**UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Politics of Middle East (IR 473)**

**Spring 2022**

**Resource Person: M. Adil Zahoor**

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**INTRODUCTION**

This course will seek to understand the major political developments in the Middle East, from the Ottoman period to the present. It’s divided into two major sections: excavating the history of the region and the topical description from the postcolonial era. After delving into how Islam spread in and unified the region, we will focus on the major changes that have shaped and reshaped the Middle East over the past two centuries. This includes the Ottoman era, French and British colonial interventions, anti-colonial protest and the rise of nationalism, the development and entrenchment of the modern state, and the Arab/Israeli conflict. We will also cover thematic topics including political Islam, minority rights, elements of authoritarian governance, the role of civil society and its relationship to the state, and popular protest and revolution.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

After attending this course, students will:

1. Have a basic understanding of the politics of the Middle East
2. Have an analytical awareness of the differing forms of state and state power in the region: an understanding of the some of the perennial conflicts of the region and the role of external powers

**Grading Components**

Class Participation, Attendance 10%

Presentation 10%

Surprise Quiz 10%

Mid-term 35%

Final 35%

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Week 1: Introduction to the course**
2. **Week 2: Introduction to the Middle East**

Edward Said. 1978. “The Latest Phase,” Chapter IV of Part 3, “Orientalism Now” in Orientalism

1. **Week 3: Islam and Ottoman period**

Betty S. Anderson. 2016. “Reform and Rebellion: The Ottoman Empire, Egypt and Qajar Iran in the 19th Century,” in A History of the Modern Middle East: Rulers, Rebels and Rogues

1. **Week 4: Colonialism**

Required readings will be shared

1. **Week 5: Anti-Colonial Resistance**

Lawrence, Adria. 2013. Imperial Rule and the Politics of Nationalism: Anti-Colonial Protest in the French Empire, Chapters 2-3.

1. **Week 6: Postcolonialism and state formation**

Required readings will be shared

1. **Week 7: Midterm**
2. **Week 8: Israel/ Palestine**

Said, E. W. (1992). *The question of Palestine*. Vintage.

Chomsky, N., & Pappé, I. (2015). *On Palestine*. Haymarket Books.

1. **Week 9: Israel/ Palestine**

Pappe, I. (2002). *The Israel/Palestine question: a reader*. Routledge.

Pappé, I. (2006). The 1948 ethnic cleansing of Palestine. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, *36*(1), 6-20.

1. **Week 10: Authoritarianism**

Lisa Anderson. 1986. The State and Social Transformation in Tunisia and Libya, Chapters 11, 12. [optional] Joel Benin. 2001. “Populist Nationalism, State-led Development and Workers and Authoritarian Regimes,” in Peasants in the Modern Middle East

1. **Week 11: Minorities**

Zaid Eyadat. 2014. “Minorities in the Arab World: Faults, Fault-lines, and Coexistence,” in Will Kymlicka and Eva Pföstl (eds), Multiculturalism and Minority Rights in the Arab World. Amir Hassanpour. 1994. “The Kurdish Experience.” Middle East Research and Information Project.

1. **Week 12: Revolutions**

Marc Lynch (ed.). 2014. The Arab Uprisings Explained: New Contentious Politics in the Middle East, select chapters to be assigned. Charles

Tripp. 2013. “Symbolic Forms of Resistance: Art and Power,” in The Power and the People: Paths of Resistance in the Middle East.

1. **Week 13: Revolutions**

Tripp. 2013. “Symbolic Forms of Resistance: Art and Power,” in The Power and the People: Paths of Resistance in the Middle East.

1. **Week 14: Contemporary Situation**

Readings will be shared

1. **Week 15: Concluding Week**