Course Syllabus

**Instructor:** Professor Ryan Salzman  
**Office:** Founders Hall 411 (in suite 405a)  
**Office Hours:** 8:30-9:30am MWF, 2pm-3pm MW, and by appointment  
**E-mail:** salzmanr1@nku.edu (use “PSC 380” as subject)  
**Internet Class Reference:** learnonline.nku.edu

**OBJECTIVES**
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the region and politics of the Middle East. This course will take a topical look at the region focusing on general ideas and trends in politics. Individual countries will not be the focal point of instruction. However, individual countries will often serve as examples of topics addressed in the reading and lectures. Topics covered in this class include historical context of the region, the role of Islam in politics, prospects for democracy, and international relations. At the conclusion of this course, students will possess a broad understanding of the historical conditions that shaped 20th and 21st century politics in the Middle East, the results of those conditions, and the continuing political trends in the region.

To achieve the stated objectives for this class, students must complete the readings and other instructional materials, and seek clarification when needed. This is an upper level political science class and students are expected to be familiar with basic concepts and research methodologies in political science.

**READINGS:** 2 texts, available at the NKU University Bookstore, is assigned for the class:


*Additional readings are required, and are available through the NKU library (JSTOR), or Google Scholar. (Hereafter Web)*

*Students must bring their books and other readings to class every day.*

**Class Structure:**
This class is organized by week. Each topic will be accompanied by a set of assignments to be completed at consistent intervals each week. Primary instruction materials include textbook reading selections and supplemental materials (reading, video, or other). Additionally, students will complete a major research paper project and 2 exams (midterm and final). On weeks that exams are administered or the final paper project is due, no additional assignments will be required. Despite the online nature of this class, students should attempt to have in-person or phone conversations with the instructor as needed. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments will be submitted for grading via the denoted assignment link on Blackboard.

Each week will have an introductory **audio/visual (A/V) recording**. These recordings will be short. Their intention is to briefly mention the materials covered that week and emphasize topics/readings that deserve heightened attention. Other audio recordings may be made at the discretion of the professor. Whenever possible they will be denoted in the syllabus or via Blackboard announcements.

Questions and comments are best sent via email (salzmanr1@nku.edu). Emails requiring quicker response should be sent between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday- Friday. Students should expect a response of some kind within 24 hours if the email is sent during the hours denoted, Monday-Friday. Emails sent after hours or during the weekend may
experience longer turnaround times. Although responses to emails sent after hours and on the weekends may receive quick responses that should not alter the expectation that responses will take longer during those times. Students may call the professor or use Blackboard Instant Messenger, but that will not necessarily expedite response. Students should regard email as the best mode of communication.

This class utilizes Blackboard for instruction and assignment administration. It is the student’s responsibility to have access to this program. Students should find Blackboard and all other course content accessible regardless of their operating platform or Internet connection employed. All technical questions should be directed to the Norse Tech Bar at University Center 252 or to call the University Help Desk at 859/572-6911. Additional academic support can be found via the NKU IT Resource bundle in Blackboard.

Non-Attendance Policy (Beginning Fall 2014) - NKU students are expected to attend the first day of each course for which they are enrolled. For online classes: If the student does not log onto Blackboard and access course materials or contact the instructor during the first week of classes, the instructor is compelled to drop this student for non-participation (i.e., non-attendance). **For this class students MUST complete the syllabus quiz found in the Week 1 assignment folder by Wednesday, August 19 at 11:59 pm.**

*All documents submitted for grading must be submitted in .doc or .docx format. Failure to do so may result in a late penalty.

**Reading Quizzes – Due by 10pm (est) each Tuesday**
Each week students will complete a quiz over the assigned reading(s). That quiz will be administered in Blackboard. Students are allowed to use the assigned readings and outside materials to complete the quiz. **That average will account for 25% of the student's final grade.** Make-up quizzes will only be possible with a valid university excuse. Grades will be available immediately after completion. Correct answers (a.k.a. the answer key) will be made available at the professor’s discretion. **Late assignments will be penalized 20 points per day beginning at 10:01pm, with a 20 point deduction assessed each day following at 10:01 pm.**

**Journals – Due by 10pm (est) each Friday**
In addition to the weekly reading quizzes, students will submit a journal entry responding to a prompt relating to the weekly topic. The journal assignment provides students with an opportunity to express their feelings about a given subject in the context of the information they are consuming. Students should pay special attention to each week’s journal assignment as they will vary. General grading criteria are listed below. The journals will be graded and averaged. **The journal average will account for 15% of the student’s final grade.** Each journal entry will be graded within one week of receipt.

**Journal Grading Criteria –** In addition to satisfying the specific prompt for each journal entry (see individual assignments on Blackboard for more detail), journal entry grades will be dependent on the following general criteria.

- **Length** - Journal submissions should be 500 words in length. Attempts to manipulate submission length with unnecessarily long headers, titles, or other formatting will result in a potentially significant deduction.
- **Grammar** – Grammatical errors will result in significant deductions. Spelling and formatting issues will also result in a deduction.
- **Evidence** – In addition to responding to the prompt provided, students should provide reference/evidence from the readings assigned for that week. Failure to do so may result in a significant deduction.
- **Late submissions** – Late submissions **will not be accepted** unless the professor agrees to an accommodation. Accommodations sought after the due date and time of the journal entry will be considered under strict standards limited to University mandates or personal crisis.
- **Journal submissions must be in .doc or .docx format. Failure to do so may result in a late penalty.**

**Exams:**
There will be two examinations in this class; a midterm and a final exam. The **Midterm Exam will account for 15% of the final grade with the Final Exam counting for 15% for a total of 30% of the student’s final grade.** Exams will utilize an essay format. Further information about the exam format will be given prior to the test date. As denoted in the class schedule, exams will be administered on the Wednesday of the denoted week. **The exam will be made available at 12:00 am and will be due by 11:59pm that SAME DAY.** Exams submitted after 11:59pm will receive a 50% deduction. No credit will be received beginning at 8:00am on the day after the exam is due.
The exam dates are as follows:

- **Midterm Exam**: 10/15
- **Final Exam**: 12/9

There will be **NO** make-up exams given without a valid university excuse. In the instance that a student has a valid (university approved) excuse for missing an exam, the student should contact the instructor to find a make-up time. If a student desires to dispute a grade, that dispute must be made in writing within one week of the grade being posted. The Midterm Exam will be graded within 2 weeks of receipt. Final Exams will be graded in time to meet University requirements for grade submission.

*All documents submitted for grading must be submitted in **.doc or .docx** format. Failure to do so may result in a late penalty.

**Research Papers**:  
Each student will write a research paper on a topic in the politics of development. The papers will be turned in 3 pieces with each piece scored individually and contributing to the final paper grade. The research paper will be 10-12 pages in length when completed. **The paper will account for 30% of the student’s final grade.** The three pieces of the project include a project statement, a literature review, and a final draft. Each piece of the project is due by 10:00pm on the assigned due date. A 10% penalty will be assessed beginning at 10:01pm on the due date. An additional 10% will be deducted at 10:01pm each day after including weekends. Students should contact me regularly throughout the project to answer questions and discuss the progress of the project. A description of the project and grading criteria will follow. Each piece of the paper will be graded within two weeks of receipt.

*All documents submitted for grading must be submitted in **.doc or .docx** format. Failure to do so may result in a late penalty.

**Deadlines for the research paper:**

- **Project Statement**: 9/2
- **Annotated Bibliography**: 10/7
- **Final Draft**: 11/23

**Message Boards – NOT FOR CREDIT**  
Message boards may be utilized in Blackboard for discussions with fellow classmates. Students should employ them as they desire. Below are two Message Boards immediately available. Grades should never be discussed via message boards.

- **Students helping students** – This board is intended to allow students to answer each other’s questions relating to the class and/or specific assignments.
- **General questions board** – This board allows students to ask questions of the instructor and share the answers with the entire class.

**Extra Credit**

If offered, extra credit opportunities may be available to all.

**GRADES**: Final grades will be computed on the following basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>D+</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Value</td>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>76-73</td>
<td>72-70</td>
<td>BELOW 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students can monitor their grades on Blackboard ([https://learnonline.nku.edu](https://learnonline.nku.edu)).
# Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introducing the topic &amp; review the comparative method</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comparative Politics Audio/Visual (journal material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>The Cradle of Civilization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Andersen Ch. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Video – Pre-Islamic History of the Middle East (journal material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBpQIt3MUQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBpQIt3MUQ</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Foundations of Islam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Andersen Chs. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proposal due Wednesday Sept. 2 by 10pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction to the Middle East (journal material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Islam and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Andersen Chs. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Video – Islam: A Short History (journal material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Western Imperialism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Andersen Chs. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Rise of the State System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Andersen Chs. 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Video – The Creation of Israel and the 6 Day War (journal material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="http://ed.ted.com/on/Ohp5XSfB">http://ed.ted.com/on/Ohp5XSfB</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>The Push for Self Determination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Andersen Chs. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Video – Conflict in Israel and Palestine (journal material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wo2TLIMhiw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wo2TLIMhiw</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Contemporary Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Andersen Chs. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Web - Ross, Michael. “Does Oil Hinder Democracy” (journal material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM, October 15, midnight to midnight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Political Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Andersen Chs. 9 &amp; 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diamond Chs. 1 &amp; 2 (journal material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Political Economy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Andersen Ch. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diamond Chs. 3 &amp; 4 (journal material)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Democracy &amp; Authoritariananism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Reading  Andersen Ch. 8  
Diamond Chs. 5 & 6 (journal material)

Week 13  International Relations, 1945-1990  
Reading  Andersen Chs. 12-13  
Diamond Chs. 7 (journal material)

Week 14  International Relations, 1991-2001  
Reading  Andersen Ch. 14  
Diamond Chs. 8 & 9 (journal material)

Week 15  Paper Project final draft due Monday, November 23 by 10pm

Week 16  Middle East post-9/11  
Reading  Andersen Ch. 15  
Diamond Chs. 10 & 11 (journal material)

12/9  FINAL EXAM will be held on Wednesday, December 9 from midnight to midnight

CLASS POLICIES

Email Etiquette: Email is the preferred means of communication for the Instructor outside of office hours. When you email the Instructor, please follow some basic rules to make it easier for me to respond. First, insert the course title into the subject line of your message (e.g. PSC103). Second, clearly identify yourself and articulate the content of your message clearly. This means you should not use IM speak. Finally, before you email the Instructor, you should review the syllabus. It is very likely that you can find an answer to your questions simply by examining this syllabus.

Netiquette: Online communication (i.e. Message Boards) should be regarded with the same courtesy as classroom participation. Although you will likely not agree with everything put forth by your classmates and the instructor, it is important that you engage the topic with the respect that should be afforded to all humans in person. Your comments are not anonymous. Please note that sarcasm does not come across as humorous in online communication. General rudeness or disrespectful language will be met with reprimand. Persistent problems may yield a penalty not to exceed a drop of one letter grade in your final grade.

Credit Hour Policy Statement: In accordance with federal policy, NKU defines a credit hour as the amount of work represented in the achievement of student learning outcomes (verified by evidence of student achievement) that reasonably approximates one hour (50 minutes) of classroom instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work. For every course credit hour, a typical student should expect to spend at least three hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work including, but not limited to, class meeting time, reading, reviewing, organizing notes, studying and completing assignments. At least an equivalent amount of time is expected for other academic activities such as online courses, laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Estimates of the time required for a typical student to complete course expectations are as follows:

- 9 hours per week to complete readings and assignments.

Grade Disputes: A great deal of time is invested in grading student assignments. If a student wishes to dispute a grade, he or she must do so in writing (email is fine). When doing so, students should provide a clear explanation as to why they feel a different grade is in order, as well as what grade they believe to be more representative of their work. Simply “wanting” or “needing” a higher grade is an insufficient reason. Students should also be aware that when work is reviewed for a grade dispute, the entire work is reviewed, not simply the specific detail being disputed by the student. All grade disputes are due in writing within one week after the graded work is returned in class. Grade disputes will not be considered if submitted past the one week statute of limitations. Students can monitor their grades on Blackboard (learnonline.nku.edu).
*Note that the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits the Professor from discussing grades via email or with any individual other than the student. Accordingly, grade disputes should be handled during office hours.

**Academic Misconduct:** Academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this class. The most frequent forms of academic misconduct include plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating are equally punishable and equally serious breaches of academic integrity. Any act that violates the academic integrity of this institution is considered academic misconduct.

**Excused Absences for University Extracurricular Activities:** Students participating in an officially sanctioned, scheduled University extracurricular activity should be given the opportunity to make up class assignments or other graded assignments missed as a result of their participation. It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with the instructor prior to any missed scheduled examination or other missed assignment for making up the work.

**Religious Holidays:** Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence.

**DEPARTMENT POLICIES**

The following policies apply to all courses taught by faculty in the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice. Please note that individual faculty may have specific applications of these policies in their syllabi.

**Classroom and Electronic Participation:** Classroom participation is essential to the educational process. It is vital to your understanding of the course material, and to your overall performance. It is also a student responsibility. Class participation is generally defined as regular class attendance, proper class preparation, completing assignments and activities in a timely manner, completing assignments in the format requested, and participating in discussions both during and outside of class (e.g. Black Board discussions). Participation also refers to regular monitoring of and responding to electronic contact by professors via email, Black Board or other means. Participation may have a specific grade percentage in your class; see your course syllabi for specifics.

**Class Professionalism:**

1. Out of respect to your fellow learners, electronic devices should be turned off during class time unless you are required to be on-call by your employer. In that case, please set your beeper / phone to a non-audible signal. If you are required to leave a beeper or cell phone on during class, inform the professor of this prior to class.
2. Disruptive behavior or conduct (whether in-class or electronic) that demeans fellow class members or the instructor will not be tolerated. Please see the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities Section V: Academic Policies & Processes
   [http://deanofstudents.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies](http://deanofstudents.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies)
3. It is important that work with your name attached is, in fact, solely your work unless properly referenced or cited. In these days of increased access to information, it is critical that you understand the meaning, seriousness and consequences of plagiarism. If you ever have a question about giving proper credit for academic work, please consult your instructor well in advance of an assignment due date. "It is expected that students will write their research papers to meet the learning objectives and educational requirements specific to this class. While a general topic area may be suitable for research that may potentially be utilized in more than one paper, submission of the same paper in two or more courses is not acceptable and will result in a failing grade. Students must notify the professor if their paper on this topic had been previously submitted in another course or will be submitted in another course."
4. The work you will do in this course and your behavior in this course are subject to the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct. By being a student at NKU you make a commitment that individually and collectively, you will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements. You also make a commitment to behavior in a professional manner, especially when involved in academic activities off campus such as travel courses or CCSA Study Abroad. For specifics concerning the honor code, see the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities Section V, subsection G: Student Honor Code: Cheating & Plagiarism.
   [http://deanofstudents.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies](http://deanofstudents.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies)
**Right to Revise Syllabus:** A syllabus is required for every class and will be distributed at the beginning of each semester. Faculty reserve the right to revise the course syllabus as needed. Changes in the specific course schedule may happen frequently, so you need to keep abreast of these changes regularly. Should a major change or update occur in the syllabus (e.g. moving a specified test date, specifying the requirements of an assignment, etc.) the specific change will be announced at least a week in advance of any activity due date (e.g. assignment, paper, test). These changes should be communicated in the manner other course updates are (paper distribution, email, or posting to Blackboard).

**Need for Assistance:** Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services) for this course must register with the Office of Disability Services. Please contact the disability service office in University Center Suite 320 or by calling (859) 572-6373 for more information. Verification of your disability is required in the disability services office for you to receive reasonable academic accommodations. Visit the disability services website at [http://disability.nku.edu](http://disability.nku.edu)

**Student Responsibilities to Meet Course Obligations:** You are responsible for all course assignments including class preparation, class attendance, class activities, tests, papers, labs, projects, group work or other course assignments. By reviewing the syllabus at the beginning of a course, you are responsible for meeting all specific course obligations. Additionally, some faculty may even require that each student initial a document to recognize their course obligations. Failure to attend classes, or meet course obligations is a serious matter and it is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor should you have difficulty with meeting any course obligation. Faculty may, at their discretion, reduce grades or even fail you for not meeting specified course obligations, including but not limited to, class attendance, taking tests at a specified time, turning in papers on time and in the format required and other assignments. It is the faculty’s discretion to determine the consequences of not meeting a course obligation, and many times the specific provisions and penalties are specified in the syllabus. Faculty may also require written documentation verifying your inability to meet a course obligation.

**Diversity:** Diversity describes an inclusive community of people with varied human characteristics, ideas, and world views related, but not limited, to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, religion, color, creed, national origin, age, disability, socio-economic status, geographical region, or ancestry. Institutions that value diversity provide a supportive environment that respects those human differences. It is our responsibility as citizens of the NKU community to promote and value a campus environment and classroom climate that is safe, fair, respectful, and free from prejudice.

**Final Examination:** Your syllabus includes the date and time of the final exam period scheduled for the course. Faculty will provide an indication of the final exam’s nature (cumulative final, regular test, return of take-home exam, presentation of final project, etc.) well in advance of the final exam.

**Grade Appeal:** Please see the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities Section V: Academic Policies & Processes for any final grade appeal. The specifics of the process are detailed in subsection G: Student Academic Grade Appeal. [http://deanofstudents.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies](http://deanofstudents.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies)

**Midterm Grades:** Midterm grades will be provided to all students in 100 - 400 level courses, except in cases where the Department Chair and Dean of Arts & Sciences have waived midterm grade reporting for pedagogical reasons. Midterm grades are only an estimate of performance as of the middle of the semester, and are not an absolute predictor of final performance.

**Online Evaluation:** Northern Kentucky University takes Instructor and Course Evaluations very seriously as an important means of gathering information for the enhancement of learning opportunities for its students. It is an important responsibility of NKU students as citizens of the University to participate in the instructor and course evaluation process. During the two weeks* prior to the end of each semester classes, you will be asked to reflect upon what you have learned in this course, the extent to which you have invested the necessary effort to maximize your learning, and the role your instructor has played in the learning process. It is very important that you complete the online evaluations with thoughtfully written comments. Starting Spring semester 2011, students who complete an evaluation for a particular course (or opt out of doing so in the evaluation) will be rewarded for their participation by having access to their course grade as soon as that grade is submitted by the instructor. On the other hand, any student who does not complete the course evaluation (or opt out of
doing so in the evaluation) should expect to incur a two week delay in access to his or her course grade beyond the university’s official date for grade availability.

To complete online evaluations go to http://eval.nku.edu. Click on "student login" and use the same USERNAME and PASSWORD as used on campus.

Student evaluations of courses and instructors are regarded as strictly confidential. They are not available to the instructor until after final grades are submitted, and extensive precautions are taken to prevent your comments from being identified as coming from you.

*Eight-week classes will be given one week before classes end to complete evaluations.

**Student Honor Code:** This Student Honor Code [the "Honor Code"] is a commitment by students of Northern Kentucky University, through their matriculation or continued enrollment at the University, to adhere to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct. It is a commitment individually and collectively that the students of Northern Kentucky University will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements.

The purpose of the Honor Code is to establish standards of academic conduct for students at Northern Kentucky University and to provide a procedure that offers basic assurances of fundamental fairness to any person accused of violations of these rules. Each Northern Kentucky University student is bound by the provisions of the Honor Code and is presumed to be familiar with all of its provisions. Students also should aspire to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with the highest degree of ethical integrity in all matters, whether covered in the Honor Code or not. The success of this commitment begins in the diligence with which students uphold the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. Students may view the complete honor code at http://deanofstudents.nku.edu/policies/student-rights.html#policies.