

Political Science 77336
Middle East Politics & Institutions
SUNY New Paltz
Fall 2007
WF 10:00-11:15

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Office Hours: M 10-12 and 3:45-5:00
W 3:45-5:00 or by appointment

Course Description

This course explores the struggle over democratization and political institutional development in the Middle East. We examine the political and ideological forces that compete for power and study the influence of Islam, nationalism and democratic movements in several countries. We explore the effects of combination of these forces on political development and nation building following the fall of the Ottoman Empire. There will be an emphasis on the current affects of political economy, culture and institutions in the region. We will study diverse political systems, ranging from democracy, to various authoritarian regimes including one-person rule, kingdoms, and Islamic republicanism, drawing examples from different countries including Turkey, Iran, and Iraq. We will consider how power is continuously challenged by opposing political and ideological forces in these countries.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Class Activities (10%)

You are required to attend class regularly. Unless excused in advance or you have proof of emergency, you may not miss more than 2 class periods without penalty. Do not come to class late. If you walk in late, you are responsible for getting the instructor to mark you present after class. 2 late arrivals equal an absence up to two absences, after the 4th lateness all late arrivals are counted as absent.

Come to class prepared to participate. I would like our discussions to be focused on the relevant topic, but the expression of varying viewpoints is encouraged. Some of these discussions will cover issues upon which we may not all agree. While it is expected that you will develop your own views, it is important that everyone be willing to hear alternative viewpoints and that we treat one another with respect regardless of whether we agree or disagree.

Readings

You must do all the readings for the week before coming to class. Additional readings that are not included in the syllabus may be assigned by the instructor.

Available at the university bookstore:

Bill, James A. and Robert Springborg. (2000) *Politics in the Middle East*. 5th edition. Longman Press.

Additional required readings are selected from the following texts and available on ERES on the internet.

Abadan-Unat, Nermin and Oya Tokgoz. "Turkish Women as Agents of Social Change." In *Women and Politics Worldwide*. (1994)

Andersen, Roy, Robert F. Seibert and Jon G. Wagner. *Politics and Change in the Middle East*. 4th edition. (Prentice Hall, 1993)

Barber, Benjamin, *Jihad vs. McWorld*. (Times Books, 1995)

Bellin, Eva. 2004. "Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East" *Comparative Politics*. January. 139-157.

Berman, Sheri. 2003. "Islamism, Revolution and Civil Society." *Perspectives on Politics* Vol 1 No 2 257-269.

Cleveland, W., *A History of the Modern Middle East*. (Westview, 1994)

Diamond, Larry. "Iraq and Democracy: The Lessons Learned." *Current History*. Jan 2006. 34-39.

Esposito, John L. *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?* (Oxford University Press, 1992)

Hooglund, Eric. "Iran in the 1980s" and "Social Origins of the Revolutionary Clergy", in *The Iranian Revolution and the Islamic Republic*, eds. Keddie and Hooglund. (Syracuse, 1986)

Huntington, Samuel. "Clash of Civilizations" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 73. No. 3, 1993

Mardin, Şerif. "Center Periphery Relations: A Key to Turkish Politics?" *Daedalus*. (169-190)

Milani, Mohsen M. "Reform and Resistance in the Islamic Republic of Iran", in *Iran at the Crossroads*, eds. Esposito and Ramazani. (Palgrave, 2001)

Nasr, Vali. "Iran's Peculiar Election: The Conservative Wave Rolls On" *Journal of Democracy*; October 2005 16:4 9-22

Owen, Roger. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. (Routledge, 1992)

Onar, Nora. 2007. "Kemalists, Islamists and Liberals: Shifting Patterns of Confrontation and Consensus" *Turkish Studies*. Vol 8-2. 273-288.

Razavi, Shahra. 2006. "Islamic Politics, Human Rights and Women's Claims for Equality in Iran," *Third World Quarterly*. Vol 27 No 9. 1223-1237.

Ross, Michael. 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics*. Vol 53 No 3. 325-360.

Stanski, Victoria. 2005. "Linchpin for Democracy: The Critical Role of Civil Society in Iraq." *Journal of Third World Studies*

Tessler, Mark. 2002. "Islam and Democracy in the Middle East: Impact of Religious Orientations on Attitudes toward Democracy in Four Arab Countries" *Comparative Politics*. Vol 34 No 3. 337-354.

Current Event Class Discussion (10%)

Starting on September 26, each student is required to present a country study including background information and a discussion on relevant current political issues concerning this country. This presentation should utilize the concepts and theories we study in the class material. This presentation must end with thoughtful questions posed for discussion. A brief background on this country along with Internet links must be posted on blackboard by 8:00 pm the night before class presentation. Students must confirm the content of the BB posting with the instructor.

Countries to be selected:

Algeria	Kuwait
Morocco	UAE
Libya	Bahrain
Tunisia	Oman
Egypt	Qatar
Israel	Saudi Arabia
Palestinian Territories	Sudan
Jordan	Yemen
Lebanon	Djibouti
Syria	

Papers (25%)

You are required to write an 8-12 page paper for this course. A detailed paper assignment will be distributed in class.

Exams (55%)

There will be two written in-class exams. These exams are made up of essay and short answer questions. No make up exams are given unless you get an approval from the instructor prior to the exam with a valid excuse or bring evidence of a valid excuse after the exam such as a doctor's note.

Grading Policy

Mid Term Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%
Paper	25%
Country Presentation	10%
Class Participation	10%
Total	100%

WARNING!!!

You are responsible for all of the policies explained in this syllabus. Ignorance of these policies is not an acceptable excuse for failing to meet the course requirements. You are encouraged to read over this syllabus very carefully and refer to it regularly throughout the course. On rare occasion, changes in policy which supersede the syllabus may be announced in class. You are responsible for knowing any updated policies regardless of whether you were in attendance when new policies were announced.

Note: It is the policy of SUNY New Paltz to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with disabilities. Students in need should contact the Disability Resource Center in room 205 of the Student Union Building or phone (845) 257-3020 for more information.

Note: Students should be aware of and adhere to all college academic integrity policies in regard to cheating, forgery, and plagiarism.

Note: If questions arise about class cancellations or delays due to snow or other conditions call 257-INFO.

Dates	Topic	Readings
Week 1 (Aug 24)	Introduction	Andersen, Seibert, Wagner (pp.32-52)
Week 2 (Aug 29-31)	Brief Background and History of the Middle East	Andersen, Seibert, Wagner (pp.53-68)
Week 3 (Sep 5-7)	Colonialism and its Legacies in State Formation	Owen Chapter 1 (pp.1-26) Esposito (pp.47-76)
Week 4 (Sep 12)	Modernization, new states, beliefs and ideologies	Bill and Springborg Chapter 1-2
Week 5 (Sep 19-21)	Organization of Groups and Leadership in the Middle East	Bill and Springborg Chapters 3-4
Week 6 (Sep 26-28)	Political Institutional Development	Bill and Springborg Chapters 5-6
Week 7 (Oct 3-5)	MIDTERM WEEK	Review Oct 3 Midterm October 5
Week 8 (Oct 10-12)	What stands in the way of democratization in the Middle East: Institutions, Culture, Political Economy, or International Effects? Paper Topics Due October 12	Bellin, 139-153 Tessler, 337-355
Week 9 (Oct 17- October 19)	What stands in the way of democratization in the Middle East: Institutions, Culture, Political Economy?	Berman, 257-269 Ross 325-361
Week 10 (Oct 24-26)	Case Studies: Turkey: Political Origins Turkish Politics Today: Institutions and Struggle with consolidation	Mardin, Şerif, 169-190 Onar, Nora 273-288
Week 11 (Oct 31- Nov 2)	Politics of Gender Islamic Republic of Iran: Origins of Theocratic Republic	Abadan-Unat Yesim Arat (7-55) Hooglund (17-31) (74-83)
Week 12 (Nov 7-9)	Reform, Resistance and Back to Conservatism	Milani (29-56) Nasr (9-22)
Week 13 (Nov 14-16)	Back to Conservatism: Women in Iran Today Paper Due November 16 Iraq : Background	Razavi, 1223-1237 Cleveland readings (all)
Week 14 (Nov 28-Dec 30)	Building Democratic Institutions Women and Democratization	Diamond 34-39 Stanski 197-225
Week 15 (Dec 5-7)	Global Issues and the Middle East	Huntington, Samuel, Clash of Civilizations Barber, Benjamin Jihad vs. McWorld Introduction
FINAL	(You are responsible for confirming that this information is correct!) TUESDAY, DEC 18 11:30-01:30PM	