McGill University
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Fall Term 2012

POLI 340
Developing Areas: Middle East

INSTRUCTOR:	Prof. Rex Brynen office: ICAMES (3465 Peel), room 301 phone: (514) 398-4400x00634 (office) email: rex.brynen@mcgill.ca
CLASS HOURS:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 13h05 – 14h25 (LEA 26)
OFFICE HOURS:	Tuesdays 11h00 – 12h00, Thursdays 15h00-16h00, or by appointment. In addition, I will usually be available on Thursdays immediately after class.

Course Description

This course will examine the historical, social, and economic context of contemporary Middle East politics, explore political dynamics of selected Middle Eastern regimes, and offer a comparative examination of key political trends and themes. Particular attention will be devoted to the "Arab Spring" of pro-reform protests that spread across the region in 2011, and their subsequent political repercussions.

The prerequisite for the course is a previous course in comparative politics, or a previous course on the region. Please note that Middle East international relations/foreign policy and Israeli politics will not be covered in this course, since they are addressed in POLI 341 and POLI 437 respectively.

This course involves a substantial reading load. Students are urged to keep on top of this, and to read all relevant articles before each lecture for maximum benefit.

Text

The text for this course will is:

> Rex Brynen, Pete Moore, Bassel Salloukh, and Marie-Joelle Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring: Authoritarianism and Democratization in the Arab World* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2012).

Note that this book will not be available in the bookstore at the start of term. Instead, chapters will be made available as pdfs via myCourses.

Readings for the course are drawn from the course text or have been placed online via myCourses (http: http://www.mcgill.ca/mycourses/). They may also available on reserve in the library. Because of this,

there is no coursepack for the course. **Additional required readings will be placed on myCourses as the course progresses**, so please check it regularly.

In addition, students should follow regional events via the following websites:

- *BBC News* (http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/middle_east/)
- *al-Jazeera English* (http://english.aljazeera.net)
- *Foreign Policy*/*Middle East Channel* (http://mideast.foreignpolicy.com/)

Please note that anything we discuss in class is potential material for the exams, including discussions of recent developments in the region.

Course Requirements and Grading

- two (out of three) quizzes (October 9, October 30, November 15) 30% (15% each)
- research paper (4-5,000 words, due in class on November 22) 30%
- final examination (university-scheduled) 40%

The *quizzes* will be in multiple-choice format (35 minutes/30 questions), and will test all material covered in class up to the day of the exam. Each is worth 15%, and the two highest will be used to calculate your course grade. If you miss one quiz, your grade will be based on the other two. If you miss more than one quiz, you will require a documented medical (or similar) excuse for any special arrangements to be made.

The requirements of the *research paper* will be detailed in a special handout distributed in mid-September. Late papers will be accepted in class on November 29 (at a penalty of 3.0 marks out of 30) only. Only documented medical excuses (or equivalent) justify the unpenalized late submission of a paper.

The *final exam* will consist of longer essays, and will cover all course material, emphasizing the major themes developed in the course.

Plagiarism: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

If parts of someone else's work are used directly (paraphrased or quoted) without acknowledgement, this constitutes plagiarism. If you are unsure of what plagiarism is or how to identify your sources, ask the course instructor or consult a style manual. Plagiarism is cheating, to the detriment of both the university and fellow students. Cases of minor plagiarism will normally result in a major reduction in the assignment grade. More severe cases will result in a grade of F, and will be reported to the Faculty with a recommendation for the strongest possible disciplinary action.

Supplementals: As outlined in the Faculty of Arts calendar, students receiving a final grade of D or F for the course may write a supplemental exam, which will replace their original final exam grade. If so, they may also submit a supplemental term paper at this time (which will replace their original term paper grade), UNLESS the failing grade was the result of plagiarism.

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

COURSE OUTLINE
(dates are approximate)

September 4
Introduction to POLI 340

September 6
The 'Arab Spring': A Region Transformed?

- "New Horizons in Arab Politics," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 1.
- F. Gregory Gause III, "Why Middle East Studies Missed the Arab Spring," *Foreign Affairs* 90, 4 (July/August 2011). [myCourses]

September 11, 13
Historical Context: Islamic, Ottoman and Colonial Legacies

- "The Foundations of Islam," "The Political Legacy of Islam," and "Western Imperialism," and "The Rise of the State System," in Roy Anderson, Robert Seibert, and Jon Wagner, *Politics and Change in the Middle East: Sources of Conflict and Accommodation,* 8th, 9th or 10th edition (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice-Hall, 2007/2009/2011). [library reserve]

September 18, 20, 25, 27
North Africa

- "North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 2.
- Nicolas Pelham, "How Morocco Dodged the Arab Spring," *New York Review of Books*, 5 July 2012, at http://www.nybooks.com/blogs/nyrblog/2012/jul/05/how-morocco-dodged-arab-spring/
- other readings may be assigned via myCourses

October 2, 4
The Arabian Peninsula

- "The Arabian Peninsula: Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Yemen," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 4.
- other readings may be assigned via myCourses

October 9
Quiz 1

October 11, 16, 18
The Mashreq

- "The Mashreq: Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq, Syria," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 3.
- other readings may be assigned via myCourses

October 23, 25
Political Culture and the New Arab Media

- "Political Culture Revisited," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 5.
- "The New Arab Media," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 11.

October 30
Quiz 2

November 1, 6
Political Economy

- "Rentierism and Resource Politics," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 9.
- "Economic Liberalization," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 10.
- Omar S. Dahi, "Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Revolts," *Middle East Report* 259 (Summer 2011) [myCourses]

November 8
Electoral Politics and the Politics of Transition

- "Electoral Politics," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 7.

November 13
The Arab Monarchies

- "The Politics of Monarchical Survival," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 8.

November 15
Quiz 3

November 20
Islamist Movements and Politics

- "Islamist Movements and Democratic Politics," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 12.

November 22
The Regional and International Environment

- "The Impact of the Regional and International Environment," in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 12.
- Curtis Ryan, "The New Arab Cold War and the Struggle for Syria," *Middle East Report* 262 (Spring 2012), at http://www.merip.org/mer/mer262/new-arab-cold-war-struggle-syria

November 27, 29
Where Next?

- "From Fear to Hope?" in Brynen, Moore, Salloukh, and Zahar, *Beyond the Arab Spring*, chapter 13.