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*, 5th edition, 2013, 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.

Each session will begin with a review of current events in the Middle East. Students are expected to follow the news and participate in the discussions.

**Course Requirements**

The course consists of lectures and discussions of students synopses. 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 select a topic and write a short synopsis (5 pages double-spaced) based on two readings, and pose two essay-type questions to be discussed in the session dealing with that topic. 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, 10%
Presentation or Synopsis, 15%
Mid-term exam, 20%
End of term exam, 30%
Paper 25%
Course Syllabus:
(Sept. 09, 2014), INTRODUCTION
Introducing the course; choosing presentation/synopsis topics;
Defining the Middle East; and Theoretical and Methodological Considerations.

(Sept. 11, 2014) GENERAL HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE
- *W. L. Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East, 2013 chs. 1 and 2.

(Sept. 16, 2014) WESTERN POWERS AND THE MIDDLE EAST
- * L. Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East. 2013. Chapters. 3 and 9

(Sept. 18, 2014) FORMER USSR/RUSSIA & THE MIDDLE EAST

(Sept. 23, 2014) POLITICS OF OIL AND ARMS RACE

(Sep 25, 2014) WATER AND POLITICS
- Fira Seliktar, Turning Water into Fire: The Jordan River Basins and the Hidden Factor in the Six Day War, MERIA Vol. 9(2), June 2005
(Sep 30, 2014) RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM; Christian, Jewish

(Oct. 2, 2014) RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM; Islamist

(Oct. 7, 2014) ECONOMIC (UNDER-) DEVELOPMENT

(Oct. 9, 2014) ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM

(Oct. 14, 2014) GENDER POLITICS
-**Haideh Moghissi. (2011) “Islamic Feminism Revisited”, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, 31(1): 76-84.

(Oct. 16, 2014) DEMOCRACY, AUTHORITARIANISM AND THE “ARAB SPRING”
-Salloukh, Bassel F. (2013), 'The Arab Uprisings and the Geopolitics of the Middle East', *The

(Oct. 21, 2014) Mid-term exam

(Oct. 23, 2014) ISRAEL

(Oct. 28, 2014) PALESTINIANS
-*W. L. Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East, 2013, ch. 17.

(Oct 30, 2013) Co-curricular week. No classes

(Nov. 4, 2014), EGYPT, JORDAN
-*W. L. Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East, 2013, ch.15.

(Nov. 6, 2014) SYRIA, LEBANON
-*W. L. Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East, 2013, ch. 12, and pp. 382-392.
-Knio, Karim. (2013). 'Structure, Agency and Hezbollah: A Morphogenetic View', Third World -

(Nov. 11, 2014) PEACE PROCESS
-*W. L. Cleveland, A History of the Modern Middle East, 2013, Ch. 23. (A Peace so Near,…).
(Nov. 13, 2014) IRANIAN REVOLUTION

(Nov. 18, 2014) IRAQ, AND THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR

(Nov. 20, 2014) IRAQ, AND THE FIRST AND THE SECOND GULF WAR

(Nov. 25, 2014) SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT AND THE GCC

(Nov. 27, 2014) Group Debate
Two groups of four to five students volunteer to debate major sources of conflicts between Palestinians and Israelis, including border and security, Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, and water distribution.
I-Participation:
- Participation mark is based on attendance and active involvement in class discussions. It is important not to miss any session of the course.

II- Synopsis: (15%)
- Chose a topic from the course outline. This will be done on the first session of the class. (Three or four synopsis per session.)
- Read ALL the readings assigned for the week, and choose TWO readings, one required and one recommended.
- The synopsis provides an overview and comparison of the main points of the two readings. Please 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 about five pages double-spaced, and should be emailed to the TA and the instructor at least one night before the topic is discussed in the class.
- In the session dealing with the selected topic, after the lecture, each author of the synopsis will read her/his two questions and will provide brief answers. There will be a short class discussion on the questions. (The questions will be emailed to the class list ahead of time for discussion.

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%) 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. 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. 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).