

**POSC 379: INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE EAST POLITICS**  
**MW, 3:00-4:15pm,**

Professor Pete W. Moore  
216-368-5265 (office)  
pete.moore@case.edu  
Office Hours: MW 11-12:15 and 2-3pm (Mather House 222)

**Assigned Texts**

For each lecture, there are assigned readings from books and articles. All can be accessed through our classroom Blackboard site in the documents section.

*Two books are required for purchase* and are available at the CWRU bookstore. Other assigned readings are available on the course blackboard site under course documents.

Rex Brynen, Pete Moore, Bassel Salloukh, and Marie-Joelle Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring: Authoritarianism & Democratization in the Arab World* (**Brynen**)

Michele Penner Angrist, *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* (**Angrist**)

**Grades and responsibilities**

Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures as well as assigned readings. Grading is comprised of four components:

Exams (x2)	40%
Literature reviews (x10)	20%
Final Paper	40%

**Class Policies to Note:**

Cell phones must be turned off during class time. If a phone rings once inadvertently, please turn it off immediately. Should a student answer a cell phone **for any reason** during class, he or she will be asked to leave and not to return to that class. If personal circumstances require that a student be available to receive calls during class time, he or she should explain the circumstances to the professor and **not attend** class.

**Computers or portable devices may only be used in class, with instructor permission, to take notes.**

Any rescheduling and/or extensions of exams and/or papers that are not completed at the designed time must be discussed **before** the deadline to receive a rescheduling/extension. The professor designates late papers as Fs unless discussed prior to deadline. **Papers will not be accepted as a computer file through email.**

Plagiarism whether from digital or printed sources will not be tolerated. Failure to give credit in footnotes for other's ideas, failure to use quotation marks when quoting directly from another source, and/or failure to acknowledge another author's conclusions will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of university regulations.

**Absence from class will be excused for up to 3 meetings, after which points will be deducted.**

### **Lectures & Assignments**

**Note: All readings, except the two required texts, are available through our class Blackboard site.**

#### **Week 1: Introduction Week**

8/24-26 Angrist, chapter 1

**Week 2: From Islamic Empires to European Imperialism: What happened before is important for what follows and the Middle East is no different. While we cannot do justice to the complex histories of the region and its people, we will discuss the major themes during the periods of the end Ottoman rule to the dominance of European powers until World War Two.**

8/31-9/2 \*James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History* (Oxford University Press, 2013), pp, 9-44; 71-99; and 184-196.

*Evening Business School Panel, 6-8pm*

#### **Week 3: End of Empires and the new Century**

**9/7 LABOR DAY**

9/9 Roger Owen, "The End of Empires"

\*Patrick Cockburn, "Is This the End of Sykes-Picot?" *London Review of Books*, June 2013

\*Gregory Gause, "Is This the End of Sykes-Picot?" *The Monkey Cage*, May 2014

**Week 4: Political Independence and State formation: The state looms large in Political Science because it affects so much of any country's politics and society. How do we understand the emergence of states in the Middle East? What have been the challenges in building states and how did rulers respond?**

9/14-16 Charles Tilly, "How War Made States, and Vice Versa" (read this as background to the two articles below)

\*Ian, Lustick, "The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Power: Political

‘Backwardness’ in Historical Perspective”

\*Lisa Wedeen, “Seeing Like a Citizen, Acting Like a State: Exemplary Events in Unified Yemen”

**Week 5: States, Regimes, and Political Oppositions: How do nondemocratic regimes in the region maintain power? How are those regimes opposed by its citizens, or conversely how and why do some citizens nevertheless support nondemocratic rule?**

9/21-23 Wedeen, “Seeing Like a Citizen”  
\*Angrist, “Governments and Oppositions”  
Brynen, “Electoral Politics”

**Week 6: Iraq and the 2003 US Invasion: The Iraqi state has undergone significant change since 1980. What have been these changes and what factors and actors influenced this change?**

9/28-30 Angrist, “Iraq”  
Pete Moore and Christopher Parker, “The War Economy of Iraq”  
\*Peter Van Buren, *We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People*,

**Week 7: Political Economy I: This field of study is defined as the mutual construction of the political and the economic. In the Middle East, we will focus on the politics of unequal economic development and the role oil has played in the region’s politics.**

10/5-7 Angrist, “Political Economy”  
\*Brynen, “Rentierism and Resource Politics”

**Week 8: Political Economy II: Oil, Politics, and the Gulf States**

10/12-14 Brynen, “Rentierism and Resource Politics”  
\*Sean Yom and Gregory Gause, “Resilient Royals: How Arab Monarchies Hang On”  
Brynen, “The Politics of Monarchial Liberalization”

**Week 9: Break and Exam**

**10/19 FALL BREAK**

**10/21 EXAM I** (10-24 Guest Speaker, LGBT in MENA)

**Week 10: Religion and Politics: To what extent is religion responsible for political and social patterns in a given country?**

10/26-28 \*Brynen, "Islamist Movements and Democratic Politics"  
\*Angrist, "Religion and Politics"

**Week 11: Iran: One of the major non-Arab countries of the region, politics in Iran intersects many of our course themes, diversity, political economy, and religion and politics.**

11/2-4 Angrist, "Iran"  
\*Asef Bayat, "Revolution without movement, movement without revolution: comparing Islamic activism in Iran and Egypt"

**Week 12: Egypt and the 2011 Uprisings: While Egypt, the largest Arab country, did not experience a full revolution in 2011, its revolutionary moment was profound. What led to those momentous events and how were the forces of counter revolution successful in the short term?**

11/9-11 \*Angrist, "Egypt"  
\*Mona Al-Ghobashy, "The Praxis of the Egyptian Revolution,"  
Mona Al-Ghobashy, "Fashioning a Coup"

*Guest Speaker on MB*

**Week 13: Israel and Palestine: A major destabilizing problem in the Middle East has been the long running conflict between Arabs and Israel over the land of Palestine. While we cannot fully examine politics in Israel and Palestine, we will cover the major themes that bind and separate Israel and Palestine, including the failed peace process.**

11/16-18 MERIP, "Primer on Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict"  
\*John B. Judis, *Genesis: Truman, American Jews, and the Origins of the Arab/Israeli Conflict*, Chapter 15 and Afterword  
\*Hussein Agha and Robert Malley, "Camp David: The Tragedy of Errors" *New York Review of Books*, August 9, 2001

**11/20 EXAM II DUE**

**Week 14: Syria and Civil War: Syria is one of the world's most diverse states. Until**

**2011, its ruling Baathist regime was considered among the most repressive but stable regimes in the region. The onset of peaceful protest has given way to a multi-sided regional conflict which has torn Syrian society apart. How did it all come to this?**

11/23-25 Brynen, "The Mashreq" (focus on Syria section)  
\*Angrist, Syria"  
\*Bassam Haddad, "Syria's Stalemate: The Limits of Regime Resilience"

**Week 15: Final Project Week: Presentations for final paper will be assigned. Paper will be due during exam period**

11/30-  
12/2