

INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE EAST POLITICS POSC 379

MW, 4:30-5:45pm, Mather Memorial 225

Professor Pete W. Moore

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Office Hours: MW 2-4pm (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.

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

(McMurray and Ufheil-Somers) David McMurray and Amanda Ufheil-Somers, *The Arab Revolts Dispatches on Militant Democracy in the Middle East*

Grades and responsibilities

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

Midterm	30%
Uprising case study paper	40%
Literature reviews	30%

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

8/25-27 Textbook, pp. 1-13
McMurray and Ufheil-Somers, pp. 1-11.

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.

9/1 LABOR DAY

9/3 James Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East: A History* (Oxford University Press, 2013), pp, 9-44; and 71-99

Week 3: 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?

9/8-10 Gelvin, *The Modern Middle East*, pp, 184-196.
Roger Owen, "The End of Empires"
Charles Tilly, "How War Made States, and Vice Versa"
Ian, Lustick, "The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Power."

Ari Shavit, City Club 9/12, Noon

Week 4: Regimes and Political Oppositions

9/15-17 Mona El Ghobashy, "Governments and Oppositions"
McMurray and Ufheil-Somers: "The Praxis of the Egyptian Revolution," pp. 60-75
Textbook, "Electoral Politics," pp. 147-172.
Textbook, "New Arab Media," pp. 223-256

Week 5: Gender and Politics

9/22 Diane Singerman, "Gender and Politics"

9/24 *Sherine Hafez Lecture*

Film: *The Square*, 6pm (Location TBA)

Week 6: Political Economy: This field of study is defined as how economic factors shape political outcomes and conversely how political factors shape economic outcomes. In the Middle East, we will focus on the politics of economic development and (later) the role oil has played in the region's politics.

9/29-10/1 Textbook: "Economic Liberalization," pp. 213-232
Textbook: "Rentier Politics," pp. 193-212
McMurray and Ufheil-Somers, "Structural Adjustment and Rural Poverty in Tunisia," pp. 39-44; "Worlds Apart," 76-82

Week 7: Israel and Palestine: A major destabilizing problem in the Middle East has been the long running conflict between Israel and Palestine. While we cannot fully examine politics in each, we will cover the major themes that bind and separate Israel and Palestine, including the failed peace process.

10/6 Avi Shlaim, "The Debate about 1948," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 27 (1995)
MERIP, "Primer on Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict"
<http://www.merip.org/primer-palestine-israel-arab-israeli-conflict-new>

10/8 **NO CLASS**

Week 8: Israel-Palestine II: Failed Peace Processes

10/13-15 Neve Gordon, "Preface" and "Introduction, *Israel's Occupation* (California 2008)
Hussein Agha and Robert Malley, "Camp David: The Tragedy of Errors" *New York Review of Books*, August 9, 2001

Week 9: Religion, Politics, and the Case of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers

10/20-22 Textbook: "Islamist Movements and Democratic Politics," pp. 119-139.
Mona Al-Ghobashy, "The Metamorphosis of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers,"
International Journal of Middle East Studies 37 (2005).
Samer Shehata and Joshua Stacher, "The Muslim Brothers in Mubarak's Last Decade" *Middle East Report*

Guest Speaker

Week 10: Midterm Week

10/27 **FALL BREAK**

10/29 **MIDTERM (in class)**

Week 11: Monarchies, Ruling Families, and the Gulf States: A major distinction in the region is between the oil rich though sparsely populated Arabian Gulf states and the more populous though less resource rich states of the Levant and North Africa. Additionally, all of the Gulf Arab states are ruled by monarchies and ruling families. What kind of political rule is this? What are its origins? And how have these polities changed?

11/3-5 Lisa Anderson, "Absolutism and the Resilience of Monarchy in the Middle East"
Textbook: "The Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen," pp. 69-85.
McMurray and Ufheil-Somers, "A Revolution Paused in Bahrain," pp. 205-208;
"In the Kingdom of Tear Gas," p. 239

Week 12: 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.

11/10-12 Arang Keshavarzian, "Iran"
Asef Bayat, "Revolution without movement, movement without revolution:

comparing Islamic activism in Iran and Egypt”

Week 13: Lebanon and Syria

11/17-19 Itamar Rabinovich, *The War for Lebanon, 1970-1985* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1984), pp.17-59.
Walid Khalidi, *Conflict and Violence in Lebanon*, pp.93-101.
Mahmud Faksh, “The Alawi Community of Syria: A New Dominant Political Force,” *Middle Eastern Studies* 20:2 (April 1984): 135-53.
Najib Ghadbian, “The New Asad: Dynamics of Continuity and Change in Syria,” *Middle East Journal* (Autumn 2001).

21 November, Noura Erakat, City Club, Noon

Week 14: The Start (and finish?) of the 2011 Uprisings

11/24 **NO CLASS**

11/26 Textbook: “From Fear to Hope?,” pp. 287-301
Toby Jones, “Counterrevolution in the Gulf” USIP, Peace Brief 89

Week 15: Final Project Week

12/1

12/3