

INTRODUCTION TO MIDDLE EAST POLITICS (POSC 379)

Professor Pete W. Moore

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Office Hours: MWF, 1:30-2:30 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. At dinner 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.

The text book and two issues of *Middle East Report* are required.

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

*Middle East Report 258 (MERIP) *People Power*

*Middle East Report 259 (MERIP) *North Africa*

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 exam | 25% |
| 2. | Short paper | 20% |
| 3. | Participation/attendance | 10% |
| 4. | Course diary | 15% |
| 5. | Final examination | 30% |

Lectures & Assignments

Week 1 (8/29-9/2)

Introduction: Middle Eastern Diversity and Uprising!

Valentine Moghadam, "Population Growth, Urbanization, and the Challenges of Unemployment,"

Textbook: David Patel, "Identity and Politics"

MERIP #258, Mona El-Ghobashy, "The Praxis of the Egyptian Revolution"

MERIP #259, Larissa Chomiak and John Entelis, "The Making of North Africa's Intifadas"

Week 2 (9/7-9/9, 9/5 LABOR DAY)

From Islamic Empires to European Rule

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

Roger Owen, "The End of Empires"

Week 3 (9/12-9/16)

States, Regimes, and Oppositions

Ibn Khaldun, "Government Offices"

Textbook: Michelle Angrist, "The Making of Middle East Politics"

Textbook: Mona El Ghobashy, "Governments and Oppositions"

Eva Bellin, "Coercive Institutions, Coercive Leaders"

Week 4 (9/19-9/23)

Israel-Palestine

(Guest speakers, 9/21)

Avi Shlaim, "The Debate about 1948," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 27 (1995)
Neve Gordon, *Israel's Occupation*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008) pp. xv-22;
and 197-225

Hussein Agha and Robert Malley, "Camp David: The Tragedy of Errors" *New York Review of Books*, August 9, 2001

Week 5 (9/26-9/30)

Political Economy

Textbook: Pete Moore, "Political Economy"

Timothy Mitchell, "Carbon Democracy"

MERIP #259, Omar Dahi, "Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Revolts"

Week 6 (10/3-10/7)

The External Environment

(Guest speaker, Rami Khouri, 10/5)

Textbook: Gregory Gause, “International Politics and its Domestic Impacts”
Ian Lustick, “The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Power.”

Week 7 (10/10-10/14)

Religion and Politics

Textbook: Jillian Schwedler, “Religion and Politics”
Timothy Mitchell, McJihad: “Islam in the US Global Order”
MERIP #242, (Spring 2007) Toby Jones, “Saudi Arabia’s not so new anti-Shi’ism” (on library reserve)
MERIP #259, Mariz Tadros, Sectarianism and Its Discontents in Post-Mubarak Egypt

Week 8 (10/17-10/21)

Monarchies and Ruling Families

Lisa Anderson, “Absolutism and the Resilience of Monarchy in the Middle East”
Textbook: Curtis Ryan, “Jordan”
Sean Yom, “Jordan Goes Morocco”

Week 10 (10/24-28, 10/24-25 FALL BREAK)

The Gulf

Textbook: Michael Herb, “Kuwait and the UAE”
Textbook: Gween Okruhlik, “Saudi Arabia”
Toby Jones, “Counterrevolution in the Gulf” USIP, Peace Brief 89

Week 11 (10/31-11/4)

Comparing Iran and Egypt

Asef Bayat, “Revolution without movement, movement without revolution: comparing Islamic activism in Iran and Egypt”
Textbook: Arang Keshavarzian, “Iran”

Week 12 (11/7-11/11)

Egypt

Textbook: Nahthan Brown and Emad El-Din Shahin, “Egypt”

MERIP #258, Mona El-Ghobashy, "The Praxis of the Egyptian Revolution"
MERIP #259, Hisham Sallam, "Striking Back at Egyptian Workers"

Week 13 (11/14-11/18)
Gender and Politics

Textbook, Diane Singerman, "Gender and Politics"
Sherine Hafez, "Women developing women: Islamic approaches to poverty alleviation in rural Egypt"

Week 14 (11/21-11/24-25 THANKSGIVING BREAK)
Tales of Two Baath Regimes: Iraq and Syria

Textbook: Lawson, "Iraq"
Pete Moore and Christopher Parker, "The War Economy of Iraq"
Pete Moore, "Making Big Money on Iraq"

Week 15 (11/28-12/2)
Tales of Two Baath Regimes: Iraq and Syria

Textbook: Fred Lawson, "Syria"
Lisa Wedeen, "Signs of Transgression"

Week 16 (12/5-12/9)
TBA