

190.408: **Advanced Readings in Middle East History and Politics** (Spring 2009)

Political Science 190.408 | Time: Mondays 1:30-3:50pm | Location: MSE Library, Eisenberg Room (D1)

Professor Waleed Hazbun | hazbun@jhu.edu | Office Hours: Mon. by appt. 258 Merg.

Intensive readings on Middle East topics; including Islamic history, Arab and Iranian political thought, political Islam, nationalism and political identity, and US policy in the region. This seminar is intended for advanced undergraduates and graduate students to explore and discuss issues, themes, and readings introduced in 190.311 and 190.346.

Prerequisites: 190.311 (Middle East Politics) or 190.346 (US in the Middle East) or Perm. Req'd

Requirements:

1. Informed and engaged participation in weekly seminar (20% of grade)

I will take attendance. I allow one missed session with no penalty, no questions asked. Beyond that missed classes impact your grade a bit. I do not care to hear excuses (except for severe physical or mental illness to you or family member). You can only make up additional missed sessions (max of 2) through active participation in the sessions you do attend. I expect everyone to have read the material *thoroughly*. I will often ask students direct questions about the reading (and allow a one-time-only “didn’t have time for the reading” pass).

2. In-class presentation (about 5-10 mins) about one of the week’s reading (5%)

Presentation will begin 2nd hour of seminar. Your task is to present critique or critical reading of one or more of week’s readings and suggest questions for class discussion. If you have a handout, you can email it to me by noon to make copies for the class.

3. Three 5 page critical review essays (15% each), Choose any 3 sessions, but must write 1st paper by Feb 25. The paper is not a summary of reading, but a critical evaluation of important/interesting claims. The paper is due at 4pm the Wednesday after seminar in my mailbox 338 Mergenthaler. You are free to rewrite paper for better grade (but are expected to make substantial improvements or write more than 3 and I will count 3 highest marks. Please see “Notes on Writing” handout.

4. Undergraduates: 15-20 page review essay, can be expansion of a review papers. Due May 8 (30%) Paper must focus on a central question or issue through a critical examination of one or more of the course texts. It may draw on relevant outside readings, such as reviews and critiques or other related readings.

Graduate students: 20-25 page critical review essay or research paper, due May 8.

Paper may address Middle East topics beyond those covered in seminar. In any case, paper should engage relevant literature relating to topic.

Required texts:

- Zackary Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East* (Cambridge, 2004)
- Malise Ruthven, *Islam: A Very Short Introduction*, (Oxford, 2000)
- Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood* (Beacon, 2007)
- As'ad AbuKhalil, *The Battle for Saudi Arabia* (Seven Stories, 2003)
- Rashid Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East* (Beacon, 2005)
- Asef Bayat, *Making Islam Democratic: Social Movements and the Post-Islamist Turn* (Stanford, 2007)
- P. Cockburn, *Muqtada: Muqtada al-Sadr, the Shia Revival, and the Struggle for Iraq* (Scribner, 2008)
- Olivier Roy, *The Politics of Chaos in the Middle East* (Columbia, 2008)

Introduction [Jan. 26]

Islam and Orientalism [Feb. 2]

Ruthven, *Islam: A Very Short Introduction*, pp. 1-148.
Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East*, pp. 1-7, 66-98.
Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire*, Introduction, Ch 1.

The Politics of Middle East Studies [Feb. 9]

Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East*, pp. 99-272
Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire*, Ch 2

A Critique of Arab Political Culture [Feb. 16]

Fouad Ajami, *The Arab Predicament: Arab Political Thought and Practice since 1967* (Cambridge; 2nd ed. 1992), pp. xiii-xx, 1-87.
Fouad Ajami, *The Dream Palace of the Arabs* (Pantheon, 1998), pp. 26-110
Adam Shatz, "The Native Informant," *The Nation*, April 28, 2003.

Debating Islamic Political Thought, the Arab Condition, and Modernity [Feb. 23]

Samir Kassir, *Being Arab* (Verso, 2006), pp. 1-92 [available for photocopy]
Richard Bulliet, *The Case for Islamo-Christian Civilization* (Columbia, 2006) pp. 47-133.

Palestinian History and the Politics of Statehood [March 2]

Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*, pp. ix-217
Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire*, Ch 4.
Rashid Khalidi, "Palestine: Liberation Deferred," *The Nation*, May 26, 2008.

The Politics of the Saudi Kingdom: Islam, Oil, and the United States [March 9]

AbuKhalil, *The Battle for Saudi Arabia*, pp. 13-213.
Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire*, Ch 3.
Timothy Mitchell, "McJihad: Islam in the US Global Order," *Social Text* No. 73 (Winter 2002): 1-18.
Robert Vitalis, "The Closing of the Arabian Oil Frontier and the Future of Saudi-American Relations," *Middle East Report* (July-September 1997): 15-21, 25.

[March 16: Spring Break]

Democracy and Popular Sovereignty in Political Islam [March 23]

John L. Esposito and James P. Piscatori, "Democratization and Islam." *Middle East Journal*, 45, 3 (Summer 1991): 427-440.

Abul ala Mawdudi, "Political Theory of Islam" in *Islam in Transition: Muslim Perspectives*, ed. John Donohue and John Esposito (Oxford, 1982), pp. 252-260.

Ervand Abrahamian, "Ali Shari'ati: Ideologue of the Iranian Revolution," *MERIP Reports* No. 102 (Jan., 1982): 24-28

Bayat, *Making Islam Democratic*, pp. 1-15

Islamism, Social Movements and Democracy in Iran and Egypt [March 30]

Bayat, *Making Islam Democratic*, pp. 16-205.

Images of Islam, Culture, and Moral Geographies in Global Politics [April 6]

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?," *Foreign Affairs* 72, 3 (Summer 1993): 22-49

John Trumbour, "The Clash of Civilizations: Samuel P. Huntington, Bernard Lewis, and the Remaking of the Post-Cold War World Order" in *The New Crusades* (Columbia, 2003) pp. 88-130.

Edward W. Said, "The Clash of Ignorance," *The Nation* October 22, 2001

Melani McAlister, *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, & U.S. Interests in the Middle East since 1945* (California, 2005, updated ed.), pp. 1-12, 235-307.

Hizballah, Political Violence and Politics in Postwar Lebanon [April 13]

Lara Deeb, "Hizballah: A Primer," *Middle East Report Online*, July 31, 2006,
<http://www.merip.org/mero/mero073106.html>

Augustus Richard Norton, *Hezbollah: A Short History* (Princeton, 2007), pp. 115-159

Amal Saad-Ghoreb, *Hizbu'llah: Politics and Religion* (Pluto, 2004), pp. 88-167

Nicholas Noe (ed.), *Voice of Hezbollah: The Statements of Sayed Hassan Nasrallah*, (Verso, 2007), pp. 370-410

David Wilmsen, "Nasrallah and the compromise and rehabilitation of Hizbullah's reputation," *Arab Media and Society* 7 (Winter 2009), <http://www.arabmediasociety.com/?article=703>

Iraq and the Sadrists [April 20] *Seminar will begin at 2pm*

Cockburn, *Muqtada: Muqtada al-Sadr, the Shia Revival, and the Struggle for Iraq*, pp. 1-213.

A Critique of US policy in the Middle East [April 27]

Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire*, Ch 5.

Roy, *The Politics of Chaos in the Middle East*, pp. 1-159.

Waleed Hazbun, "Beyond the Bush Doctrine," *Middle East Report*, No. 249 (Winter 2008): 38-44.

* **Final Paper due** * => Please place hardcopy in my mail box by 4 pm, **May 8**.