

PSCI 490: Model Arab League

Department of Political Science

Spring 2015

Room: Hagey Hall 227

2:30-4:20 PM Wednesdays

Instructor: Dr. B. Momani

Office Room: Hagey Hall 302

Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00 – 1:00 pm (From May 7 to June 11)

Exception: Wednesday May 13th Office hours are cancelled

Contact Policy: Please try to come and see me during my office hours to talk. Let's not use email.

Course Description:

This course critically examines the foreign policy of the Middle East, specifically of the Levant countries like Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. We will be preparing for the Model Arab League (MAL), to which we will learn about the Arab League, current events, pressing international and regional issues, the basics of international law and some of the protocol and procedures of diplomacy and learn the rules of debate. This will assist students in preparing for their role as both a country representative and council member at the Model Arab League conference in Washington, DC on July 11 2015.

Course Requirements

A prerequisite or concurrent enrollment in either **PSCI 257** or **HIST 230** is required. No exceptions.

This course has a heavy emphasis on learning and acquiring practical experience in regional diplomacy and in understanding current events in the Middle East. Students are expected to attend each class session, which should be viewed as training workshops. Students will write a "position paper", complete a large binder with background materials and documents, prepare a "fact sheet" for use by other students, and write a debriefing / thought paper at the conclusion of the semester. Ultimately, the goal of this course is to prepare each student to be comfortable in their role as a student-diplomat and allow each person to distinguish themselves at the Model Arab League conference

Course Evaluation:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1) Model Arab League Parliamentary Multiple Choice Test | 10% |
| 2) Country Profile and Background Binder | 25% |
| 3) Attendance and Participation in class seminars | 15% |
| 4) Participation at MAL | 25% |
| 5) Debriefing Paper | 25% |

Country Profile and Background Binder

Worth 25% of your final mark, the goal of this assignment is to create a resource binder that provides you and your team with the general knowledge of your assigned country (either Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon) and help you to prepare more specific research on your assigned committee's topics. Please research your assigned country's modern history and current events or issues. Provide a brief, three page report that delves into the key political and demographic characteristics of your country (for example religion, population, geography, political structure, languages, education, rural/urban profile, ethnicities, economic structure, etc.). Then develop a synopsis of your assigned country's history with external powers, domestic tensions, creation of the modern nation states, its prominent leaders and diplomats. Finally, discuss all the pertinent current affairs issues that are of particular interest to your assigned country while noting the transnational or cross-border issues that could be affecting it as well. This is a group assignment and will be graded accordingly.

Debriefing Paper

Worth 25% of your final mark, this assignment is due after the Model Arab League conference. This paper requires you to critically reflect on the MAL and examine what went right and wrong from your country's perspective. What were some of the diplomatic successes and failures you achieved? Why was the resolution difficult, how did you attempt to resolve disputes or disagreements in the resolution? What worked well and not so well? Why was representing your country or your committee difficult? What issues/factors most constrained your ability to negotiate at the MAL?

Before You Go/Travel Resources/ Insurance

- 1) All students need to complete UWs pre-departure training and submit the respective risk management forms ([Acknowledgement of risk and responsibility form \(PDF\)](#) and [Emergency information form \(PDF\)](#)).
- 2) All students need to take a pre-departure training online in LEARN. All registered students will get an invitation from the UW LEARN system to take this course, as

you cannot self-enroll. For those students who join the course late and do not get this invitation to enroll, please tell the professor in class.

- 3) As part of the pre-departure course, students will be required to complete an assessment (under quizzes in LEARN) to demonstrate their understanding of the content. The assessment includes 20 multiple choice questions within a 45 minute time frame. UW LEARN will prompt you with readings and feedback with each right or wrong answer, so you should be able to get the right answer the next time around. 100% is required on the assessment to successfully “complete” the pre-departure training. You will have 4 attempts for the quiz. The course also includes optional activities. It should take approximately 3 hours or less for you to complete the training including the quiz. Before leaving to Washington, you must submit a printout of the quiz to verify the 100%. Further information regarding the pre-departure training and UW’s risk management protocols is available at [Training https://uwaterloo.ca/international/go-abroad/students/risk-management](https://uwaterloo.ca/international/go-abroad/students/risk-management).
- 4) You will be responsible for paying your own way to get to Washington, DC, but we require all class participants to reserve through **the same travel agent** so you may benefit from group rates and economies of scale. The **approximate cost** of travel is \$1,000 per person (subject to change); however, the sooner we all book the better. We will depart (flight) **Wed. July 8 and return July 12th** and stay in (shared room accommodation) in the foggy bottom/Georgetown area of Washington, DC.

The travel agent for the trip is:

Leta Seegmiller-Free | Assistant Manager | Flight Centre Business Travel Waterloo
135B-94 Bridgeport Rd E | Waterloo, ON N2J2J9 | Phone: (519)725 3999 |
Fax: (519)725 4349 | Toll Free: 1 844 402 8650 |
Email: leta.seegmiller.free@flightcentre.ca

Please contact Leta (via email or telephone) at your earliest convenience to start booking your flights and accommodations. She is expecting your emails and phone calls. We will all be staying in the same hotel close to the conference location at Georgetown University, hosted by the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies.

Lecture Outline:

Week of May 4th No Classes*

May 13th Introduction and Rules of Debate

Readings:

MAL Handbook

During the first class, we will begin to discuss the parliamentary procedures, the rules of debate, and conference structure by reviewing the MAL Handbook. In order to prepare for the debate in July, there are various phrases and vocabulary terms everyone should be familiar with, all of which are available in the MAL Handbook.

Please see link here for more information: [Handbook http://ncusar.org/modelarableague/](http://ncusar.org/modelarableague/)

May 20th Foreign Policies of Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria

Please familiarize yourself with the country fact reports, available online here: [Reports http://ncusar.org/modelarableague/current-participants/research-resources/](http://ncusar.org/modelarableague/current-participants/research-resources/)

Hazem, Kandil (September 2010). "The Challenge of Restructuring: Syrian Foreign Policy". In *The Foreign Policies of Arab States: The Challenge of Globalization* co-edited by Bahgat Korany and Ali E. Hillal Dessouki.

Korany, Bahgat and Hillal Dessouki, Ali E. (September 2010). "Foreign Policy Analysis in the Global Era and the World of the Arabs". *The Challenge of Globalization*. Cairo: Cairo University Press.

Salloukh, Bassel F. (September 2010). "The Art of Impossible: The Foreign Policy of Lebanon". In *The Foreign Policies of Arab States: The Challenge of Globalization* co-edited by Bahgat Korany and Ali E. Hillal Dessouki.

May 27th

Current Politics of the Middle East Conference

Location: Balsillie School of International Affairs

Room 1-42

67 Erb Street West, Waterloo ON N2L 6C2

9:00 AM- 4:00 PM

*Mandatory to attend the last panel discussion (Panel #4) **2:30-4:00 PM**. Please note attendance marks will be recorded. The agenda of the conference is provided in the syllabus.

June 3rd Refugee Crisis

Model Arab League Parliamentary Multiple Choice Test

Amnesty International (December 2014). "Left out in the cold: Syrian Refugees Abandoned by the International Community". Available online:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/MDE24/047/2014/en/f9a8340f-d247-4c84-b3b8-ce4e8cbebf0d/mde240472014en.pdf>

The UN Refugee Agency (December 2014). "The Future of Syria: Refugee Children in Crisis". Available online: http://www.unhcr.nl/fileadmin/user_upload/images/galleries/Future-of-Syria-UNHCR-v13low-res.pdf

June 10th Rise of ISIS

Boot, Max (November, 2014). "Defeating ISIS". *Council on Foreign Relations Press*. Available online: <http://www.cfr.org/iraq/defeating-isis/p33773>

Caris, Charles G. & Reynolds, Samuel (July, 2014). "ISIS Governance in Syria. Institute for the Study of War. Available online: http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/ISIS_Governance.pdf

United Nations (November, 2014). "Report of the Independent International Commission of the Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic- Rule of Terror: Living Under ISIS in Syria". Available online: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoISyria/HRC_CRP_ISIS_14Nov2014.pdf

June 17th Sectarianism

Brookings Institution (July, 2014). "Beyond Sectarianism: The New Middle East Cold War. Available online: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2014/07/22-beyond-sectarianism-cold-war-gause>

Matthiesen, Toby (May, 2014). "Sectarianism in the Middle East". Institute on Culture, Religion & World Affairs. Available online: <http://www.bu.edu/cura/files/2013/10/Matthiesen.pdf>

Reese, Aaron (July, 2013). "Sectarian and Regional Conflict in the Middle East. Institute for the Study of War. Available online: http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/SectarianandRegionalConflictintheMiddleEast_3JUL.pdf

June 24th Mock Model Arab League: Please come prepared with your country profile and background binder.

July 1st: *No class, STAT Holiday**

July 8th to July 12th In Washington, DC. Program includes visits to think tanks, US agencies, Syrian opposition offices and meetings with regional experts on Thursday 9-5; Embassies and briefings with diplomats on Fridays 9-1; Model Arab League conference on Saturday 9-5; Sunday is free day for exploring Washington, DC, including Smithsonian Museums.

**The Current Politics of the Middle East
Conference Agenda
Wednesday May 27th, 2015
The Balsillie School of International Affairs (BSIA)
Room 1-42 (Multipurpose Room)
67 Erb Street West Waterloo ON N2L 6C2**

The aim of the conference is to host local scholars who discuss the current state of affairs in the Middle East, discuss trends and developments in Egypt, Syria, Israel/Palestine, Turkey and debate opportunities and challenges, like ISIS, facing this geopolitically sensitive part of the world. The conference provides a unique opportunity for students and academics interested in the region to interact and listen to insights from local experts in our academic community.

Breakfast, Lunch & Snacks provided

9:00 AM Welcome & Introduction

Dr. Bessma Momani (UW/BSIA/CIGI)

9:15-10:45 AM Panel #1 Egypt

Is the current President Sisi seen as a savior or a tyrant of democracy?
Has the political opposition to Sisi and the military become radicalized?
Where do you see Egypt politically in 5 years?

- Dr. Eid Mohamed (UofG/Doha Institute)
- Dr. Wael Haddara (Former Senior Advisor to Mohamed Morsi)
- Dr. Dalia Fahmy (Long Island University)

10:45-11:45 AM Panel #2 Syria

Is there a viable opposition other than ISIS and AL-Qaeda/Jabhat Al-Nusra?
What would need to happen in global or regional politics to see a resolution come to force?
What are some of the creative solutions that could be used toward conflict resolution?

- Mr. Omar Alghabra (Former MP/Liberal Candidate Mississauga Centre)
- Dr. Bessma Momani (UW/BSIA/CIGI)
- Mr. Simon Palamar (CIGI)

12:00-1:00 PM Lunch Keynote-Turkish Foreign Policy

Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Canada-Mr. Selçuk Ünal

1:15-2:30 PM Panel #3 The Role of ISIS

Why has ISIS gained so much strength (ideology, recruitment, and finances)?
Can military intervention be enough to fight ISIS?

Is ISIS going to spread or decline in the region over time?

- Dr. Paul Freston (WLU/BSIA/CIGI)
- Dr. Lorne Dawson (UW)
- Dr. Omar Ramahi (UW)

2:45-4:00 PM Panel #4 Israel-Palestine

Will Palestine’s international negotiations with the UN, ICC, and other organizations help or hinder its pursuit of statehood?

Who are the viable peace partners in Israel and Palestine?

How would characterize US policy under President Obama to this issue?

- Dr. Jasmin Habib (UW/BSIA)
- Dr. David Dewitt (CIGI/York University)
- Dr. Rhoda Howard-Hassmann (WLU/BSIA/CIGI)
- Dr. Yehonatan Alsheh (Post Doctoral Fellow WLU/BSIA)

4:00-4:15 PM Closing Remarks

Saturday July 11 MAL Agenda

| Saturday | Time | Location |
|---|----------------|---|
| Parliamentary Procedure Training (optional) | 9:15-10:00am | Bunn Intercultural Center |
| Registration | 10:00-10:30am | Bunn Intercultural Center |
| Opening Remarks | 10:30-11:15am | Bunn Intercultural Center |
| Committee Session I | 11:15am-1:00pm | Bunn Intercultural Center |
| Lunch and Guest Speaker: Mr. Joshua Yaphe, U.S. Department of State, INR/NESA – Arabian Peninsula | 1:00-2:00pm | Bunn Intercultural Center |
| Committee Session II | 2:00-4:30pm | Bunn Intercultural Center |
| Summit and Awards | 4:30-5:00pm | Bunn Intercultural Center |
| Social Event (optional) | 5:00pm | <u>The Tombs</u> – 1226 36th St. NW, Georgetown |