

MIDDLE EAST POLITICS POSC 379

Professor Pete W. Moore

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1-3:30 or by appointment (Mather House 219)

The Middle East is quite popular today. Most of the reasons for that popularity are lamentable. In this course we will go beyond the lament to explore politics in one of the most important and fascinating regions of the world. Political discussion in the Middle East is the life of everyman. Waiting in line, people talk politics. Eating, people talk politics. Even at weddings, people talk politics. Therefore, this course *will* tackle the controversial issues and dilemmas of the region, but from a sober, analytical vantage. We want to try and answer why questions about the region, not simply what and how.

This is an introductory course. Part of the course will cover the political, social, and economic themes that animate debate in the field of Middle East Studies. A second goal is to gain *comparative* knowledge about the people of the region, their religions, cultures, and societies. The 22 countries that comprise the modern Middle East are quite diverse, therefore, we will only be able to focus on a few cases and issues. The period of analysis will be since World War Two.

Assigned Texts

For each lecture, there are assigned readings from books and articles. All can be accessed through the library's e-reserve system.

Two books and an issue of Middle East Report are required.

*Penner Angrist, Michele, *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Textbook)

*Middle East Report: *The Islamic Revolution at 30* (MERIP)

*Khaled al-Khamissi, *Taxi*

Grades and responsibilities

Students are responsible for the material covered in the lectures as well as assigned readings.

Grading is comprised of four components:

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|----|----------------------|------------|
| 1. | Mid-term examination | 20% |
| 2. | Book analysis | 15% |
| 3. | Debate paper | 15% |
| 4. | Course diary | 20% |
| 5. | Final examination | 30% |

****Please turn off mobile phones**

****More than two unexcused absences from class will result in failure.**

****Lap tops may only be used in class for note taking. Please see me for permission**

Lectures & Assignments

Week 1

8/24

Introduction

8/26

Diversity and Identity in the Middle East

“Moghadam, “Population Growth, Urbanization, and the Challenges of Unemployment,”
King-Irani, “Kinship, Class, Ethnicity,”

Week 2

8/31

From Islamic Empires to European Rule

Ibn Khaldun, “Government Offices”

Goldschmidt, “The Historical Context,” (focus on period from Ottoman Empire forward, pp.45-53)

Owen, “The End of Empires”

9/2

*Owen, “The Growth of state power in the Arab World,”

Week 3

9/7

Regimes and Opposition; States and Citizens

Textbook: Ghobashy, “Governments and Oppositions”

9/9

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

Week 4

9/14

Political Economy

Textbook: Moore, “Political Economy”

9/16

Textbook: Moore, “Political Economy”

*Moore and Parker, “The War Economy of Iraq”

Week 5

9/21

The External Environment

Textbook: Gause, International Politics and its Domestic Impacts

9/23

*Lustick, “The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Power.”

Week 6

9/28

Religion and Politics

Schwedler, "Religion and Politics"

9/30

Schwedler, "Religion and Politics"

*Josh Stacher, "The Brothers and the Wars," in *Middle East Report: The Islamic Revolution at 30*

Week 7

10/5

(Book Analysis Due)

Revolutionary Regimes: Egypt and Iran

Textbook: Brown and Shahin, "Egypt"

Textbook: Keshavarzian, "Iran"

10/7

Textbook: Brown and Shahin, "Egypt"

Textbook: Keshavarzian, "Iran"

**Middle East Report* issue, pp. 10-17; 26-33; 44-55

Week 8

10/12

*Bayat, "Revolution without movement, movement without revolution: comparing Islamic activism in Iran and Egypt"

10/14 MID-TERM EXAM

Week 9

10/19 FALL BREAK

10/21

Conservative Regimes and Monarchies

*Anderson, "Absolutism and the Resilience of Monarchy in the Middle East"

Textbook: Herb, "Kuwait and the UAE"

Week 10

10/26

Varieties of Monarchs

Textbook: Okruhlik, "Saudi Arabia"

*Dodge, "Violence and the illusion of reform in Saudi Arabia"

10/28

Textbook: Ryan, "Jordan"

Week 11

11/2

States and societies in peril: Iraq

Textbook: Lawson, "Iraq"

11/4

Iraq-post 2003

Textbook: Lawson, "Iraq"

*Moore, "Making Big Money on Iraq"

Also recommended:

Also see FBI interviews: www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB279/index.htm

Week 12

11/9

Israel

Dowty, "Israel"

*Shlaim, "The Debate about 1948"

11/11

Dowty, "Israel"

Week 13

11/16

Palestine

Textbook: Brown, "The Palestinian Authority"

11/18

Textbook: Brown, "The Palestinian Authority"

*Petecet, "Beyond Compare"

Week 14

11/23

The (failed) peace process

*Hussein Agha and Robert Malley, "Camp David: The Tragedy of Errors"

*Ron Pundak, "From Oslo to Taba: What Went Wrong?"

*Yezid Sayigh, "Arafat and the Anatomy of a Revolt"

11/25 *Thanksgiving Break*

Week 15

11/30

Toward Solutions?

Mossberg and Grinberg, "Beyond One and Two State Solutions"

Tony Judy, "Israel: The Alternative"

Alan Dershowitz, "Is the one-state solution a barrier to peace?"

12/2

Debate Paper Due