

# INST 209. INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

**PROF. VIVIAN IBRAHIM**

**Spring Semester 2017**

Tuesday/Thursday 11.00-12.15

Croft 107

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12.15 (Croft 204) or by appointment

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course looks at the historical, social and political development of the Middle East from the end of the Ottoman Empire to the present day. This course aims to contextualize contemporary debates within a historical overview of the Middle East, as well as provide the conceptual tools to understand the workings of regional and international powers.

## **TEACHING METHODS**

This class will be taught using a mixture of lectures, class discussions, and presentations. Students are expected to make their contribution through regular class participation critically assessing the reading assignments, responding to peer comments and presentations, and discussing the ideas and arguments presented in class. It is essential that all students participate actively in the discussions, which is a crucial element of the course.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES AND OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course students should be:

- Familiar with the chronology, concepts and analytical tools applied to the region
- Aware and able to engage with some of the different perspectives and debates within the field

## **ASSESSMENT AND GRADING:**

Your grade will be determined on the following basis:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Date Due</b>	<b>%</b>
Quizzes	One map quiz and pop quizzes	Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	5
Film Review of 1,000-1500 words	Write a critique of <u>one</u> of the films (Week 5: "The White Helmets" or Week 7: "Caramel")  You should take into consideration the questions that will be handed out at the beginning of the film. And use them as a guide. This is an opportunity for you to analyze the film and not merely summarize. Review due the class after the film.	Assigned week	15

TWO 1,500 word essays	Titles will be provided on blackboard.	First essay due <u>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February</u>  Second essay due <u>Thursday 13<sup>rd</sup> April</u>	15 each
Participation	You are expected to read every article assigned for the week. There will be sporadic pop quizzes and I will call on people in class with questions. All readings will be available on BB.	Every class	10
Midterm		Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	15
Country presentation	To be discussed in class	Week 12-14	10
Final		Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May @ 12 noon	15

**All written assignments must be submitted through SafeAssign.**

The Croft Institute for International Studies operates on the plus/minus system. Grades lower than "C" will not count towards the International Studies Major.

The breakdown is:

100-93 A; 92-90 A-; 89-87 B+; 86-83 B; 82-80 B-; 79-77 C+; 76-73 C; 72-70 C-; 69-60 D; 59< F

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Students are permitted **two unexcused absences** during the semester. This includes sick days. After two unexcused absences, any further absences will result in a reduction by half a grade (i.e. B→B-). I will randomly take attendance during the semester to enforce this policy. Absence during an exam require a doctors note.

#### **CLASS ROOM ETIQUETTE:**

**Class begins at 11 am promptly**, I expect you to be ready for work. If you require a coffee to motivate you, then make sure you are caffeinated before you get to class. Yawning and falling asleep is disrespectful to both your classmates and me.

**Cell Phones must be turned off** before class. I do not permit texting in class.

**\*\*NO LAPTOPS\*\*** I am old school- bring a pen and a notebook!

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Academic integrity is essential to the values upon which the University was founded. All students must therefore observe academic honesty in all aspects of their work. **Any case of documented plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in an F grade.** You will sign the Croft Institute Plagiarism declaration during the first class. It is your

responsibility to become familiar with the University of Mississippi's official policy on academic integrity (available in the University 'M' book)

**READINGS:**

All readings will be available on BlackBoard

**TOPICS:**

Week 1: Introduction and Overview of Middle East

Week 2: Orientalism and other "Essentialisms" (**Map Quiz**)

Week 3: Arab and Middle Eastern Historical and Cultural Background

Week 4: Politics, the State and Authoritarianism (**Essay 1**)

Week 5: Case-study: The White Helmets (**Write up\***)

Week 6: Colonialism and Post-Colonial Challenges

Week 7: **Midterm**; Case Study: Caramel (**Write up\***)

Week 8: Social Dynamics in the Middle East: Family, Women, Community and Class

Week 9: Religion and Politics: The rise and use of Islamist politics

Week 10: The Arab Spring

Week 11: Terrorism in Context (**Essay 2**)

Week 12: Case-study country presentations

Week 13: Case-study country presentations

Week 14: Case-study country presentations

\* = Only one required

**\*\*\*SYLLABUS SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\***