Course Description and Goals
This graduate seminar is designed to review the scholarly research on the politics of the Middle East. The course aims to expose students to significant theoretical puzzles and the frontiers of applied research in the Middle Eastern politics. We will read, evaluate, and criticize social scientific research published in this area. We will discuss the best examples of qualitative and quantitative works within this research program by imposing a structured organization of the diverse studies in this area. With the completion of this course, you are expected to use the scholarly literature about Middle Eastern politics to conduct your own research.

Course Requirements
The reading load for this course is extensive. Students are expected to complete the readings in a timely manner and come to class well prepared to carry a good discussion. The grading components are as follows:

- 3 Review Papers (45%)
- Participation, Discussion Leadership (25%)
- Paper (30%)

Review Papers (45%): Student will write three review papers (each 15%). Review papers should include more than simple summaries of the assigned readings. They should engage in the theoretical and methodological aspects of the readings, provide a critical overview, point to the strengths and weaknesses, and also make connections to the other readings covered in the class. Students are expected to introduce new research questions and some ideas about future research projects. Each paper should be about 2000-2500 words, double-spaced, and typed with 10-12 font size. The review papers are due 24 hours before to class meeting time.

Participation, Discussion Leadership (25%): Students will assume a discussion leadership role for multiple sessions. A discussion leader will facilitate the discussion by providing a brief overview and identifying theoretical/methodological weakness or strengths of the readings. The group, however, will collectively carry the rest of the discussion. The quality of a gradate seminar depends on the efforts of the students. Thus, I expect class attendance and preparation to discuss the assigned material each week. You should complete the assigned readings in advance. As in any graduate seminar, you should think about the following questions for each assigned reading:

- What is the author’s main argument?
- What method is used? What kind of evidence is used to support the main argument?
- How is the reading different/similar compared to the other readings?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the authors’ analyses?
- Do you agree or disagree with the authors? Can you provide an alternative argument?

I am expecting to see vigorous scholarly debate during the class. All students should be professional, respectful, and courteous during the class discussion.
Research Paper (30%): This assignment gives you the opportunity to conduct your own political science research. You may choose any topic that fits the theme of the course. A good research paper starts with an interesting question. In your paper, you should explain why your research question is important and how it fits in the relevant research literature. Then you should review the literature, develop and argument and derive testable hypothesis, provide empirical evaluation of these hypothesis. You are expected to submit one page summary of your action plan for this assignment during the third week of the course. This action plan should state a clear research question, one paragraph description of relevant research, and the methods.

Grading and Make-Up Policy: Attendance is required. Students are expected to actively and substantially participate in class discussions and do not miss a session. Each absence without proper documentation will result in 1% point deduction from the final grade. Late submissions are not allowed. The following grade scale is applicable in this class:

A: 100-90, B: 89-80, C: 79-70, D: 69-60, F: 59-0. Grades are rounded to the nearest integer.

Academic Honesty & Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Kansas State University has an Honor & Integrity System based on personal integrity which is presumed to be sufficient assurance in academic matters one’s work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor & Integrity System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning. A component vital to the Honor & Integrity System is the inclusion of the Honor Pledge which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, whether or not it is stated: "On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work." The default in this class is that ALL work will be accomplished individually, UNLESS my permission is given in advance of an assignment/quiz/exam/take-home exam/final. If you are in doubt, please ask. A grade of XF can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation. For more information, visit the Honor & Integrity System home web page at: http://www.k-state.edu/honor/ Any student with a disability that needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or other assistance in this course should contact me.

COURSE SCHEDULE
January 19: Introduction, No readings!

Week 1, Jan 26: State of the Field
**Week 2, Feb 2: State and Society in the Middle East**
Nazih N. Ayubi. 1996. Over-Stating the Arab State: Politics and Society in the Middle East, I.B.Tauris, chapters 1, 3, 6, 7.

***ONE PAGE SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS***

**Week 3, Feb 9: Historical Perspectives on the Middle East-I**

**Week 4, Feb 16: Historical Perspectives on the Middle East-II**

**Week 5, Feb 25: Politics of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Survival Mechanisms**
**ONE PAGE PAPER PROGRESS REPORT DUE IN CLASS***

**Week 6, March 1: Politics of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Oil and Monarchies**


**Week 7, March 8: The Foundations of the Arab Spring**


March 14-18: SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS!

**Week 8, March 22: Public Opinion**


**Week 9, March 29: Political Participation**


Week 10, April 5: Globalization


Week 11, April 12: Political Economy


Week 12, April 19: Political Violence

Week 13, April 26: Political Islam


May 3, No Class

May 5, Middle East Workshop, Library Hemisphere Room, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Paper Due May 8, 10:00 PM in dropbox.

Middle East Workshop on May 5th, Library Hemisphere Room

****If we had time, we would have discussed following readings.****

Week 14: Radicalization and Terror


Çiftci, Sabri and Gunes Murat Tezcur. 2015. Radical Turks. Foreign Affairs online, November.

Week 15: International Relations of the Middle East
Raymond Hinnebusch, “The Middle East Regional System” in Raymond Hinnebusch and Anoushiravan Ehteshami (eds.), The Foreign Policies of Middle East States (Lynne Rienner, 2002), pp. 29-50


