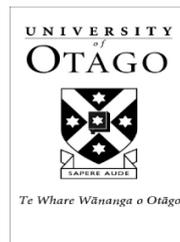


U3A

Dunedin Charitable Trust

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

in association with



Series 1 2013

EXPLAINING SYRIA

Dates: Friday, 8 March – Friday, 19 April 2013

Time: 2.15 pm – 4.15 pm

Venue: Leith Bowling Club, Duke Street, Dunedin North

Enrolments for this course will be limited to 110

Course Fee: \$40.00

Tea and Coffee provided

Course Organiser: Rosemary Hudson (477 1068)

Course Assistant: Marjan Lousberg (473 8224)

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

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday, 13 February 2013, and you may expect to receive a response to your application on or about 22 February.

Any questions about these courses after 22 February should be referred to Judith Gray, U3A Dunedin, telephone 471 9913 or on email at <graysinn@clear.net.nz>

Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.

EXPLAINING SYRIA

In December 2010, the self-immolation of the Tunisian street vendor, Muhammad Bouazizi, sparked a succession of Arab uprisings that toppled four dictatorial regimes. Few thought the uprisings would reach Syria: the regime was too strong, the stakes were too high. Yet on March 15, 2011, the Syrian uprising commenced. Non-violent protests were met with lethal force by government forces and destructive civil war eventually took hold in the country.

This course seeks to explain the Syrian conflict within the context of the Arab Spring. How did Syria's history lead to this point? How has the revolution unfolded – what are the goals of the opposition and how has the regime countered? How has the world reacted and what are the regional and global consequences? What is the nature of the civil war – who is fighting who and why? What is the role of Islam in events? And what might life be like for the 23 million Syrians caught up in the conflict?

The Programme

- 8 March The Background**
Modern Syria's emergence and importance in the Middle East; Syria under Asad rule; summary of regional politics and the Arab Spring
Dr Leon Goldsmith, Department of Politics, Massey and Otago and/or Professor William Harris, Department of Politics, Otago (unconfirmed)
- 15 March The Syrian Revolution**
Direct causes and the course of the revolution; Regime /Opposition goals & tactics
Professor William Harris and/or Dr Leon Goldsmith (unconfirmed)
- 22 March International Responses**
Multilateral (UN, Arab League, EU, NATO); unilateral (Iran, Russia, China, US, Turkey, Gulf states, Israel)
Professor Robert Patman, Department of Politics, Otago
- 5 April Sub-state Identity Politics**
Alawites, Christians, Kurds, Druze, Ismailis and the Sunni Arab majority
Dr Leon Goldsmith
- 12 April The Role of Islam**
Threats and/or opportunities?
Dr Najibullah Lafraie, Department of Politics, Otago
- 19 April Living through Revolution**
Personal perspectives from Libya (and Syria?)
Dr Coralie Daniel, co-editor of Voices 4 Libya (and possibly someone from the Syrian Solidarity group, perhaps Ali Akil who has appeared on the news several times)

Depending on the schedules and availability of speakers, the order of modules may change.

Other possible speakers being explored include Nigel Parsons (Massey), who could speak on Israeli/Palestinian implications of Syria and the Arab Spring; and Professor Patrick Kollner from the GIGA Institute in Hamburg, who will be teaching in the Politics Department in the first semester and is an expert on authoritarian regimes.