surge: the American Military Finds New Allies, but at What Cost?" *New Yorker*, November 19, pp. 58-69.

Baer, Gabriel (1997). "The Waqf as a Prop for the Social System: 16th through 20th Centuries," *Islamic Law and Society*, v. 4 no. 3, pp. 264-297. (Posthumous publication of 1979 paper)

Bard, Mitchell (2008). *Middle East Conflict*. 4th edition. NY: Penguin. Available Amazon books in e-version.

Chaudhry, Kiren Aziz (1997). *The Price of Wealth: Economies and Institutions in the Middle East*. Ithaca NY: Cornell University Press. ISBN 0-8014-8430-8.

Davis, Craig S. (2003). *The Middle East for Dummies*. NY: Wiley isbn 978076455484.

Dumper, Michael (1993). "Forty Years Without Slumbering: Waqf Politics and Administration in the Gaza Strip, 1948-1987" *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, v. 20, no. 2, pp. 174-190. (JSTOR)

Ferguson, Charles, director (2004) *No End in Sight*, movie. (Netflix)

Floor, William M. (1980). "The Revolutionary Character of the Iranian Ulama: Wishful Thinking or Reality?" *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 4. (Dec., 1980), pp. 501-524. (JSTOR).

Gold, Dore (2004). *Hatred's Kingdom: How Saudi Arabia Supports the New Global Terrorism*. Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing. [ISBN 0-89526-135-9](#)

Hahn, Peter (2012). *Missions Accomplished? The United States and Iraq since World War I*. NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-53338-1

Kettell, Brian. (2010) *Islamic Finance in a Nutshell: A Guide for Non-Specialists*. NY: Wiley, ISBN-13: 978-0470748619.

Khoury, Philip S., and Joseph Kostiner, (1990) eds. *Tribes and State formation in the Middle East*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN-13: 978-0520070806

Majd, Mohammad Gholi (2000) "Small Landowners and Land Distribution in Iran, 1962-71," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 1. (February), pp. 123-153. (JSTOR)

Mandaville, Jon E. (1979) "Usurious Piety: the Cash Waqf Controversy in the Ottoman Empire," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, v. 10 no. 3 August pp. 289-308 (JSTOR)

O'Leary, Brendan, John McGarry, and Khaled Salih, eds. (2006) *The Future of Kurdistan in Iraq*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. ISBN-13: 9780812219739 (BOOK)

Powers, David S. (1989) "Orientalism, Colonialism, and Legal History: the Attack on Muslim Family Endowments in Algeria and India," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, v. 31 no. 3 pp. 535-571. (JSTOR)

Richards, Helmut (1975). "America's Shah Shahanshah's Iran," *MERIP Reports*, No. 40. (September), pp. 3 -26.

Samara, Adel (2000). "Globalization, the Palestinian Economy, and the 'Peace Process,'" *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Winter, 2000), pp. 20-34.

Shaham, Ron (1995). "Jews and the Shari'a Courts in Modern Egypt," *Studia Islamica*, no. 82, pp. 113-136. (JSTOR)

Shuster, W. Morgan (2006; 1912) *The Strangling of Persia: A Personal Narrative*. NY: Mage Publishers. (available on Google books, complete text)

Vassiliev, Alexei (2000) *The History of Saudi Arabia*. Trans. P.A. Seslavin. NY: New York University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0814788097

Vinogradov, Amal (1972). "The 1920 Revolt in Iraq Reconsidered: The Role of Tribes in National Politics," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 2, (April), pp. 123-139

LIST OF ADDITIONAL BOOKS. This is not a “to buy” list. Just here for those that are interested in more books on the Middle East, a bunch of stuff I’ve liked.

Alizadeh, Parvin, Hassan Hakimian, and Marsoud Kashenas, eds. (2001). *Economy of Iran: Dilemmas of an Islamic State*. NY: I.B. Tauris.

Anderson, Jon Lee (2007). “Inside the Surge: the American Military Finds New Allies, but at What Cost?” *New Yorker*, November 19, pp. 58-69.

Antonius, George (1939) *The Arab Awakening* Simon Press ISBN-13: 9781931541244

Baer, Gabriel (1997). “The Waqf as a Prop for the Social System: 16th through 20th Centuries,” *Islamic Law and Society*, v. 4 no. 3, pp. 264-297. (Posthumous publication of 1979 paper)

Bard, Mitchell (2008). *Middle East Conflict*. 4th edition. NY: Penguin. Available Amazon books in e-version.

Burr, J. Millard, and Robert O. Collins (2006/). *Alms for Jihad: Charity and Terrorism in the Middle East*/. NY: Cambridge University Press.

Chaudry, Kiren Aziz (1997). *The Price of Wealth: Economies and Institutions in the Middle East*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Devji, Faisal (2005). *Landscapes of the Jihad: Militancy, Morality, Modernity*. New Delhi: Foundation Books. ISBN 1850657750.

Dumper, Michael (1993). “Forty Years Without Slumbering: Waqf Politics and Administration in the Gaza Strip, 1948-1987” *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, v. 20, no. 2, pp. 174-190.

Ferguson, Charles, director (2004) *No End in Sight*, movie.

Floor, William M. (1980). “The Revolutionary Character of the Iranian Ulama: Wishful Thinking or Reality?” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 4. (Dec., 1980), pp. 501-524.

Galbraith, Peter W. (2007). *The End of Iraq: How American Incompetence Created a War without End*. NY: Simon and Schuster. ISBN-13: 9780743294249

Ginat, Joseph (1997). *Blood Revenge: Family Honor, Mediation and Outcasting*, Sussex: Sussex Academic Press, 1-84519-197-8.

Gold, Dore (2004). *Hatred’s Kingdom: How Saudi Arabia Supports the New Global Terrorism*. Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing.

Hashim, Ahmed (2006) *Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency in Iraq*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. 482pp. ISBN: 0801444527 2 weeks

Heiss, Mary Ann (1997). *Empire and Nationhood: The United States, Great Britain, and Iranian Oil, 1950-1954*, NY: Columbia Univ. Press, ISBN: 0231108192

Hoexter, Miriam (1998). *Endowments, Rulers, and Community: Waqf al-Haramayn in Ottoman Algiers*.

ibn Khaldoun (2004; 1377) *The Muqaddimah: An Introduction to History*, trans. Franz Rosenthal, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Kazemzadeh, Massoud (2002). *Islamic Fundamentalism, Feminism, and Gender Inequality in Iran under Khomeini*, Washington, D.C.: University Press of America.

Khoury, Philip S., and Joseph Kostiner, (1990) eds. *Tribes and State formation in the Middle East*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN-13: 978-0520070806

Lang, Sharon (2002). "Sulha Peacemaking and the Politics of Persuasion," *Journal of Palestine Studies* Vol. 31, No. 3 (Spring, 2002), pp. 52-66

Majd, Mohammad Gholi (2000) "Small Landowners and Land Distribution in Iran, 1962-71," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 1. (February), pp. 123-153.

Maloney, Suzanne (2004). "Politics, patronage, and social justice: parastatal foundations and post-revolutionary Iran," in *Peace Research Abstracts*. 41 (4).

Mandaville, Jon E. (1979) "Usurious Piety: the Cash Waqf Controversy in the Ottoman Empire," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, v. 10 no. 3 August pp. 289-308

Martin, Vanessa (2003) *Creating An Islamic State (Library of Modern Middle East Studies Series): Khomeini and the Making of a New Iran*. London: I. B.Tauris & Company, Limited.

Martin, Vanessa (1989). *Islam and Modernism: the Iranian Revolution of 1906*. London: I.B. Tauris.

O'Leary, Brendan, John McGarry, and Khaled Salih, eds. (2006) *The Future of Kurdistan in Iraq*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. ISBN-13: 9780812219739

Pape, Robert A. (2005) *Dying to Win: the Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*, NY: Random House.

Powers, David S. (1989) "Orientalism, Colonialism, and Legal History: the Attack on Muslim Family Endowments in Algeria and India," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, v. 31 no. 3 pp. 535-571.

Richards, Helmut (1975). "America's Shah Shahanshah's Iran," *MERIP Reports*, No. 40. (September), pp. 3 -26.

Shaham, Ron (1995). "Jews and the Shari'a Courts in Modern Egypt," *Studia Islamica*, no. 82, pp. 113-136.

Shuster, W. Morgan (2006; 1912) *The Strangling of Persia: A Personal Narrative* . NY: Mage Publishers.

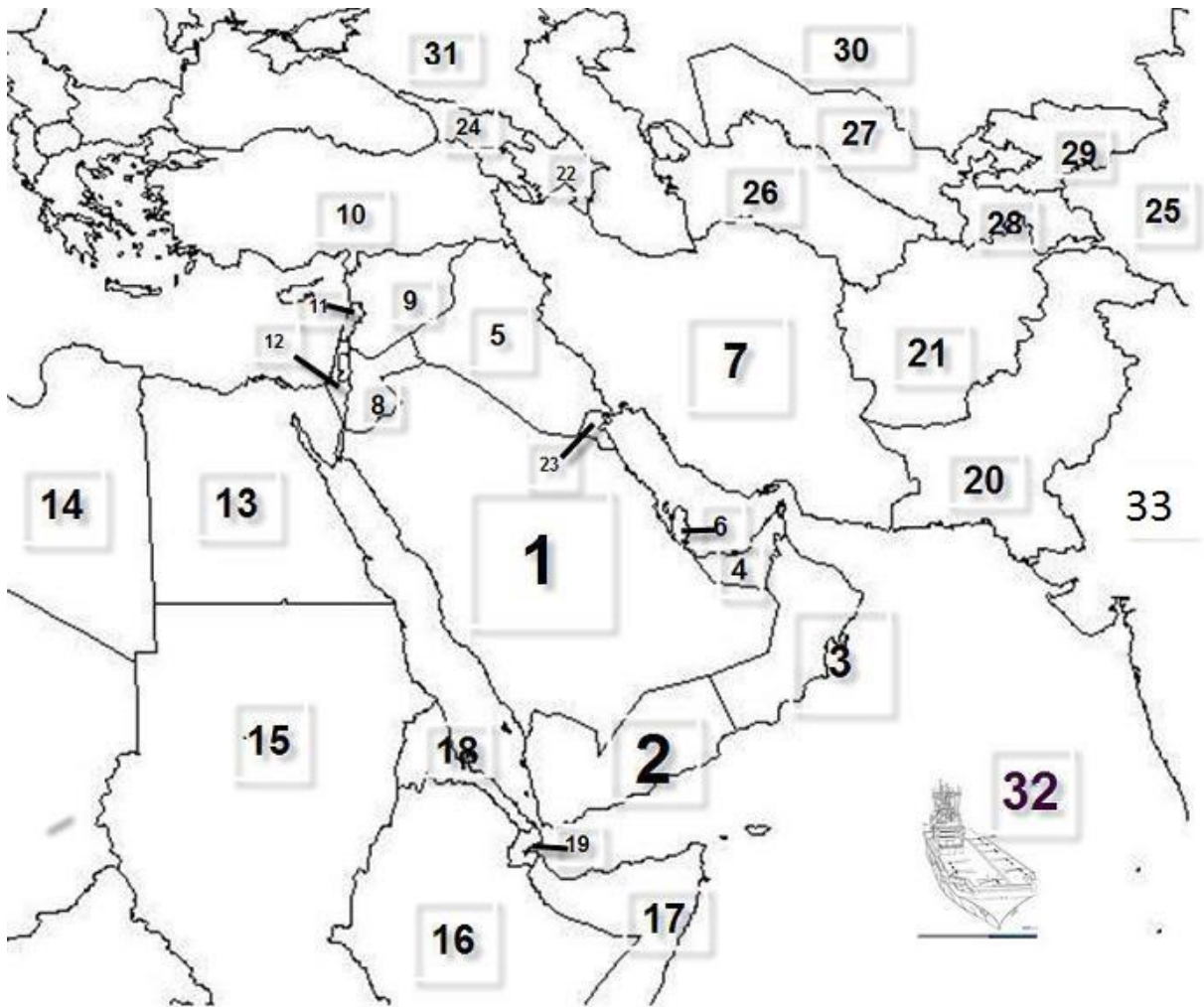
Smith, Daniel L. (1989). "The Rewards of Allah," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 26, No. 4. (Nov., 1989), pp. 385-398. (brief article on sulha)

Starkey, Armstrong *European and Native American Warfare 1675-1815*, Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press ISBN: 080613075X

Tetreault, Mary Ann, and Robert A. Denemark, eds. (2004) *Gods, Guns, and Globalization: Religious Radicalism and International Political Economy*, Boulder, CO: Lynn Reinner. ISBN: 978-1-58826-253-0

Vassiliev, Alexei (2000) *The History of Saudi Arabia*. Trans. P.A. Seslavin. NY: New York University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0814788097

Vinogradov, Amal (1972). "The 1920 Revolt in Iraq Reconsidered: The Role of Tribes in National Politics," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 3, No. 2, (April), pp. 123-139



Corrected map 9/09/15