This course provides the background to the most important factors and processes affecting conflicts, wars, and peace in the Middle East. Numerous wars and continuing conflicts in the region cannot be understood without the basic knowledge of the historical interplay of diverse factors including foreign powers involvement in the processes of state formation in the region, ethnic, religious, and ideological diversity, nationalism, resource scarcity, economic development, politics of oil, politics of water, arms sale, gender politics, and authoritarianism. These topics form the first part of the course, and will set the stage for the study of the different wars in the Middle East. While the primary focus of the second part of the course will be on the Arab-Israel wars and conflicts, the course will also cover revolutions and wars in other parts of the region, including Iranian revolution, the Iran-Iraq war, the Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and the US-led coalitions against Iraq. Canada’s Middle East policy will also be discussed.

Materials in the course are chosen from diverse sources reflecting the heterogeneity of views, methods and modes of analysis. The required readings (marked by * in the syllabus) are from selected chapters of the text, W. L. Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, and those marked by ** are from selected journals and other sources. Both categories are available electronically and can be accessed using the library’s e-resources.

**Course Requirements**

The course consists of lectures and student presentations/discussions. The lectures supplement the readings, and there will be no separate tutorials. Students are expected to do the required readings and actively participate in the class discussions. Each student will be required to prepare a presentation (15 minutes) on one of the topics and hand in a short handout to the instructor before the presentation. Those students who do not get the chance to present, will write a short synopsis based on the readings. Synopses should be typewritten (5 pages double-spaced). Each presentation or synopsis should be based on two readings, and should include proper citations of the sources, and pose two essay-type questions. Students are also required to write two exams, one in the middle of the term and one at the end of the term (2 hours each). Finally, there will be a term paper (about 12-15 pages double-spaced) on one of the course topics approved by the TA. Please refer to the guidelines at the end of this course outline.

**Grading:**

Class participation, 5%
Presentation or Synopsis, 15%
Mid-term exam, 20%
End of term exam, 30%
Paper 30% (5% for outline preparation and 25% for Paper)
Course Syllabus:
(Sept. 06, 2013), INTRODUCTION
Introducing the course; choosing presentation/synopsis topics;
Defining the Middle East; and Theoretical and Methodological Considerations.

(Sept. 10, 2013) GENERAL HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
- W. L. Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East, 2009, chs. 1 and 2.

(Sept. 12, 2013) WESTERN POWERS AND THE MIDDLE EAST
- L. Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East. 2009. Chapters. 3 and 9

(Sept. 17, 2013) FORMER USSR/RUSSIA & THE MIDDLE EAST

(Sept. 19, 2013) POLITICS OF OIL AND ARMS RACE

(Sep 24, 2013) WATER AND POLITICS
**Sept 26, 2013 RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM; Christian, Jewish**

**Oct. 1, 2013 RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM; Islamist**

**Oct.3, 2013 ECONOMIC (UNDER-) DEVELOPMENT**

**Oct. 8, 2013 ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM**

**Oct. 10, 2013 GENDER POLITICS**
**DEMOCRACY, AUTHORITARIANISM AND THE “ARAB SPRING”**

**Bellin, Eva.** (2012). 'Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring', *Comparative Politics*, 44: 127-149.


**ISRAEL**


**PALESTINIANS**


**EGYPT, JORDAN**


**SYRIA, LEBANON**


(Nov. 7, 2013) PEACE PROCESS
- *W. L. Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East, 2009, Ch. 23. (A Peace so Near…).

(Nov. 12, 2013) IRANIAN REVOLUTION
- *W. L. Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East, 2009, Ch. 20. (pp. 423-440).

(Nov. 14, 2013) IRAQ, AND THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR

(Nov. 19, 2013) IRAQ, AND THE FIRST AND THE SECOND GULF WAR

(Nov. 21, 2013) SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND THE GCC

(Nov. 26, 2013) CANADA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

(Dec. 3, 2013) GROUP DEBATES

(Nov. 28, 2013) Conclusion and Review
AP/POLS 3260, AP/REI 3260, WAR AND PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
GUIDELINES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

I- Presentation: (15%)
- Choose a topic from the course outline on the first day of the class. There will be two presentations for each topic.
- Read ALL the readings assigned for the week, and in coordination with your presentation partner, choose TWO readings each, one required (marked with an * or **) and one recommended. Readings should not be repeated in presentations.
- Prepare your presentation along with a short handout (two pages). Please forward an electronic copy of the handout to your TA and instructor one day before the presentation. Pose two essay-like questions and include them along with the full citation of the two readings in the handout. Each presentation is 15 minutes in length. Please make sure that you rehearse.
- Presentations should provide an overview of the main points and arguments of the readings. While you are welcome to comment and criticize the readings, you are not to use the presentation as a forum for expressing your political positions. There will always be an opportunity to express your views during the discussion period.
- The use of any material other than the assigned readings, including video clips and photos needs prior permission of the instructor.

II- Synopsis: (15%)
- Choose a topic from the course outline.
- Read ALL the readings assigned for the week, and choose TWO readings, one required and one recommended.
- The synopsis while providing an overview of the two readings should be structured around a thesis based on the readings. Provide full citations.
- Pose two essay-like questions related to the readings and include the questions at the end of your synopsis. The Synopsis should be typewritten in five pages double-spaced, and should be handed in to your TA on the SAME day that the topic is discussed in the class. Your TA should approve the topic and date.

III- Exams: (Mid-term two-hours, 20%, and end of term two-hours, 35%)
Both exams follow the same format. There will be two parts. The first part (40%) includes 8 terms to be defined briefly. The terms are taken from a list given to the class one week before the exam, and there will be no optional questions in this part and you may answer this part in point form. The second part (60%) includes optional essay questions, each related to one of the topics discussed in the course. You choose any two topics.

IV- Term paper: (25% + 5% for outline) due the last session.
- Choose any topic (theme, issue, country, or region) related to the course and provide a written note to your TA. The outline should include your thesis and an overview of your potential arguments, as well as a list of preliminary sources, and will be worth (5%), you must also schedule a meeting with your TA to discuss the outline. Start research by the mid-term. In the introduction explicitly define the thesis of the paper.
- The paper should be based on 8-10 different sources, and about 12 to 15 pages. The sources used should be primarily from academic books and journals, and only a few internet sources are acceptable. Please properly cite the sources and provide footnotes or endnotes. Provide a separate bibliography at the end of the paper. Please refer to the “Guidelines for Avoiding Plagiarism”, and if you need help consult the Centre for Academic Writing (S329 Ross, 416 736 5134).