

IR 3357 - Middle East in World Politics

Summer 2021-2022

Lecturer: Prof.Emre İşeri

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E-mail: emre.iseri@yasar.edu.tr

Regularly check **sakai** for slides and announcements

1)Course Description and Aim

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with a comprehensive introduction to international relations of the contemporary Middle East. It aims to discuss the state-society dynamics as well as regional and international politics of the region with a particular reference Arab Uprisings. For that purpose we will refer to the historical evolution of Middle Eastern state systems, characteristics of state formation (e.g. authoritarian robustness), intra/inter-state conflicts/tensions, the nature of the region's political economy that is mainly based on energy rents, role of transnational identities (i.e. Ummah, pan-Arabism, ethnicities, communitarianism) and external great power and non-Arab regional power (i.e.Turkey and Iran) influences.

The course aims to

- Introduce students to fundamental dynamics of international relations of the Middle East.
- Make students familiar with the major players, the existing institutions governing it, and the emerging shape of the Middle East sub-system.
- Enable students to analyze current problems of the regional politics.
- Generate plausible and persuasive policy recommendations on the problems of the Middle East.

2) Course Requirements and Assessment

70% attendance is obligatory!!!

Two Quiz: Each 15% , Total 30%

Mid-Term: 30 %

Final: 40 %

3) Sources

Required (located at sakai):

Louise Fawcett (ed.), **International relations of the Middle East** , Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press, 2016.

Recommend (all located at sakai):

Owen, Roger, State , **Power and Politics in the Making of Modern Middle East**, London : Routledge , 2004 .

Cleveland, William L. & Martin Bunton, **A history of the modern Middle East**, Boulder, CO : Westview Press, 2013. (Located at **YU Library** - DS 62.4 .C54 2013 k.1)

Gelvin, James L., **The Arab uprisings : What everyone needs to know**, New York : Oxford University Press, 2012. (located in **YU Library** - JQ 1850 .G45 2012 k.1)

Recommended Books in Turkish:

Bozaslan, Hamit, **Ortadoğu'nun Siyasal Sosyolojisi & Arap İsyanlarından Önce ve Sonra** , İstanbul: İLETİŞİM YAYINLARI , 2012.

Demirtaş, Erdem, **Ortadoğu'da Devlet ve İktidar Otoriter Rejimler Üzerine Bir İnceleme** , Metis Yayınları , 2014.

Gerges, Fawaz A. (ed.), **Yeni Ortadoğu : Arap Dünyasında Protesto ve Devrim**, İstanbul: Matbuat Yayın, 2014.

Goldschmid, Arthur, **Kısa Ortadoğu tarihi** , Doruk yayıncılık : İstanbul , 2008.

Karpat, Kemal H., **Ortadoğu'da Osmanlı mirası ve ulusçuluk** , Ankara : İmge Kitabevi, 2001.

Oğuzlu, Tarık (ed.), **Küresel ve Bölgesel Güçlerin Ortadoğu Politikaları: Arap Baharı ve Sonrası**, Nobel Yayınları: Ankara,2018.

Links to recommended sites on the Middle East

Al-Monitor

<http://www.al-monitor.com/>

Al Jazeera

www.aljazeera.com

BBC News

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/middle_east/

Financial Times

www.ft.com/world/mideast

Gulf in the media

www.gulfinthedia.com

The Daily Star ; <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/>

The Guardian ; www.guardian.co.uk/world/middleeast/roundup

The New York Times ; www.nytimes.com/pages/world/middleeast/

Middle East Eye; <https://www.middleeasteye.net/>

Middle East Monitor; <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/>

Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) – Check for reports on various themes as well ! <https://pomeps.org/>

SEMESTER OUTLINE

Week 1

Overview of the course, expectations, and general introduction & Studying Middle East through IR Theories/Concepts

Required reading:

Fawcett, pp.21-38.

Sinkaya, Bayram , “Introduction to Middle Eastern Politics: Leading Factors, Actors , and Dynamics” , ORSAM Resource, No:1 , April 2016, <http://www.orsam.org.tr/files/ORSAMKaynak/1/1eng.pdf>

Sasley, Brent E., “Studying Middle Eastern International Relations Through IR Theory”, Ortadoğu Etütleri, Volume 2, No 2, January 2011, pp. 9-32. (http://www.orsam.org.tr/en/enUploads/Article/Files/201121_brent%20E.orsam.pdf)

Recommended readings:

Teti, Andrea, "Bridging the gap: IR, Middle East Studies and the disciplinary politics of the area studies controversy." *European Journal of International Relations* 13.1 (2007): 117-145.

Bilgin, Pinar, "Whose ‘Middle East’? Geopolitical inventions and practices of security." *International Relations* 18.1 (2004): 25-41.

Gause, F. Gregory,. "Why Middle East Studies missed the Arab spring: The myth of authoritarian stability." (2011) : 81-90.

Fawcett, Louise,. "States and sovereignty in the Middle East: myths and realities." *International Affairs* 93.4 (2017): 789-807.

Valbjørn, M. “Strategies for Reviving the International Relations/Middle East Nexus after the Arab Uprisings.” *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 50(3) (2017): 647-651.

Week 2 – Continued

Week 3– Quiz & The Emergence of the Middle East into the Modern State-System

Required reading: Fawcett, pp.39-61.

Recommended reading: Owen, pp.5-22 & Cleveland, pp.193-238.

Bilgin, Pinar. "What is the point about Sykes–Picot?." *Global Affairs* 2.3 (2016): 355-359.

Garfinkle, Adam. "The fall of empires and the formation of the modern Middle East." *Orbis* 60.2 (2016): 204-216.

Rogan, Eugene. "A century after Sykes-Picot." *The Cairo Review of Global Affairs* 19 (2015): 99.

Kurşun, Ali Murat, "Deconstructing the Sykes-Picot Myth: Frontiers, Boundaries, Borders and the Evolution of Ottoman Territoriality," *All Azimuth*, (2019): 1-22,
http://www.allazimuth.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Ali-Murat-Kursun_Sykes-Picot-Myth.pdf

Recommended Youtube Videos:

The History of the Middle East: Every Year; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5eIADs7Ct-Q&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=1>

The Fall Of The Ottoman Empire;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MawOLbHtnMY&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=2>

Middle East bears scars of Sykes-Picot Treaty;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpcVUH_xcEc&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=4

The Balfour Declaration's impact, 100 years on | The Economist;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbdvn8QHyX8&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=5>

Week 4– Continued

Week 5 - The Middle East since the Cold-War

Required Reading: Fawcett, pp.62-78

Recommended Readings: Owen, pp.56-72 & Cleveland, pp. 301-344 & 369-472 (skim)

Recommended Youtube Videos:

Here's How the Truman Doctrine Established the Cold War | History;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jb8aW46T3bg>

Here's Why the Suez Crisis Almost Led to Nuclear War | History ;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0e7LZu_ceZQ&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=8

Lebanon's confusing civil war ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg4Z1iiy7SQ>

Iran's Revolutions: Crash Course World History 226;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w4Ku6l7OEI>

Here's How the Camp David Accords Impacted the Middle East | History;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbe9ElB5vfQ&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=40>

What Happened in the Iran-Iraq War? | History;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9PT45EJdrM>

Week 6 - Continued

Week 7 –The Middle East in the Post-Cold War Period

Week 8 - Continued & Revision before the Midterm

Required Reading : Fawcett, pp.79-104

Recommended Readings : Owen,pp.90-110 & Cleveland, pp. 473-556 (skim).

Sherman, Wendy R. "How We Got the Iran Deal: And Why We'll Miss It." *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 97, no. 5, September/October 2018, p. 186-198. HeinOnline, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora97&i=1027> .

Lynch, Marc. "The New Arab Order: Power and Violence in Today's Middle East." *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 97, no. 5, September/October 2018, p. 116-132. *HeinOnline*, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora97&i=956>

Recommend Youtube Videos:

Here's How the Arab Spring Started and How It Affected the World | History;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fgcd5ZcxDys&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=34>

The Middle East's cold war, explained;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veMFCFyOwFI&t=245s>

Week 9 – MID TERM

Week10 : Energy and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East

Required readings:

Fawcett, pp.105-130.

Recommended readings:

Benli Altunışık, Meliha. "Rentier State Theory and the Arab Uprisings: An Appraisal." *International Relations/Uluslararası İlişkiler* 11.42 (2014): 75-91.

Ediger, Volkan Ş., and John V. Bowlus. "A Farewell to King Coal: Geopolitics, Energy Security, and the Transition to Oil, 1898–1917." *The Historical Journal* 62.2 (2019): 427-449.

Ediger, Volkan Ş., and John V. Bowlus. "Greasing the wheels: the Berlin-Baghdad railway and Ottoman oil, 1888–1907." *Middle Eastern Studies* 56.2 (2020): 193-206.

Malik, Adeel, and Bassem Awadallah. "The economics of the Arab Spring." *World Development* 45 (2013): 296-313.

Ross, Michael L. "Will oil drown the Arab Spring? Democracy and the resource curse." *Foreign Affairs* (2011): 2-7.

Snider, E. A. (2017). International Political Economy and the New Middle East. *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 50(3), 664-667.

Recommended Youtube Videos:

Interview with Michael Ross, author of 'The Oil Curse' ;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MMz22q7DRs&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=18>

Why Resource Rich Countries Grow Slowly?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvW0kcajWKk&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=18>

The Resource Curse and Gender Inequality;

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWAvZxVZL3E&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=17&t=61s>

Week 11: Continued & Continued & The Politics of Identity in the Middle East

Required readings: Fawcett, pp.155-175 & 176-195.

Recommended : Owen, pp.154-177.

Fukuyama, Francis. "Against Identity Politics: The New Tribalism and the Crisis of Democracy." *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 97, no. 5, September/October 2018, p. 90-115. HeinOnline, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora97&i=930>.

Hinnebusch, Raymond. "The sectarianization of the Middle East: Transnational identity wars and competitive interference." *Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS)* (2016).

Kumaraswamy, P. R. "Who am I? The identity crisis in the Middle East." *Middle East Review of International Affairs* 10.1 (2006): 63-73.

Lynch, Marc., "Islam Divided between Salafi-jihad and the Ikhwan." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 33.6 (2010): 467-487.

Recommended Youtube videos:

Vali Nasr: What roles does fundamental Islam play in the Middle Eastern politics?;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8GYvJL_mWo&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=21

The Sunni-Shia Divide; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNK_Uk0fw5A

Week 12 (Week of December 21) – Continued & Alliances and Regionalism in the Middle East

Required readings: Fawcett, pp.196-217.

Recommended readings :

Aras, B., & Yorulmazlar, E. (2017). Mideast Geopolitics: The Struggle for a New Order. *Middle East Policy*, 24(2), 57-69.

Aras, B., and Richard Falk. "Authoritarian 'geopolitics' of survival in the Arab Spring." *Third World Quarterly* 36.2 (2015): 322-336.

Colombo, Silvia. "The GCC and the Arab Spring: A tale of double standards." *The International Spectator* 47.4 (2012): 110-126.

Hanau Santini, Ruth. "A New Regional Cold War in the Middle East and North Africa: Regional Security Complex Theory Revisited." *The International Spectator* 52.4 (2017): 93-111.

Hinnebusch, Raymond. "The Arab Uprisings and The MENA Regional States System." *International Relations/Uluslararası İlişkiler* 11.42 (2014): 7-27.

Monier, Elizabeth. "The Arabness of Middle East regionalism: the Arab Spring and competition for discursive hegemony between Egypt, Iran and Turkey." *Contemporary Politics* 20.4 (2014): 421-434.

Rabi, Uzi, and Chelsi Mueller. "The Gulf Arab states and Israel since 1967: from 'no negotiation' to tacit cooperation." *British Journal of Middle eastern studies* 44.4 (2017): 576-592.

Recommend Youtube videos:

Israel and the Gulf: an unholy alliance?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvx02dgnVc&list=PLSLtTqTBuFD10rbJS3LiJ9WC2dYUYbbkm&index=22&t=129s>

The Abraham Accords: The PR of the 'peace deals';

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p75R9MiSMSo>

Week 13– QUIZ & The Arab-Israel Conflict

Required reading: Fawcett, pp.259-284.

Recommended reading :

Christiane, J. Fröhlich, "Security and discourse: the Israeli–Palestinian water conflict." *Conflict, Security & Development* 12.2 (2012): 123-148.

Dessì, Andrea, "Israel and the Palestinians in a Changing Neighbourhood." *The International Spectator* 48.2 (2013): 77-95.

Farsakh, Leila. "The one-state solution and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Palestinian challenges and prospects." *The Middle East Journal* 65.1 (2011): 55-71.

Jones, Clive, and Beverley Milton Edwards. "Missing the 'devils' we knew? Israel and political Islam amid the Arab Awakening." *International affairs* 89.2 (2013): 399-415.

Recommended Videos:

Conflict in Israel and Palestine: Crash Course World History 223 ;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wo2TLIMhiw>

The Israel-Palestine conflict: a brief, simple history;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRYZjOuUnIU>

Week 14– Continued & Revision before the final