

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

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Fall 2016

Croft Room 204

Class: Tues/Thurs., 2:30 – 3:45 pm

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 4-5 pm and other times by appointment

My office is located inside the political science department, 227 Deupree Hall.

I. Description:

This course offers a thematic approach to the study of Middle East politics and society. We will review the major areas of political science research on the contemporary Middle East while simultaneously drawing on perspectives from other disciplines, including history, economics, anthropology and sociology. We will study cases from both the Middle East and other regions, with a particular focus on Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Territories. After completing this course, students should:

- *Know* about the politics and society of individual countries in the Middle East, including the experiences and perspectives of ordinary citizens
- *Think* like a social scientist by asking “Why?” questions and using data and evidence to answer these questions
- *Be prepared to* undertake a senior thesis or other more advanced study of the Middle East

II. Course Readings

Students are advised to purchase the following books for the course:

Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East 14th edition* (CQ Press, 2017)

Sandy Tolan, *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*. (New York: Bloomsbury, 2006).

All other readings for the course will be made available on Blackboard or in hard copy. The agenda of topics and readings is at the end of the syllabus.

I also highly recommend keeping track of current events in the Middle East by regularly reading some of the following publications. We will discuss current events in the Middle East in class as time permits.

- *New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/middleeast/index.html>)
- *The BBC* (http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/default.stm),
- *Al-Jazeera English* (<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/>),
- *The Middle East Channel* (<http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/>).

III. Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation: This is not a lecture course. While lecture will be an important part of the course, *participation in class discussions is required*. Students are expected to complete the readings by the class for which they are assigned and be prepared to discuss them. Also, students are expected to participate actively in all classroom debates and exercises. Fifteen percent of the course grade will be based on attendance and participation.

Attendance is required. Historical data shows that class attendance is one of the best predictors of your final grade in a course. In order to increase your chances of succeeding in this course, I will be decreasing your participation grade by 3 points for each absence, starting after your 3rd. Please note I do not need to see doctor's excuses, notes from Mom, or anything else. If you missed class, you burned an absence. The only time I need to see documentation is if you are going to miss an exam or an assignment. Please note that I reserve the right to accept or reject documented excuses based on the circumstances.

Exams & Quizzes: The course has *two exams*. They will be the same format (multiple choice, short answer, essay). The midterm exam is worth 20% and the final exam is worth 25%.

Knowing where a country is and the essential 'facts on the ground' is necessary to understand the political development of any country or region. To get the course started off, there will be a short map quiz in which you will have to identify the countries of the MENA region. You will receive a copy of the map that you can study in advance of the quiz (5%)

Written Assignments: You will also have to complete three, short written assignments. Assignment 1 is a 1-page (single-spaced) position paper that you will hand in before our in-class debate on "Why is the Middle East Underdeveloped?" Assignment 2 is a 600-800 word research memo on three, specific political and economic characteristics of one republic (i.e. non-monarchy) in the MENA region (countries and characteristics to be assigned in class). This assignment will increase your in-depth knowledge of a country in the MENA region and give you valuable experience conducting research using outside

sources. Assignment 3 is a 5-7 page (double-spaced) paper in which you will explore a political theme in the book, *The Lemon Tree*. You will receive a list of possible themes later in the class. In general, a detailed description of all assignments will be handed out before the assignment due date. All written assignments should be submitted via SafeAssign by the specified deadline and in class as a hard copy. *Note that I cannot accept any assignments to be discussed in class after the session in which they are discussed.*

Please be advised that additional assignments may be added over the course of the semester (e.g. pop quizzes).

IV. Grading

For calculating the final course grade, the assignments will be given the following weights. Please note that it is your responsibility to keep all graded assignments until after final grades have been assigned.

- 5 percent: Map Quiz (in class), Tues., Sept. 6th
- 15 percent: Class Attendance and Participation (see Attendance Policy)
- 10 percent: Debate position paper, Mon., Sept. 26th
- 10 percent: Short Research Assignment, Wed., Nov. 2nd
- 15 percent: Short Paper on *The Lemon Tree*, Thurs., Dec. 1st
- 20 percent: Midterm Exam (in class), Tues., Oct. 4th
- 25 percent: Final Exam (during final exam period), Tuesday, Dec. 6th (4pm)

The final grade for the course will be graded on the +/- grading scale. If you are borderline, i.e. 79.5, the decision to round up or down will be based primarily on your participation grade, which is itself 15% of your final grade.

V. Course Policies

- **No Computers!** A substantial body of research has demonstrated that most students learn better when they take notes by hand. If you are one of the students who prefer to use a computer, I'm sorry -- there are no exceptions unless with written documentation from the Office of Student Disability Services (see below).
- *Disability Disclosure Statement:* Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible. I will work closely with the student and the Office of Student Disability Services (reachable at (662) 915-7128 in 234 Martindale Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for any documented disabilities.

- *Attendance Verification:* The university requires that all students have a verified attendance at least once during the first two weeks of the semester for each course. If attendance is not verified, then a student will be dropped from the course and any financial aid will be adjusted accordingly. Please see <http://olemiss.edu/gotoclass> for more information. This is a university policy that is not particular to this class. As stated above, you can miss up to 3 sessions of this class for any reason; after that, you will lose points for each class missed.
- *Missed and/or Late Assignments:* Students are expected to attend scheduled exams and complete assignments by their due date and time. Late assignments will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade (i.e. from B to B-) for each 24-hour period or any part thereof. Moreover, students who fail to turn in any assignment within a week of the deadline will receive a ``0" on that assignment. Exceptions to these rules are granted only under very unusual circumstances and with appropriate documentation. If seeking such an exception, the student must contact me in advance and preferably as early as possible.
- *Communications:* The course materials, including the syllabus, handouts, readings and course-related links can be found on the course website on Blackboard. Important announcements will also be made in class and by e-mail. You are responsible for checking the course website and your university email regularly, and keeping up to date.

For substantive questions about course material and any grading concerns, please come to my office hours. For administrative questions (notifications of illness, absence, arranging a meeting, etc.), the best way to reach me is via email: yzeira@olemiss.edu. You can generally expect me to respond to your emails within 24 hours during the week, but please be advised that it may sometimes take longer for me to respond. Also, if you contact me after 5 pm on Friday, don't count on hearing from me until Monday.

- *Academic Integrity:* University policy explicitly states, and I fully expect, that every member of this class will adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating during exams, or helping someone else cheat on exams, will result in a failing grade in the course and may also result in disciplinary action. Turning in parts of someone else's work or work that you have completed for a different course without my permission, as well as scanning someone else's ID for attendance, is also academic misconduct and may result in similar penalties. Finally, note that plagiarism is not just "borrowing" words but also using ideas without a citation and many instances in between. Suspected violations will be subject to disciplinary action according to University policy. If you have questions, please consult the University's M book or talk to me.

- *Recordings*: No portion of the class may be recorded or transmitted using audio, still or moving image recording devices without express written consent from the instructor.

VI. Agenda of Topics and Readings

Week 1: Introduction and Historical Background (Aug 23 and 25)

Tuesday, Aug. 23: Introduction

Thursday, Aug. 25: The Making of the Modern Middle East

Gasper, Michael. 2017. "The Making of the Modern Middle East." In *The Middle East*, ed. Ellen Lust. CQ Press [Lust volume chapter 1, pp 1-25].

Greene, Molly. 2005. "The Ottoman Experience." *Daedalus*: Spring.

Week 2: Introduction and Historical Background (Aug. 30 and Sept. 1)

Tues, Aug. 30: The Making of the Modern Middle East 2

Gasper, Michael. 2014. "The Making of the Modern Middle East." In *The Middle East*, ed. Ellen Lust. CQ Press [Lust volume chapter 1, pp 26-53]

Thursday, Sept 1: In-class film: *Islam: Empire of Faith* (PBS Documentary)

Students are encouraged to finish watching at home:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X1PxJomypQE&feature=fvw>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il7Qkcyz3tM&feature=related>

Week 3: Colonialism and Anti-Colonialism (Sept 6 and 8)

Tues, Sept 6: Colonialism and Responses to Colonialism

Lawrence, Adria. 2013. *Imperial Rule and the Politics of Nationalism: Anti-Colonial Protest in the French Empire*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3 ONLY.

MAP QUIZ

Thursday, Sept. 8: Orientalism

Edward Said, "Introduction," in *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage Books, 1994), pp. 1-28.

Week 4: Development and Underdevelopment (Sept 13 and 15)

Tuesday, Sept 13: The Political Economy of the MENA

Cammett, Melani. 2017. "The Political Economy of Development in the Middle East." In *The Middle East*, ed. Ellen Lust. CQ Press

Bring your computers to class!

Thursday, Sept 15: Why is the Middle East Underdeveloped?

Kuran, Timur. 2004. Why the Middle East is Economically Underdeveloped: Historical Mechanisms of Institutional Stagnation." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 18.

Week 5: Development and Underdevelopment 2 (Sept 20 and 22)

Tuesday, Sept. 20: Oil and Underdevelopment

Oil: Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press [Chapter 6]

Thursday, Sept 22: Governance and Underdevelopment

Bellin, Eva R. 2005. "The Political Economic Conundrum: The Affinity of Economic and Political Reform in the Middle East and North Africa." *Uncharted Journey: Democracy Promotion in the Middle East*, ed. Thomas Carothers and Marina Ottaway. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Week 6: Debating Theories of Underdevelopment (Sept 27 and 29)

Tuesday, Sept 27: In-Class Debate: Why is the Middle East Underdeveloped?

Debate position paper due Monday, Sept. 26th at 9 am via SafeAssign and as hard copy in class

Thursday, Sept 29: Is Oil a Blessing or a Curse? [in-class film]

There is no required reading this week.

Week 7: Midterm Exam and Introduction to Authoritarian Regimes (Oct 4 and 6)

Tuesday, Oct. 4: MIDTERM EXAM

Thursday, Oct 6: Introduction to Authoritarian Regimes

Diamond, Larry. 2010. "Why Are There No Arab Democracies?" *Journal of Democracy* 21, 1 (January): 93-104.

Week 8: Authoritarian Regimes and their Persistence (Oct 11 and 13)

Tuesday, Oct 11: Authoritarian Institutions

Blaydes, Lisa. 2010. *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak's Egypt*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (selected chapters). *Note: you should read this BEFORE reading the Shehata reading.

Shehata, Samer. 2008. "Inside an Egyptian Parliamentary Campaign". In *Political Participation in the Middle East*, ed. Ellen Lust and Saloua Zerhouni. Lynne Reiner Publishers.

Recommended background reading:

Masoud, Tarek. 2017. "Egypt." In *The Middle East*, ed. Ellen Lust. CQ Press [Lust volume chapter 11]

Thursday, Oct 13: Authoritarian Political Culture

Wedeen, Lisa. 1999. "Ambiguities of domination: Politics, rhetoric and symbols in contemporary Syria." University of Chicago Press. [Selected chapters.]

Recommended background reading:

Hinnebusch, Raymond. 2017. "Syria." In *The Middle East*, ed. Ellen Lust. CQ Press [Lust volume chapter 23]

Week 9: Islamist Movements (Oct 18 and 20)

Tuesday, Oct 18: Islamist Movements: The Muslim Brotherhood

Wickham, Carrie Rosefsky. 2013. *The Muslim Brotherhood: Evolution of an Islamist Movement*. Princeton, NJ: University Press. [Selected chapters.]

Recommended background reading:

Schwedler, Jillian. 2013. "Religion and Politics." In *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East*, Second Edition (ed. Michele P. Angrist). Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Thursday, Oct 20: Why Do Islamists Succeed?

Masoud, Tarek. 2014. "Winning in the 'Well-Run Casino'". In *Counting Islam: Religion, Class, and Elections in Egypt*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Week 10: Women and Islam (Oct 25 and 27)

Tuesday, Oct 25: Why Do Women Support Fundamentalist Movements?

Blaydes, Lisa and Drew A. Linzer. 2008. "The Political Economy of Women's Support for Fundamentalist Islam." *World Politics* 60(4).

Thursday, Oct 27: Islam and Gender Equality

Deeb, Lara. 2006. *An Enchanted Modern: Gender and Public Piety in Shi'i Lebanon*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [Selected chapters]

Week 11: Conflict and Violence I: The Arab Uprisings (Nov 1 and 3)

Tuesday, Nov 1: Introduction to the Arab Uprisings

Lynch, Marc. 2012. *The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East*. New York, NY: Public Affairs [Ch 1 and 4, selected pages]

Thursday, Nov 3: Republics and Monarchies in the Arab Spring

Sean L. Yom and F. Gregory Gause III, "Resilient Royals: How Arab Monarchies Hang On," *Journal of Democracy* 23, no. 4 (2012): 74–88

Short research assignment due Wednesday, Nov. 2nd at 9 am via SafeAssign and as hard copy in class

Week 12: Conflict and Violence II: The Rise of Sectarianism (Nov 8)

Tuesday, Nov 8: The Rise of Sectarianism in the Middle East

Gause, F. Gregory. 2014. Beyond Sectarianism: The New Middle East Cold War. Brookings Doha Center Analysis Paper No. 11.
<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Papers/2014/07/22%20beyond%20sectarianism%20cold%20war%20gause/English%20PDF.pdf>

Thursday, Nov 10: CLASS CANCELLED (Chancellor's Investiture)

Week 13: Conflict & Violence II: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Nov 15 and 17)

Tuesday, Nov 15: The Development of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

The Lemon Tree, Chapters 1-5

Tessler, Mark. 2017. "The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." In *The Middle East*, ed. Ellen Lust. CQ Press [Lust volume chapter 7]

Thursday, Nov 17: PEER DISCUSSION SESSION (The Lemon Tree)

The Lemon Tree, selected pages

Week 14. THANKSGIVING BREAK (Nov 22 and 24)

Week 15: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict & Wrapping Up (Nov 29 and Dec 1)

Tuesday, Nov 29: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Continuity and Change

The Lemon Tree, selected pages

Thursday, Dec 1: Final Exam Review

Paper on *The Lemon Tree* due in class

FINAL EXAM IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH