

University of Mississippi
Croft Institute of International Studies
Spring 2013

INST 315:

Revolts, Revolutions and Uprisings in the Middle East

Dr Vivian Ibrahim

Tuesday and Thursday 9.30-10.45am Croft 204
Office Hours: Tuesday 3pm-4.30pm or by appointment
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Description:

This class will examine the causes, role and impact of various uprisings, revolts and revolutions in the nineteenth and twentieth century Middle East. The recent events of the so-called 'Arab Spring' has brought into question, why supposed change occurs, what the catalysts are, and whether there is an absolute break or continuity with the past. This course will place various historical and contemporary events within socio-political and economic contexts with the aim to question how meaningful it is to talk about 'revolutions' in the Middle East.

Learning and teaching methods:

Classes will consist of a lecture during the Tuesday and Thursday sessions as well as a mixture of class discussion, presentations and group work. It is expected that all students participate actively in the discussions, which form a crucial element of the course. Students are expected to make their contribution through regular class participation critically assessing the reading assignments, responding to peer comments, and discussing the ideas and arguments presented in class.

Each student will make at least one oral presentation based on topics and readings with the aim to encourage and facilitate debate. The oral presentation will be assigned in advance, and students are expected to make use of the required readings for that week. The presentation has to maintain a clear focus on the selected topic and offer a discussion of the relevant literature.

Marking/ Assessment/ Attendance:

1. **Map Quiz**, given on Thursday 24th January. **(5%)**
2. **Oral presentation**, as described above. **(10%)**
3. **Midterm exam**- given on Thursday 5th March **(25%)**
4. **Class Participation (10%)**
5. **Project Paper** on Arab Spring. Minimum length 3,000 words **(25%)**
 - a. Draft outline with detailed summary of sections and full annotated bibliography due Tuesday 26th March.
 - b. Full and final project due Thursday 18th April
6. **Final Exam (25%)**

Any submitted work that contains plagiarized material will receive an automatic 0%

Any work not submitted at the beginning of class will have 5 points deducted up to midnight of that day. Each subsequent day will result in a deduction of 5 points. Any work not fully spell checked and proofread will be penalized. In addition to a hard-copy, all work must be submitted electronically via "Safe assign".

A final average will be calculated and converted as follows:

Final Average	Semester Grade
93-100	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
60-69	D
0-60	F

A grade lower than "C" will not count towards the international studies major.

Attendance is mandatory. All absences must be authorized.

Most readings will be available on the **BlackBoard** or from the Library.

SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WEEK 1- Introduction to the course

WEEK 2- Constitutional Reform: The case of Iran

WEEK 3- Riots, Revolts and Rebellions: The case of Jerusalem and Palestine

WEEK 4- Military Coups: Iraq

WEEK 5- Military Coups: Syria

WEEK 6- Military Coups: Egypt

WEEK 7- Exam and Video

WEEK 8- Intifada 1987-1993 (Uprising)

WEEK 9- Intifada 2000-2003 (Uprising)

WEEK 10- Revolution: Debating Skocpol

WEEK 11- Revolution: Iran 1979

WEEK 12- The Arab Spring

WEEK 13- The Arab Spring: Egypt and Tunisia

WEEK 14- The Arab Spring: Libya and Syria

WEEK 1- Introduction to the course

Key question/themes:

- *What are the expectations of the course?*

- **Tuesday 22nd January**
-Introduction to the course

- **Thursday 24th January**
-Map Quiz
-Contextualising the region and concepts

WEEK 2- Constitutional Reform: The case of Iran

Key question/themes:

- *What triggered the crisis and reform*
- *How successful was this?*

Tuesday 29th January

Thursday 31st January

- Ervand Abrahamian, *Iran: Between Two Revolutions*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982, Chapter 2, pp.50-101.

- Vanessa Martin, *Islam and Modernism: The Iranian Revolution of 1906*, London: I.B. Tauris, 1989, Chapter 2, pp.35-64.

- Janet Afary, *The Iranian Constitutional Revolution 1906-1911*, Columbia: Columbia University Press, 1996, Chapter 5.

WEEK 3- Riots, Revolts, Rebellions and Resistance: The case of Jerusalem

Key question/themes:

- *What is the difference between a riot, revolt, rebellion and resistance?*
- *Colonialism and contexts*

Tuesday 5th February (Nebi Musa Riots)

- Roberto Mazza, *Jerusalem: From the Ottomans to the British*, I.B Tauris, 2009 Chapter 5

Thursday 7th February (The Palestinian Revolt, 1936)

- Ted Swedenburg, "The Role of the Palestinian Peasantry in the Great Revolt (1936-1939)" in Hourani/Khoury/Wilson, *The Modern Middle East: A reader*, London: I.B. Tauris, 2003, pp. 467-502.

WEEK 4- Military Coups: Iraq

Key question/themes:

- *What is a coup?*
- *What is the role/significance of armies and coups Middle Eastern Societies?*
- *Theory: What is a coup?*

Tuesday 12th February

Thursday 14th February

- Malcolm Yapp, *The Near East Since the First World War*, Edinburgh: Pearson, 1991. Chapter 2, pp. 69-84; Chapter 9, pp. 232-250.

WEEK 5- Military Coups: Syria

Key question/themes:

- *What is a coup?*
- *What is the role/significance of armies and coups Middle Eastern Societies?*

Tuesday 19th February

Thursday 21st February

- Malcolm Yapp, *The Near East Since the First World War*, Edinburgh: Pearson, 1991. Chapter 3, pp. 85-104; Chapter 10, pp. 251-265.

WEEK 6- Military Coups: Egypt

Key question/themes:

- *What are the significant differences between Nasserism and Baathism?*
- *Reform or Revolution?*

Tuesday 26th February (1952 coup)

- William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East* Boulder: Westview Press, 2004. Chapter 5, pp. 284-303.

Thursday 28th February (Nasserism)

- Nasser (al-), Gamal 'Abd, *The Philosophy of the Revolution*, (Various editions).

WEEK 7- Video and Exam

Tuesday 5th March

- Video- TBA

Thursday 7th March

- Midterm exam

SPRING BREAK 11th-15th March

WEEK 8- Intifada 1987-1993 (Uprising)

Key question/themes:

- *What is an intifada?*
- *Non-violent resistance*

Tuesday 26th March (Palestine and Israeli relations until 1980s)

Draft Outline of Project due

- William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, Boulder: Westview Press, 2004. Chapter 13, pp. 239-272; Chapter 17, pp. 345-368.

Thursday 28th March (Intifada 1)

- Salim Tamari, "What the uprising means" in *Intifada: The Palestinian Uprising*, (eds) Beinun and Lockman.

WEEK 9- Intifada 2000-2003 (Uprising)

Key question/themes:

- *Is an Intifada unique to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?*

Tuesday 2nd April

Thursday 4th April

- Ghassan Andoni, "A comparative study of Intifada 1987 and Intifada 2000", in *The New Intifada* (eds) Roane, Carey.

WEEK 10- Revolution: Debating Skocpol

Key question/themes:

- What is a revolution?
- Real revolution vs. change?

Tuesday 2nd April

Thursday 4th April

- Theda Skocpol, "France, Russia, China: A structural analysis of social change", in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Vol. 18. No.2, 1976.

WEEK 11- Revolution: Iran 1979

Key question/themes:

-Does the Iranian revolution fit in Skocpol's model?

Tuesday 8th April

Thursday 11th April

- Nikki Keddie, "Iranian Revolutions in perspective" in Hourani/Khoury/Wilson, *The Modern Middle East: A reader*, London: I.B. Tauris, 2003, pp. 601-625.
- William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, Boulder: Westview Press, 2004. Chapter 20, pp. 423-450.
- Edward Said, *Covering Islam*, London: Vintage Press, 1981, Chapter 2, pp. 80-130.

WEEK 12- The 'Arab Spring'

Key question/themes:

- Why now?

Tuesday 16th April

Thursday 18th April

Final Project due

- Shadi Hamid, "The Struggle for Middle East Democracy" in *The Cairo Review of Global Affairs*, 2011. pp. 18-29.
- Hamid Dabashi, *The Arab Spring: The End of Postcoloniality*, London: Zed Books, 2012. Introduction, pp.1-16. Chapter 1, pp. 17-40.
- Felipe Campanete and Davin Chor, "Why was the Arab World poised for Revolution? Schooling, economic opportunities, and the Arab Spring" in *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 20, No.2. 2012. pp. 167-188.

WEEK 13- The 'Arab Spring'- Tunisia and Egypt

Key question/themes:

- Why did Tunisia come first?
- Revolution Vs Uprising

Tuesday 23rd April (Tunisia)

- Julia Clancy-Smith, "From Sidi Bou Zid to Sidi Bou Said: A *Longue Duree* Approach to the Tunisian Revolution" in Mark Haas and David W. Lesch *The Arab Spring: Change and Resistance in the Middle East*, Colorado: Westview Press, 2013, Chapter 1, pp.13-34.

Thursday 25th April (Egypt)

- Bruce K. Rutherford, "Egypt: The Origin and Consequences of January 25 Uprising" in Mark Haas and David W. Lesch *The Arab Spring: Change and Resistance in the Middle East*, Colorado: Westview Press, Chapter 2, pp.35-63.
- "Roundtable discussion on the language of revolution in Egypt" in *Jadaliyya*.

WEEK 14- The 'Arab Spring'- Libya and Syria

Tuesday 30th April

Mary Jane Deeb, "The Arab Spring: Libya's Second revolution" in Mark Haas and David W. Lesch *The Arab Spring: Change and Resistance in the Middle East*, Colorado: Westview Press, Chapter 3, pp.64-78.

Thursday 2nd May

David W Lesch, "The Uprising that wasn't supposed to happen: Syria and the Arab Spring" in Mark Haas and David W. Lesch *The Arab Spring: Change and Resistance in the Middle East*, Colorado: Westview Press, Chapter 4, pp.79-96.