But the work of man is only just beginning, and it remains to conquer all the violence entrenched in the recesses of our passion, for no race possesses the monopoly of beauty, of intelligence, of force. And there is a place for all at the rendezvous of victory. - Aimé Césaire

PS 199
CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
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397D Anstett/

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course will explore the ethnic, geopolitical, and socioeconomic forces that set the stage for the popular uprisings and civil wars that have torn apart the Middle East and brought so much misery to its already suffering masses. Specifically, we are interested in the nature and the causes of recent popular uprisings, the future shapes of governments or states, and the ways by which these crises can be resolved.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
(1) Introduce students to the political, social, and ethnic dynamics that have led to the present day crises.
(2) Develop the analytical skills to examine ongoing regional crises in light of post-colonial, neoliberal, and revolutionary theories.
(3) Gain empirical knowledge to identify similarities among countries and their peoples that can aid in long-term resolution of current crises.

REQUIRED READINGS:
Patrick Cockburn, Age of Jihad, 2016
Adam Hanieh, Lineages of Revolt: Issues of Contemporary Capitalism in the Middle East, 2013
Rami Khouri et.al., Interventions in Conflict: International Peacemaking in the Middle East, 2016

Completing the reading assignments in this course is the student’s responsibility. I do not lecture directly out of the readings. Instead, lectures will use the readings as a point of departure. Your understanding of lecture material, therefore, will be enhanced by having completed and understood the assigned reading before coming to class. All the readings are fair game on the exams.

GRADING CRITERIA:
Examinations: The mid-term and the final will each worth 35% of your course grade. Each exam is made up of six equally weighted essay questions. Three questions are drawn from the readings and three from the lectures. For each exam you are required to answer two questions from the readings and two questions from the lectures.
**Simulation:** An in class group presentation and a two page proposal will account for 20% of your grade. Negotiating groups will be formed around three areas of conflict and crisis: Iraq, Syria, and Israel-Palestine. Members of each negotiating team will draw on their knowledge to reach an agreement that is inclusive of all the parties involved.

**Geography Quizzes:** The remaining 10% of course grade will be based on two geography quizzes, (5% each). Questions will be a combination of multiple choice, true/false, and identifications drawn from information presented in class, the relevant material on Canvass, emails, and class handouts.

**Thresholds:** Below 60%= F, 60% and up= D- to D+, 70% and up= C- to C+, 80% and up= B- to B+, and 90% and up= A.

Steady improvements during the course of the semester will be taken into account if you are on the borderline (within two points of the next higher grade).

Make-Up exams will be granted only under extreme circumstances, resulting from:
- Documented family emergencies.
- Documented travel associated with university obligations.
- Severe illness or injury documented by the attending physician.

**RULES:**
- **Punctuality.** Late arrival and early departure are disrespectful and disrupts the class.
- **Phones must be turned off and packed away before the start of lecture.**
- **Laptop use should be limited to note taking.** Any other use is easily noticeable, rude, and disruptive.
- Films shown in class or otherwise assigned for home viewing are integral part of the course and should be treated as such.
- Extra credit assignments and “study guides” will not be available.
- I cannot give exams to those who arrive after the first student has finished and left the classroom.
- I will be happy to advice you on how to improve your grade. However, grades are not subject to negotiation. In absence of a clerical error, your grades are final.

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:** University’s policies on scholastic dishonesty will be enforced in this course vigorously. These could include receiving an F for the course or dismissal from the university. For more information see:
http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct.aspx

**WEEK BY WEEK**

Week 1
**CRISIS AND CONFLICT**
Khouri et.al., Chapters 1-3, 5
Week 2
THE DIFFERENCE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE
Sarker, “Arab Spring and the Contemporary Geopolitics of the Middle East” (on Canvas)

Week 3
WHY SO MUCH INSTABILITY?
Hanieh, Chapter 2

Week 4
NEOcolonialism AND ITS LONG SHADOW
Cockburn, Chapters 3-7

Week 5
SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS DETRACTORS
Cockburn, Chapters 9-12
Khouri et.al., Chapters 6-9

Week 6
NEOLIBERALISM AND ITS WRECKAGE
Hanieh, Chapters 1, 3, 7

Week 7
ISLAMISM AND ITS CHARNAGE
Cockburn, Chapters 15-20
Khouri et.al., Chapter 8

Week 8
CASE STUDY: IRAQ
Simulation

Week 9
CASE STUDY: SYRIA
Cockburn, Chapters 13-14
Khouri et.al., Chapter 4
Simulation

Week 10
CASE STUDY: ISRAEL-PALESTINE
Hanieh, Chapter 5
Khouri et.al., Chapters 6-7
Simulation