

# U3A

## Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

in association with



Series 1 2007

### EXPLAINING TODAY'S MIDDLE EAST

Dates: Friday, 16 March to Friday 27 April 2007

Time: 10.00 am to 12 noon

Venue: Frank Nichol Room, Knox College, Arden Street, Opoho

Enrolments for this course will be limited to 50

Course Fee: \$30.00

Tea and Coffee provided

Course Organiser: Antony Wood (473 7208)

Course Assistant: Wilson Daniel (488 6322)

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You may apply to enrol in more than one course in each series (subject to numbers). If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preference on the application form, and include payment for the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 14 February 2007, and you may expect to receive a response to your application on or about 24 February. Any questions about courses after 24 February should be made to the Secretary, U3A Dunedin, telephone 467 2619, or email at <graysinn@clear.net.nz>

## **EXPLAINING TODAY'S MIDDLE EAST**

Is peace in the Middle East possible? A course on the region is unlikely to provide the answer, but it will, one hopes, at least provide a better understanding as to why the Middle East is a source of so much division and conflict.

There are common themes affecting many of the states of the Middle East: the effects of much of the region having been unified for centuries under the Ottoman Empire; there being one major religion, but a divided religion, Islam, throughout the region; Western pressures impacting on the Middle East over many centuries, and today United States policies being as crucial to achieving peace and stability as are the policies of the governments of the region.

The course both draws out some of the common themes and discusses conflicts and issues of governance specific to sub-regions of the Middle East. The course will be presented by members of the academic staff of the University of Otago Department of Political Studies, and of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

### **The Lecture Programme**

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| <b>16 March</b> | <b>The Background</b><br><br>Speaker: Professor William Harris (or a visiting lecturer at the University of Otago)   |
| <b>23 March</b> | <b>Islam, and the Division between Sunni and Shia</b><br><br>Speaker: Dr Gregory Dawes   |
| <b>30 March</b> | <b>Conflicts and Prospects: Iraq, Syria and Lebanon</b><br><br>Speaker: Professor William Harris   |
| <b>6 April</b>  | <b>Good Friday: no lecture</b>   |
| <b>13 April</b> | <b>East of Iraq: Pakistan, Iran and Issues of Governments and Governance</b><br><br>Speaker: Dr Najibullah Lafraie   |
| <b>27 April</b> | <b>United States Policy in the Middle East and the War on Terror</b><br><br>Speaker: Professor Robert Patman   |
| <b>Note:</b>    | No meeting is scheduled for 20 April as Professor Patman is not available for that date; there is, however, a possibility that an additional speaker may be arranged for that day. |