

Political Science 4327 – Politics of the Middle East

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WF 8:00-9:20am

Denney Hall 214

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00–4:00pm, 2031 Derby Hall

Course Description

This course takes a thematic approach to the politics of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). We will cover a selection of topics crucial to understanding the political landscape of the MENA: historical background and state formation, socioeconomic development, the Arab-Israeli conflict, authoritarian persistence and democratization efforts including the “Arab Spring,” political Islam, gender politics, and international relations and the role of the US.

We will focus on building the historical, theoretical, and analytical toolkit to answer key questions about each of the topics, including but not limited to (1) Why does the Arab-Israeli conflict endure, and how has it shaped politics in the region? (2) Why has the region largely lagged behind in terms of socioeconomic development, especially given its oil abundance? (3) Why does authoritarianism persist throughout the region, and what explains its revolutionary outbursts? (4) What accounts for the spread of political Islam, and is it compatible with democracy? (5) Why has there been so much resentment towards the West and US in particular in recent years?

In order to do so, we will evaluate the major answers to these questions (theories) against the cases (evidence) across the region. This approach serves two purposes. First, it will help you understand the root causes of the current political dynamics and challenges facing the MENA region. Second, and much more importantly, it will equip you to think beyond this course and discriminate between competing causal claims using logic and evidence more generally.

Course Readings

There is no required textbook for the course. Instead, I will expose you to a rich variety of readings from academic and non-academic journals, books, textbooks, and magazines. These will be made available to you via Carmen. Please pay close attention to assigned page numbers for all readings, as you will often be assigned excerpts or selections (denoted as ONLY pp. __-__) of longer pieces in order to focus your effort on the most important parts.

Course Evaluation

All students must carefully read assigned materials prior to class and come prepared to participate in each session. To ensure that everyone does so, we will have attendance and participation grades as well as a brief “reading check” quiz to cap off each unit. These will be relatively straightforward ex-

ercises with five questions about the unit's readings. I will add one bonus question on each quiz based on a MENA news story from the same timeframe. Thus, it is to your great benefit to follow regional current events, which will be referenced frequently in class. Build the habit of browsing:

-*New York Times Middle East Section* (<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/world/middleeast/>)

-*BBC News Middle East Section* (http://www.bbc.com/news/world/middle_east/)

-*Al Monitor: The Pulse of the Middle East* (<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/home.html>)

Grading will be based on attendance and participation as well as the map quiz, reading checks, and midterm and final exams. The midterm and final will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The final (which will be cumulative, with a greater emphasis on the second half of the course) will be held on **Friday, May 1st from 8:00am–9:45am**. All quizzes and exams will be in-class and closed-book. Use of any electronic devices during quizzes and exams is not permitted. Proper documentation of a medical or personal emergency is required for any excused make-ups, otherwise they will be penalized 10% for exams and 20% for quizzes. All make-ups must be taken within a week of the scheduled exam except under exceptional circumstances. Any questions about grading on quizzes and exams must be submitted in writing to the instructor within a week as well. Final grades will be based on the OSU standard grading scale.

All cell phones should be silenced and stowed during class. Laptops can be used for class purposes, such as note-taking. Inappropriate or disruptive technology use can affect your participation grade. My role this semester is to guide you through the process of learning about this important subject and building your analytical abilities along the way. I will be available in office hours every week or by individual appointment if you have a time conflict. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that you have about the course or your performance!

Attendance/Participation:	10%
Map Quiz:	10%
Reading Checks:	30% (5% each, highest 6 out of 7 used)
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	30%

Academic Misconduct

All the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation of them) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism must be reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct and handled according to university policy. For questions about this policy, see the Committee of Academic Misconduct's website: <http://oaa.osu.edu/coam/home.html>

Special Needs

Students with any disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; and on the web: <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>

Unit 1 (Jan. 14-28): Historical Context

Weds. Jan. 14: Introduction. Discussion of syllabus, goals, priors.

Fri. Jan. 16: Context I: The Rise of Islam. Practice Map Quiz. Start *Islam: Empire of Faith* (PBS)

- Ch. 1, “The Making of the Modern Middle East” (Gasper) in TME, pp. 1-25

Weds. Jan. 21: Context II: The “Golden Age” of Islam. Continue *IEOF*

Fri. Jan. 23: Context III: The Ottoman Empire. Map Quiz. Finish *IEOF*

Weds. Jan 28: Context IV: WWI and Beyond. 1st Reading Quiz

- Ch. 1, “The Making of the Modern Middle East” (Gasper) in TME, pp. 26-72

Unit 2 (Jan. 30-Feb. 6): Socioeconomic Development

Fri. Jan. 30: Development I: Institutions & Development

- “How the Arabs Compare: Arab Human Development Report,” *The Middle East Quarterly* (Fall 2002): 59-67.
- Kuran, Timur. 2004. “Why is the Middle East Economically Underdeveloped? Historical Mechanisms of Institutional Stagnation” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 18 (3): 71-90.
- Ch. 4, “The Political Economy of Development in the Middle East” (Cammett) in TME, ONLY pp. 200-208.

Weds. Feb. 4: Development II: Oil & Development

- Ch. 4, “The Political Economy of Development in the Middle East” (Cammett) in TME, ONLY pp. 186-199.
- Rose, Euclid. 2004. “OPEC's Dominance of the Global Oil Market: The Rise of the World's Dependency on Oil.” *Middle East Journal* 58(3): 424-443.
- Peterson, J.E. 2009. “Life after Oil: Economic Alternatives for the Arab Gulf States.” *Mediterranean Quarterly* 20, 3: 1-18.

Fri. Feb. 6: Development III: States & Development. 2nd Reading Quiz

- Anderson, Lisa. 1987. “The State in the Middle East and North Africa.” *Comparative Politics* 20(1): 1-18.
- Lustick, Ian. 1997. “The Absence of Middle East Great Powers: Political ‘Backwardness’ in Historical Perspective,” *International Organization* 51(4): 653-683.

Unit 3 (Feb. 11-20): The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Weds. Feb. 11: Arab-Israeli I: Roots of Conflict. Start *50 Years War: Israel and the Arabs* (PBS)

- Ch. 7, “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” (Tessler) in TME, pp. 287-326

Fri. Feb. 13: Arab-Israeli II: Regional Involvement. Continue *TFYW*

- Ch. 7, “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” (Tessler) in TME, pp. 327-366

Weds. Feb. 18: Arab-Israeli III: Bilateral Engagement. Finish *TFYW*

Fri. Feb. 20: Arab-Israeli IV: Pathways to Peace. 3rd Reading Quiz.

- Pressman, Jeremy. 2003 “Visions in Collision: What Happened at Camp David and Taba?” *International Security* 28(2): 5-43.

Unit 4 (Feb. 25-Mar. 4): Authoritarian Persistence

Weds. Feb. 25: Authoritarianism I: Oil & Democracy

- Ross, Michael. 2001. “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics* 53(3): 325-361.
- Andersen, Jorgen, and Michael Ross. 2014. “Big Oil Change: A Closer Look at the Haber-Menaldo Analysis.” *Comparative Political Studies* 47(7): 993-1021. ONLY pp. 993-1005.

Fri. Feb. 27: Authoritarianism II: Coercive Institutions

- Quinlivan, James. 1999. “Coups-Proofing: Practices and Consequences in the Middle East.” *International Security* 24(2): 131-165.
- Bellin, Eva. 2004. “The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East.” *Comparative Politics* 36(2): 139-157.

Weds. Mar. 4: Authoritarianism III: Liberalization. 4th Reading Quiz

- Wiktorowicz, Quintan. 2000. “Civil Society as Social Control: State Power in Jordan.” *Comparative Politics* 33 (1): 43-61.
- Lust, Ellen. 2009. “Democratization by Elections? Competitive Clientelism in the Middle East.” *Journal of Democracy* 20(3): 122-135.

Unit 5 (Mar. 6-27): Protests and Revolutions

Fri. Mar. 6: Revolution I: Arab Spring I

- Masoud, Tarek. 2011. “The Road to and From Liberation Square.” *Journal of Democracy* 22(3): 20-34.
- Bellin, Eva. 2012. “Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East.” *Comparative Politics* 44(2): 127-149.

Weds. Mar. 11: Revolution II: Arab Spring II

- Gause, F. Gregory III. 2011. “Why Middle East Studies Missed the Arab Spring.” *Foreign Affairs* (July/August). [~5 pgs.]
- Brownlee, Jason, Tarek Masoud, and Andrew Reynolds. 2013. “Why the Modest Harvest of the Arab Spring?” *The Monkey Cage* [~5 pgs.]

Fri. Mar 13: No Class

Weds. Mar. 18: Spring Break!

Fri. Mar. 20: Spring Break!

Weds. Mar. 25: Revolution III: Iranian Revolution

- Kurzman, Charles. 2005. *The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. ONLY pp. 1-11, 163-174.

Fri. Mar. 27: Midterm Review. 5th Reading Quiz.

Unit 6 (Apr. 1-10): Political Islam

Weds. Apr. 1: Midterm Exam

Fri. Apr. 3: Political Islam I: Rise/Spread

- al-Banna, Hasan. n.d. "Between Yesterday and Today." In Charles Wendell. *Five Tracts of Hasan al-Banna (1906-1949): A selection from the Majmu'at Rasa'il al-Imam al-Shahid Hasan al-Banna*. Berkeley: University of California Press. pp. 13-39.
- Qutb, Sayyid. 1964. *Milestones [Ma'alim fi al-Tariq]*. In SIME journal. ONLY pp. 25-49.

Weds. Apr. 8: Political Islam II: Moderation/Evolution

- El-Ghobashy, Mona. 2005. "The Metamorphosis of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 37(3): 373-395.
- Tibi, Bassam. 2008. "Why they can't be democratic." *Journal of Democracy* 19(3): 43-48.
- Schwedler, Jillian. 2006. *Faith in Moderation: Islamist Parties in Jordan and Yemen*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. ONLY pp. 192-197.

Fri. Apr. 10: Political Islam III: Islam & Gender. 6th Reading Quiz.

- Inglehart, Ronald, and Pippa Norris. 2003. "The True Clash of Civilizations." *Foreign Policy*. March/April: 67-74.
- Ross, Michael. 2008. "Oil, Islam, and Women." *American Political Science Review* 102(1): 107-123.

Unit 7 (Apr. 15-24): Role of the West/US

Weds. Apr. 15: West/US I: Anti-Americanism

- Lewis, Bernard. 1990. "The Roots of Muslim Rage." *The Atlantic* (September): 47-60.
- Cole, Juan. 2006. "Anti-Americanism: It's the Policies." *The American Historical Review* 111(4): 1120-29. ONLY 1125-29.
- Blaydes, Lisa, and Linzer. 2012. "Elite Competition, Religiosity, and anti-Americanism in the Islamic World." *American Political Science Review* 106(2): 1-19. ONLY pp. 1-6, 13-19.

Fri. Apr. 17: West/US II: The "Israel Lobby"

- Mearsheimer, John, and Stephen Walt. "The Israel Lobby." *London Review of Books* 28(6): 3-12. Read article as well as response letters that follow.

Weds. Apr. 22: West/US III: Democracy Promotion

