

Political System in West Asia

Compulsory Course

for

M.A. (International Relations- West Asian Studies)

Course No: MWAS-301

Semester III

Centre for West Asian Studies

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Course Description

Political systems in West Asia have no homogenous nature. The sub-systems are different in the sense that these are not integrated into a uniform whole, for example, in Saudi Arabia there is monarchical state system where as in Lebanon there is confessional system. Quite naturally one will have to look into the nature of political system in this context. Moreover state administration varies from state to state, for example, what do we get in bureaucracy in Egypt is different from that of Saudi Arabia. Besides, it is imperative to look into the different regional organizations in West Asia. This course aims at giving an overall orientation about the political system in west Asia as well as an insight into it.

Course Content:

Unit I: Contemporary Arab Regimes

- Definition of the Concept of State and Nation
- Monarchical State System: Saudi Arabia
- Confessional State System: Lebanon

Unit II: Contemporary non-Arab Regimes

- Basic Features of the Islamic Government of Iran
- Constitutional Set up and Administration in Israel: Growth of an Evolved Constitution
- Turkey: Kemalism and after

Unit III: States Administration in West Asia

- Definition and Meaning of the Concept of Bureaucracy
- Leadership and Bureaucratic growth in Egypt
- Leadership and Bureaucratic growth in GCC States
- Saudi Arabia

Unit IV: State and Regional Organization in West Asia

- The League of Arab States
- Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
- Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Reading List

- Korany. B., Alien and Besieged Yet Here to Stay: The Contradictions of the Arab Territorial State, In Salamé, Ghassan (ed.) *The Foundation of the Arab State: The Mandate System*, Vol. I, Croom Helm, New York, 1987.
- Dawisha. A., Zartman, W. (eds.) Beyond Coercion: The Durability of the Arab State, Vol. III, Croom Helm, New York. 1988
- George E. Delury (ed.) World Encyclopaedia of Political System. Vol. I & II. Longman. United Kingdom, 1983.
- Samith K. Farsoun (ed.) Arab Society: Continuity and Change, Croom Helm, London, 1995.
- Norton, Augustus R. (ed.) Civil Society in the Middle East, Vol. II, E.J. Brill. New York, 1996.
- Ismail, Tareq, Y and Ismail, Jacqueline S. (ed. Government and Politics in Islam, Frances Printers. London. 1985.
- Laabas, B. (ed.) Arab Development Challenged of the New Millennium, Ashgate Publishing Co, Hampshire, 2002.

Method of Instruction:

Lectures and tutorial will be held on a weekly basis. Questions, discussion and debate during classes will be strongly encouraged. Students are expected to keep informed of the current events in the West Asian region.

Method of Assessment:

A mid-term exam would consist of essay questions based upon the topics covered up to that point. It will be of 25 marks and student must answer two questions out of 4 of 12.5 marks each. The final exam conducted according to a schedule at the end of the semester will be of 75 marks. In the final exam, students must answer 5 out of 10 questions.