The students will learn to critically examine a number of issues and themes in the politics of the Middle East. Selected topics include the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, religious fundamentalism, politics of oil, U.S. foreign policy, prospects for peace, democracy, and prosperity in the region, roots of terrorism, politics in Iraq, in Iran, in the occupied territories, the “war on terror,” and the Persian Gulf wars. The students will especially become familiar with the current crisis in Iraq and Palestine, and politics in Iran: both before and after the Islamic Revolution. A less detailed look at other nations of the region, such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Afghanistan, etc. will be offered as the course proceeds. However, the focus will be on significant themes and not on a country-by-country presentation.

**Required Books:**
- *Tinderbox*, Zunes
- *All the Shah’s Men*, Kinzer
- *Bush in Babylon*, Ali
- *Israel/Palestine*, Reinhart
- *Resurrecting Empire*, Khalidi

**Requirements:**

a. **Class Participation:** (10%)
   1) I expect and welcome consistent participation in class discussions in the form of questions, commentaries, challenges, and so on. Students should keep up with the news about and from the Middle East.
   2) Unexcused class absences will affect this portion of the grade. Each unexcused absence will reduce the student’s participation grade by 2 percentage points; thus, five absences translate into the participation grade of zero.

b. **Quizzes:** (15%)
   There will be a total of FIVE UNannounced quizzes during this course. Each quiz will take up no more than five minutes and is comprised of usually one and at most two questions. The questions are as basic as they can be and come right out of that week’s reading assignments. I don’t expect short or long essays on these quizzes. Instead, just a few sentences indicating that the student has read the assigned readings for that particular week. There shall be no make-ups regarding quizzes.

c. **RESEARCH Paper:** (25%)
   Write 6 pages (not including the endnotes or the bibliography), double-spaced, and typewritten on a topic of interest to you. Remember: Research requires going to sources outside of those assigned in class. Internet sources cannot make up more than a half of the bibliography. Topics must deal with political issues and themes in the Middle East that are significant and contemporary. Students may choose to research themes, issues, or historical events that are several decades old. The key here is whether they are relevant to an understanding of contemporary Middle East issues. Due date: Two weeks before our last class session.

d. **A Mid Term AND A Final Exam:** (25% each)
   Times will be announced in class.

**Evaluation**:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Class Readings** will be assigned on a class-by-class basis.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are encouraged to attend classes regularly. Absence due to illness requires written confirmation from a healthcare provider. Any other absence requires satisfactory explanation otherwise it will be marked and incorporated into the course grade determination.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** In cases of cheating or plagiarizing in any way, I will follow the appropriate procedures as they appear in the College Student Handbook.

\[\text{It is within my purview to apply qualitative judgment in the determination of any and all grades.}\]