

COMMON COURSE OUTLINE

Political Science POLS 1133 Introduction to Middle East Politics

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. Credits 3
2. Lecture hours/week 3 lecture per week, no lab
3. Prerequisites none
4. Co-requisites none
5. MnTC goals
 - #5: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
 - #8: Global Perspective
6. Description:

Explores the historical background and current dynamics of Middle Eastern politics, including the causes and consequences of political, economic, social, cultural, military, ethnic, nationalist, and religious conditions. Central concerns include post-colonial experiences of military conflict, political and economic development, oil politics, political change and stability, democracy and autocracy, corruption, migrants and refugees, regional violence and conflicts, foreign policies, and current and enduring challenges.

DATES LAST REVISED: March 2014, July 2015, November 2017 [for Transfer Pathway submission].

DATES LAST REVIEWED: August 2018

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

Legacy of Ottoman Empire, Colonialism, and Anti-colonial Resistance

Israel-Palestine-Arab Conflict

Arab Nationalism, Authoritarianism, and Democratization Movements

Economic Policies and Development with or without Oil

Islamic Movements, Revolutions, and States

Competing Faiths and Identities

Broad Social Change: political, economic, cultural, demographic,

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successfully completing this course for use as a Political Science elective in the Transfer Pathway, students will be able to do at least 75% of the learning outcomes listed immediately below (six of the eight items):

1. Explore topics and methods associated with the discipline of Political Science.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of different subfields of the discipline of Political Science, such as political theory, international relations, comparative government, American politics, and political behavior.
3. Recognize the diversity of political motives and interests of others.
4. Analyze political ideologies and explain how these lead to different goals and political conflict.
5. Examine the relationships among various values, principles, institutions, and traditions, as well as the economic, political, legal, and social orders.
6. Analyze the principles, institutions, and practices of democracy and the rights and responsibilities citizens possess in democratic societies.
7. Analyze the empirical and normative dimensions of political relationships.
8. Apply core concepts such as rights, obligations, justice, liberty, power, and (in)equality to specific issues.

More specifically, students successfully completing this course will be able to:

9. Explain the historical evolution of political institutions, processes, and conditions in the Middle East (MnTC goal 5b)
10. Assess how political values, institutions, and behaviors in diverse countries and regions shape individual lives, public policies, and political, legal, economic, social, historical, and cultural conditions (MnTC goals 5a and 5c)
11. Illustrate how a variety of perspectives and motives – such as economic development, nationalism, revolutionary goals, or religious beliefs – can differently explain political, legal, economic, social, historical, cultural, and religious conditions (MnTC goals 5c, 5d, and 8b)
12. Assess how political, legal, economic, social, historical, cultural, religious, and linguistic features influence the relationships among states and societies in the past, present, and future (MnTC goals 8a and 8b)
13. Address national and international conditions by engaging the political, legal, economic, social, historical, cultural, religious, and linguistic factors informing the situation and potential solutions (MnTC goal 8c)
14. Exercise and assess the roles, responsibilities, and ethical features of active global citizenship (MnTC goal 8d)

METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING

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May include diagnostic, formative, and summative versions of: answering questions on exams and quizzes; long-form writing (such as writing reactions to political events and conditions, evaluating public policy, advocating policy, writing research essays and political analyses); short-form writing (such as in-class essays, book reviews, reflective writing, opinion pieces, Letters to the Editor, or other brief commentary); submitting a writing portfolio; and participating in group activities, group projects, classroom discussion, classroom presentations, classroom activities, oral presentations, or debates.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: None

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION about MnTC GOALS

From http://www.mntransfer.org/students/plan/s_mntc.php and links (viewed July 2015)

MnTC goals:

#5: History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences

Goal: To increase students' knowledge of how historians and social and behavioral scientists discover, describe, and explain the behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, events, and ideas. Such knowledge will better equip students to understand themselves and the roles they play in addressing the issues facing humanity.

Students will be able to:

- a. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
- b. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
- c. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
- d. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

#8: Global Perspective

Goal: To increase students' understanding of the growing interdependence of nations and peoples and develop their ability to apply a comparative perspective to cross-cultural social, economic, and political experiences.

Students will be able to:

- a. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
- b. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
- c. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
- d. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

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