

Introduction to Middle East Politics

Case Western Reserve University

Fall 2006

Professor Pete W. Moore

phone: 368-5265 e-mail: pete.moore@case.edu

Mather House Rm 219

Office hours:

Wednesday 2-3

Tuesday and Thursday, 3-4

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.

Three texts comprise much of the readings for each class. The texts are available in the bookstore:

Karl Yambert, *The Contemporary Middle East*, (Abbreviated, Yambert)

Deborah Gerner and Jillian Schwedler, *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* (Abbreviated, Gerner)

Nir Rosen, *In the Belly of the Green Bird*

Grades and responsibilities

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

mid-term examination 20%

map quiz 10%

literature review 10%

final paper 20%

final examination 40%

Grade Scale (rounded up):

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F 59-

LECTURES AND READINGS

All readings aside from the required Gerner, Yambert, and Rosen texts are available through the library's on-line reserve system. Some noted readings are available outside the library and the web addresses are given

8/29 Introduction

Gerner, Introduction, pp.1-4

8/31 No Class-Study for Map Quiz

Gerner, Chapter 2, pp. 5-31

9/05 Social and Ethnic Diversity--MAP QUIZ

Gerner, Chapter 10, pp. 299-334

9/07 Studying the Middle East: Power, Tribes, and Orientalism

Gerner, chapter 4, pp. 79-92

Yahya Sadowski, "The New Orientalism and the Democracy Debate,"

Also, Ibn Khaldun, selection from [*Muqaddimah*](#), p.3-6.

9/12 The Islamic Conquests

Albert Hourani "Prologue," and "The Ottoman Empire."

Gerner, Chapter 3, pp. 333-47

9/14 The emergence of Middle Eastern states: colonialism and decolonization

Gerner, Chapter 3, pp. 47-66

9/19 The Lebanese Saga: wonderful cuisine, tragic politics

Itamar Rabinovich, The War for Lebanon, 1970-1985, pp.17-59.

Walid Khalidi, Conflict and Violence in Lebanon, pp.93-101.

9/21 MOVIE: West Beirut

9/26 MOVIE: West Beirut

9/28 Nationalism

Yambert, Chapter 3

Lustick, "The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers," *International Organization* 51:4 (Autumn 1997): 653-84.

Also, Sati Al-Husri, "Muslim Unity and Arab Unity"

10/03 The Revolutionary States: Egypt

Yambert, Chapter 17

10/05 Egypt: The Muslim Brotherhood

Yambert, Chapter 18

10/10 Religious monarchies and conservative strategies of state formation

Lisa Anderson, "Absolutism and the Resilience of Monarchy in the Middle East," *Political Science Quarterly*, 106, 1 (1991).

10/12 Economic Development I: colonial legacies and state-led economic development

Gerner, Chapter 7

10/17 Economic Development II: oil states and the resource curse

Gerner, Chapter 8

10/19 *MID-TERM EXAM*****

10/24 FALL BREAK

10/26 The Gulf States

Yambert, Chapters 14 & 15

10/31 Islam and Politics I

Gerner, Chapter 12

11/02 Islam and Politics II: The Iranian Revolution

Yambert, Chapters 11 & 12

11/07 Israel

Monte Palmer, "The Politics of Israel," pp.103-158.
Theodor Herzl, "The Jewish State"

11/09 The US and Israel Debate

John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, "The Israel Lobby,"
London Review of Books web link to article
http://www.lrb.co.uk/v28/n06/print/mear01_.html

Also:

Yambert, Chapter 6

11/14 Palestine

Yambert, Chapter 5

11/16 Conflict and the The Failed Peace Process

Gerner, Chapter 6

Hussein Agha and Robert Malley, "Camp David: The Tragedy of Errors"
Ron Pundak, "From Oslo to Taba: What Went Wrong?" pp.31-45.
Yezid Sayigh, "Arafat and the Anatomy of a Revolt," pp.47-60.

11/21 Iraq

Yambert, Chapter 10 & 13

Nir Rosen, In the Belly of the Green Bird, chapters 1-3

11/23 Thanksgiving Holiday

11/28 The Iraq War

Nir Rosen, In the Belly of the Green Bird, chapters 4-5

12/05 The Iraq War

Nir Rosen, In the Belly of the Green Bird, chapters 6-7.

12/07 Final Review