

**CENTRE FOR WEST ASIAN STUDIES
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY, NEW DELHI**

Ph.D. Course

Course No.	: WA 639
Course Title	: Politics and Foreign Policy of Saudi Arabia
Course Teacher	: Dr. Vrushal T. Ghoble
Credits	: 04
Instruction Method	: Lectures / Seminars / Tutorials
Evaluation Method	: Sessional Work and Semester Examination
Course Duration	: One Semester
Contact Hours	: 04 Hours Per Week
Semester	: Second Semester (Winter)

OVERVIEW:

This course will provide a sound basis for understanding of the history and development of Area Studies, the Gulf in general and Saudi Arabia in particular. Saudi Arabia being an important member of the GCC and an important regional actor, the course will be crucial for the students to understand its geopolitical significance. With the discovery and production of the Gulf oil, there has been a change in the dynamics of the region that led to tremendous development of the country in specific, also giving it a greater leverage. As a learning outcome, the course will help students understand and build their analysis towards the rise and growth of Saudi Arabia and its regional and global engagement.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The course seeks to achieve the following learning outcomes: to develop research skills in the learners to undertake rigorous and cutting-edge research in domain-specific or related ones; encourage analytical and critical thinking among the learners to expand their depth in the field; and to broaden the learners' scope of knowledge and open up new avenues for innovative research.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY & EVALUATION:

The course will be in a format of lecturing, seminars, and discussion. The sessions will be taught in an interactive manner. Student participation is necessary. Each student will be graded through examination and assignments. Class participation will also be considered in evaluating student's performance.

COURSE CONTENT

I. State Formation

- Process of Saudi State Formation: till 1932
- Role of Geography
- Legitimacy debate

II. Political System and Institutions

- Al-Saud, and Tribes: since 1932
- Nature of Monarchy
- Majlis, Basic Laws, & Petitions
- Socio - political shift and structural changes post 2011

III. Role of Religion in Saudi Society

- Status of Minorities
- Wahhabism and Ulema
- Changing aspects of Political Islam
- Islamism, Salafism and Jihadism

IV. Economic Challenges

- Demographic profile
- Rentierism
- Geoeconomic shift's
- Economic Diversification and *Vision 2030*
- Arab Uprising and Economic Implications
- Instruments of Saudi Foreign Policy (aid, security, regional dependencies, trade, etc.)

V. Regional and Foreign Linkages

- Determinants of Saudi Foreign Policy
 - Look East Policy
 - Approach towards the regional Issues
 - Relations with the US
 - Challenges to regional security
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SUGGESTED READING LIST

General Reading:

Aburish, Said K. (1994), *The Rise, Corruption and Coming Fall of the House of Saud*, New York: St. Martin's Griffin.

Ahari, M.E. (ed.) (1996), *Change and Continuity in the Middle East: Conflict Resolution and Prospects for Peace*, New York: St. Martin's Press.

Clement, Henry and Jang Ji Hyang (2013), *The Arab Spring*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Dietl, Gulshan (2006), *Saudi Arabia: People, Politics & Policies*, New Delhi: National Book Trust.

State Formation:

Al-Rasheed, Madawi (1999), *Political Legitimacy and the Production of History: The Case of Saudi Arabia*, in L. Martin (eds.), *In New Frontiers in Middle East Security*, New York: ST. Martin's Press.

AburiAl-Yassini, Ayman (1985), *Religion and State in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*, California: Westview Press.

Al-Rasheed, Madawi (2002), *A History of Saudi Arabia*, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Niblock, Tim (2006), *Saudi Arabia: Power, Legitimacy and Survival*, London: Routledge.

Owen, Roger (2000), *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, London and New York: Routledge.

Political System and Institutions:

Al-Rasheed, Madawi (2009), "Modernising Authoritarian Rule in Saudi Arabia", *Contemporary Arab Affairs*, 2(4):587-601.

Al-Rasheed, Madawi (2007), *Contesting the Saudi State: Islamic Voices from a New Generation*, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Al-Rasheed, Madawi (2006), *Circles of Power: Royalty and Society in Saudi Arabia*, in Aarts and Nonneman (eds.), *Saudi Arabia in the Balance*, New York University Press.

Glosemeyer, Iris (2004), *Saudi Arabia: Dynamism Uncovered*, in Volker Perthes (ed.), *Arab Elites: Negotiating the Politics of Change*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

Huyette, Summer Scott (1985), *Political Adaptation in Saudi Arabia: A Case Study of the Council of Ministers*, Boulder: Westview Press.

Role of Religion in Saudi Society:

Ayoob, Mohammed and Hasan, Kosebalaban (2009), *Religion and Politics in Saudi Arabia: Wahhabism and the State*, University of Michigan: Lynne Rienner Publisher.

Gause, F. Gregory III (1994), *Oil Monarchies: Domestic and Security Challenges in the Arab Gulf States*, New York : Council on Foreign Relations Press.

Holden, David and Johns, Richard (1981), *House of Saud*, London: Siagwick and Jackson.

Herb, Michael (1999), *All in the Family: Absolutism, Revolution, and Democracy in the Middle Eastern Monarchies*, Albany: SUNY Press.

Economic Challenges:

Adelman, Morris, 1974, "Politics, Economics and World Oil," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 64 (May), pp. 58–67.

Al-Farsy, Foud (1982), *Saudi Arabia: A Case Study in Development*, , London: Kegan Paul International.

Beblawi, Hazem and Giacomo Luciani (1987), *The Rentier State: Nation, State and Integration in the Arab World*, London: Croom Helm.

Baffes, J.M. et al. (2015), "The great plunge in oil prices: Causes, consequences, and policy responses", *World Bank Group* [Online: web] Accessed on 12 November 2017 URL: pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/339801451407117632/PRN01Mar2015OilPrices.pdf

Lacey, Robert (1981), *The Kingdom*, London: Hutchinson.

Lackner, Helen (1978), *A House built on Sand: A Political Economy of Saudi Arabia*, London: Ithaca.

Lemons, K. (2014), "The Shale Revolution and OPEC: Potential Economic Implications of Shale Oil for OPEC and Member Countries", *The Larrie and Bobbi Weil Undergraduate Research Award Documents*, [Online: web] Accessed on 12 November 2017 URL: scholar.smu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=weil_ura

Regional and Foreign Linkages:

Al-Rasheed, Madawi (2013), "Saudi Arabia: Local and Regional Challenges", *Contemporary Arab Affairs*, 6(1):28-40.

Benedetta Berti & Yoel Guzansky (2014) Saudi Arabia's Foreign Policy on Iran and the Proxy War in Syria: Toward a New Chapter?, *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, 8:3, 25-34.

Barnett, Michael N., "Regional Security after the Gulf War", *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol.111(4): 597 - 618.

Behar, A. and Ritz, R.A. (2017), "OPEC vs US shale: Analyzing the shift to a market-share strategy" *Energy Economics* (63): 185-198, [Online: web] Accessed on 12 November 2017 URL: ceepr.mit.edu/files/papers/2016-006.pdf

Cordesman, Anthony H. (1987), *Western Strategic Interests in Saudi Arabia*, London: Croom Helm.

----- (2003), *Saudi Arabia Enters the 21st Century: The Military and International Security Dimensions*, Westport, CT: Praeger.

Ghoble, Vrushal T. (2019) Saudi Arabia–Iran Contention and the Role of Foreign Actors, *Strategic Analysis*, 43:1, 42-53.

Hameed, Mazhar A. (1986), *Saudi Arabia, the West and the Security of the Gulf*, London: Croom Helm.

Pant, Girijesh, et. al. (eds.) (2007), *Contemporary Saudi Arabia and The Emerging Indo - Saudi Relations*, Delhi: Shipra Publications.

Peterson, J. (2002), *Saudi Arabia and the Illusion of Security*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Common Data Sources:

British Petroleum - www.bp.com

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) - www.opec.org

United Nations Human Development Report (UNHDR) - <http://hdr.undp.org/en>

Arab Human Development Report (AHDR) - <http://www.arab-hdr.org/>
