

RI 432-01.

The Middle East and
the Arab, Jewish and Islamic Worlds: Syllabus
University of the Americas,
Department of International Relations and History,
Dr. Paul Rich. August 2002.

Course Objective: Our goals include helping you to understand the background to the current crisis in the Middle East, and enabling you to form your own opinion about the Arabs, Islam, and the Middle East -- one of the most important current topics in international relations. We will emphasize the connection between past history and present problems. This is probably the first course you have taken where the influence of religion is so much a part of the syllabus, and we will also en passant talk about gender issues in international relations studies.

Last semester 5 students dropped out of the class rather than fail. Consider carefully if you are the serious student who will be able to keep up with this demanding reading list.

Class organization: The lectures do **not** duplicate the reading, and the readings do not duplicate the lectures. They complement each other, and the exams are based on both, as well as on any lectures by guests. Your grade is based 60 per cent on the in term exams (10 percent for each of 3 exams during the term and 30 percent for the end of term exam), 10 percent for the debate, and 30 percent on your end of term paper. BUT!! Dr. Rich reserves the right to conduct up to and additional 3 snap 10 very short question exams (questions like “in what century was the holy Koran written? Who was the last king of Egypt?) during class in addition to foregoing schedule, and to deduct any wrong answers from your grade for the course. (each wrong answer would be .1 of a point.) Often n either in term nor quickie exams will be announced. They will be part of a regular class meeting.

Dr. Rich’s office is in the IR department on the second floor of Building 8, and you do not need an appointment to see him. He is glad to see you at any time. You are also encouraged to email him if you have questions. His email is on the UDLA server simply as “rich”. Ask Dr. Rich about the course, about future study plans overseas, and about your thesis. Also inquire about working in his office for your social service or as a scholarship

student. This a very genuine invitation. Take advantage of it.. At the start of the semester be sure what you must read and what is expected of you.

We plan on having some guests from the Middle East. This will be announced. Dr. Rich will detail in class the expectations for the term paper, which will be due at the last class. Class will be conducted with a ten minute break in the middle of the period.

To summarize, you better do the reading !! because:

- _____ three term-time exams, 1.0 points each
- _____ final exam, 3.0 points
- _____ debate on terrorism 1.0 points
- _____ final paper 3.0 points

MINUS 0.1 for each wrong answer on the quickie evaluations of your reading, each quickie having 10 snap questions.

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The following are the course units. Some units involve two lectures. Do the reading before the lectures if you want to get the most value out of the course. Remember, to be sure you are doing the reading, there will be three in-term exams on the reading and lectures, as well as the final exam, and perhaps the dreaded quickie exams. Readings are all on reserve at the library. Don't talk with others or be late to class as Dr. Rich's reaction is draconian. Don't plagiarize or you will learn the meaning of misery. Advice: Give up long weekend trips to pleasure spots or late night television viewing. This isn't an easy course.

1. Today, January 14, 2003. Introductory Class: The Social Sciences and The Study of the Middle East.

Rules of the game. Issues presented by the subject of the Middle East: documentation, sources of information, attention paid by scholars, the possible contribution to resolving Middle Eastern problems of research,

Including, so you can't say you weren't told, what is plagiarism, and why it is not tolerated. Dr. Rich treats plagiarism as a capital offense. Anthropology. Geography. Sociology. Political Science. History. Historiography. International Relations. Causality. Proof. Prosopography. Schools. Theses. New World. Westward Movement. The West. Globalization. Political Culture. Rational Choice. Stone in the Pond. Gender. Indigenous. 'Research'. English & Computing. Job Skills. End of Cold War. Pax Americana. Papers and plagiarism.

2. The Tabla Rosa or Canvas: The Political and Social Geography of the Middle East

The geography and demographics of the region. Current regimes. Ideologies of the nation-states of the area. Past colonial history.

Paul Rich, *The Invasions of the Gulf*, 2nd ed., iUniverse (Allborough), 2001, vii-67.

Paul Rich ed., *Readings in Middle East Studies*, Publicaciones, 1993, "Maps" in section 14, 163-184.

Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations: Remaking of World Order*, Simon & Schuster, 1997, 13-81.

The first exam will be based on the maps and you will have to know the geography of the Arab and Muslim world to pass.

3. Islam

Huntington, 81-125.

Robert Spencer, *Islam Unveiled*, Encounter, San Francisco, 2002, ix-56.

Paul Rich, Review, "Political Culture and Islam", *Digest of Middle East Studies*, Vol.3 No.4, 44-61.

3. Orientalism

Bias in history. The power of an idea.

Two page outline of final paper due at this class on Orientalism. The final paper will feature 25 page minimum length, in English, at least 40 items (books, articles, websites) cited in bibliography. NB, not citations but sources. There will be more citations than sources.

Paul Rich and David Merchant, "The Egyptian Influence...", *Heredom*, vol.9, 2001, 9-32.

Paul Rich, *The Invasions of the Gulf*, 2nd ed., iUniverse (Allborough), 2001, 68-178.

4. Islam as a Religious and Political Movement

Spencer, 73-142.

Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response*, Oxford University Press, 2002, 1-63.

Paul Rich, Review, "Islamic and Monarchical styles of Government", *Digest of Middle East Studies*, Vol.5 No.3, 15-20.

5. Women in the Arab World

Gender issues in political science and scholarship.

Paul Rich ed., *Arab War Lords and Iraqi Star Gazers*, 2nd ed., iUniverse (Allborough), 2001, i-xxvi AND 203-212..

Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response*, Oxford University Press, 2002, 64-96.

6. The Magreb and Egypt

Paul Rich, "Imperialism and Its Consequences", *Digest of Middle East Studies*, Vol.5 No.1, 52 ff.

Handout.

Teams will be selected for the terrorism debate.

7. Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Pakistan and the Periphery

Paul Rich ed., *Wartime in Baghdad*, 2nd ed., iUniverse (Allborough), 2001, i-xx.

Paul Rich ed., *A Soldier in Kurdistan*, 2nd ed., iUniverse (Allborough), 2001, i-xxiii.

Paul Rich ed. *Iraq and Imperialism*, 2nd ed., iUniverse (Allborough), 2001, vii-xxx.

8. Oil and the Gulf

Paul Rich ed., *A Voyage in the Gulf*, 2nd ed., iUniverse (Allborough), 2001, i-xxvii.

Paul Rich, *The Invasions of the Gulf*, 2nd ed., iUniverse (Allborough), 2001, 179-284.

9. Israel and Judaism

Huntington, 183-300.

Frederick Lazin, "Politics and Policy Implementation", *Digest of Middle East Studies*, Vol.4 No.3, 30 ff.

Paul Rich, Review, "Politics and Policy Intervention", *Digest of Middle East Studies*, Vol.4 No.3, 30-34.

Paul Rich, Review, "A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict", *Digest of Middle East Studies*, Vol.4 No.4, 15-20.

10, Terrorism debate

E. J. Dionne Jr., "The Question of Faith After September 11", *Harvard Divinity Bulletin*, Vol.30 No.3, Winter 2001-02, 24 ff.

Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response*, Oxford University Press, 2002, 1-63.

11. The United States and the Arab World

David G Kibble, "Finding the Moral High Ground in Iraq", *Proceedings of the United States Naval Institute*, Vol. 128/12/1/198, December 2002, 62-66.

Paul Rich, Review, "Friendly Fire in a Post Soviet Gulf", *Digest of Middle East Studies*, Vol.4 No.1, 8-14.

Paul Rich, Review, "Genocide and the Kurds", *Digest of Middle East Studies*, Vol.2 No.4, 26-33.

Final paper due. No exceptions.