MES4610 Voices of the Middle East

Fall 2025

Evaluation Guide

Final Exam Podcast and Presentation assignment

The text below explains the required submissions for the exam:

> «The exam is a set of two submissions. You are to submit:
>
> 1) Approximately 5-8 minute podcast uploaded in an appropriate sound file (mp3, for instance).
> 2) A PowerPoint presentation, which includes the power point slides and the lecture notes.
>
> Both submissions should be updated and revised versions of the compulsory presentations held during the mock conference presentation seminar and the podcast seminar, given as part of the MES4610 course. It is a requirement that the mock conference presentation and podcast presentation discuss different subjects."[1]

In grading the submissions, the emphasis should be put on clarity, conciseness, and ability to convey complex problems to a non-expert audience.

With regards to the podcasts, the students have been provided with a set of guidelines a set of guidelines (template or storyboard) and a Podcasting Criteria Checklist to help them structure their podcast. They have been told to consult these documents when preparing their podcast presentations. (See the two attachments).

As for the mock conference presentations, the students have been given the following instructions when preparing their presentations:

- Choose a catchy title (and introduction) to attract people's attention. At the same time the title should be sufficiently informative so that the conference participants get an idea about what you will be talking about!
- Keep your presentation short and concise, maximum 10 minutes (but not less than 7-8 minutes).
- Keep in mind that the audience is an informed audience, but not specialists on your topic.
- The topic should be derived from or linked to your MA research. It should preferably be specific and concrete. (You cannot say everything in a ten minute paper.)
- Start with a brief introduction about the topic's timeliness and importance. (You may also add an element of surprise or a witty comment to get started).
- Then present briefly three "takeaways" or key findings,
- The main body of your presentation then offers empirical evidence for these findings (you may use one or two examples for each finding).

[1] [NOTE: If the students also have uploaded summaries of their presentations, and a sound file of their mock conference presentation, this is fine, but this is not a requirement.]

- At the end you offer a summary and reflect upon the significance of these findings for research and/or for policy.
- You should use slides, but no more than five main slides, in addition to the front page.
- Your slides should preferably contain text on one side and a picture, map, or illustration on the other.
- Make a dry run to make sure you stay within the time limit.