

Robertson School of Government  
Regent University  
Mid East Politics  
Jennifer Jefferis

### **Course Description**

One can scarcely open a newspaper on a given day and not be impressed by the importance of the Middle East in world politics. And yet few newspaper readers are aware of the variegated history and nuanced turbulence of its politics. This course is designed to help you gain a deeper understanding about the politics of this critical area of the world.

The first half of the semester will be spent reading a variety of materials dealing with the politics of state building, the legacies of colonialism, the impact of nationalism, the development of civil society, the complications of oil wealth, the challenges of democracy, and the place of political Islam. The second half of the semester will involve applying the theoretical knowledge gained to states and issues in the present day mid east.

### **Texts**

Brynen, Rex and Bahgat Korany and Paul Noble (eds). 1995. *Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World*. Volume 1 – Theoretical Perspectives. Lynne Rienner Publishers. ISBN: 1-55587-559-9

Hudson, Michael. 1979. *Arab Politics: The Search for Legitimacy*. Yale University Press. ISBN: 978-0300024111

Lockman, Zachary. 2004. *Contending Visions of the Middle East*. Cambridge University Press. 978-0521629379

Owen, Roger. 2000. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Routledge. ISBN: 0415-19674-4

Salame, Ghassan (ed). 2001. *Democracy without Democrats? The Renewal of Politics in the Muslim World*. I.B. Tauris Publishers. ISBN: 1 85043 866 8

A reputable international daily newspaper