Comparative and International Politics of the Middle East
Dubai School of Government/MPA 603

Course Overview and Key Questions

This course provides an overview of the comparative politics and international relations of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), with a focus on the use of social science theories and methods to enrich our understanding of the region. First, we will study the history of the region from the rise and decline of empires to the conditions that shaped modern state-formation. Second, we will seek to answer key questions concerning domestic politics, such as those relating to nationalism, political participation, and economic development. In the third section, we will explore core issues in international relations, such as the causes of war, determinants of foreign policy, rise of terrorism, and the impact of a changing balance of power. Finally, we will analyze the current events sweeping the region since January 2011, and critically assess how well the social science tools we have learned are able to explain and contextualize these changes. The main objective of the course is to supply you with the theoretical skills and empirical evidence necessary to evaluate and develop your own arguments about contemporary politics in the Middle East.

This course explores several key questions, including:

- How have the "post-Ottoman syndrome," geopolitics, and continuing external involvement in the region shaped patterns of state building and political change?
- Why did the region's experience with some seemingly representative/liberal forms of politics (c. 1930s-1950s) give way to the rise of authoritarian regimes?
- Why have various Islamist political movements come to represent the strongest forces pushing for political reform, government accountability, and democracy in the region? Does political Islam represent an obstacle/threat to the democratization of the Middle East or, alternatively, a *necessary* component for democratization?
- How and why have existing regimes retained power despite eroding legitimacy?
- How are new forms of populist mobilization and political organization reshaping politics in the region?

Course Information	
Credit Hours	3
Prerequisite(s)	MPA 501, MPA 502 and MPA 503
Class Days	Wednesday
Class Time	4:30-7:30
Class Location	Lecture Hall II

Required Reading	James Gelvin (2008). *The Modern Middle East: A History*. 2nd Ed. New York: Oxford University Press. Ellen Lust (2011). *The Middle East*. 12th Ed. Washington, DC: CQ Press. In addition to books above, students are required to read other material that will be available through Blackboard.

Instructors' Information	
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Assessment and Grading

1) Participation and Assignments (25%)

Class participation and preparedness are major components of evaluation in a graduate seminar. Each student will be evaluated on the basis of informed participation and contribution to seminar discussion. You must come to class prepared to discuss the week's required reading and complete any assignments related to those readings.

2) Midterm exam (25%)

3) Final paper: 8-10 pages (50% of grade) Students can choose to either respond to a suggested essay topic or be guided to explore a suitable subject for their own final paper, which will demonstrate the student's ability to construct an argument substantiated by evidence.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will have:

a. Gained an understanding of key concepts in comparative politics and international relations, focusing on their application in the Middle East.
b. Learned to apply social science tools to analyze major substantive issues in the region, such as the political implications of different approaches to economic reform.
c. Improved their ability to develop and communicate their own insights effectively in these areas, drawing from a stronger foundation of theoretical and empirical evidence.

Course Schedule

March 23 Introduction

Overview of the course
Discussion of assignments

March 30 Thinking like a Social Scientist: How to Analyze Middle East Politics

Timothy C. Lim (2006). *Doing Comparative Politics: An Introduction to Approaches and Issues.* Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers. Read Chapter 1 (pp. 3-30), focusing on pp. 19-29.

Michael Gasper (2011). The Making of the Modern Middle East. In Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East* (pp. 1-25). Washington, DC: CQ Press.

April 6 The Early Period: The Rise and Fall of Empires

James Gelvin (2008). *The Modern Middle East: A History.* New York: Oxford University Press. Read Chapters 1-5 (pp. 1-87).

Timur Kuran (2004). Why the Middle East is Economically Underdeveloped. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18(3), 71-90.

April 13 The 'Invention' of the Modern Middle East State System: European Intervention and State-Formation

James Gelvin (2008). *The Modern Middle East: A History.* New York: Oxford University Press. Read Chapters 11-12, "Part 3: World War I and the Middle East System" (pp. 171-196).

James Gelvin (1995). The League of Nations and the Question of National Identity in the Fertile Crescent. *World Affairs*, 158(1), 35-43.

Abbas Kelidar (1993). States without Foundations: The Political Evolution of State and Society in the Arab East. *Journal of Contemporary History*, 28(2), 315-338.

Rashid Khalidi (2001). The Palestinians and 1948. In Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim (Eds.), *The War for Palestine* (pp. 12-36). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

April 20 Competing Nationalisms and the Political Economy of State-Building

James Gelvin (2008). *The Modern Middle East: A History.* New York: Oxford University Press. Read Chapter 13, "The Introduction and Spread of Nationalism" (pp. 197-205).

Alan Richards and Richard Waterbury (2008). *Political Economy of the Middle East.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Read Chapters 7-8, "The Emergence of the Public Sector" and "The Contradictions of State-led Growth" (pp. 179-227).

Lisa Anderson (1987). The State in the Middle East and North Africa. *Comparative Politics*, 20(1), 1-18.

April 27 Regimes and Institutions (includes review for midterm)

Ellen Lust (2011). Institutions and Governance. In Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East* (pp. 143-192). Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Eva Bellin (2005). Coercive Institutions and Coercive Leaders. In Marsha Pripstein Posusney and Michelle Angrist (Eds.), *Authoritarianism in the Middle East* (pp. 21-41). Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Raymond Hinnebusch (2001). The Politics of Economic Liberalization: Comparing Egypt & Syria. In Hassan Hakimian and Ziba Moshaver (Eds.), *The State and Global Change* (pp. 111-134). Richmond, UK: Curzon.

Ellen Lust-Okar (2004). Divided they Rule: The Management and Manipulation of Political Opposition. *Comparative Politics,* 36(2), 159-79.

May 4 MIDTERM (25% of grade)

In class exam

May 11 Introduction to Political Economy

Melani Cammett (2011). The Political Economy of Development in the Middle East. In Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East* (pp. 99-142). Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Alan Richards and Richard Waterbury (2008). *Political Economy of the Middle East.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Read Introduction and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-42).

Tarik Yousef (2004). Development, Growth and Policy Reform in the MENA since 1950. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18(3), 91-116.

Recommended Readings:
Katja Niethammer (2011). Persian Gulf States. In Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East* (pp. 632-658). Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Review Timur Kuran (2004). Why the Middle East is Economically Underdeveloped. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18(3), 71-90.

May 18 Political Islam

Philip S. Khoury (1983). Islamic Revivalism and the Crisis of the Secular State. In Ibrahim Ibrahim (Ed.), *Arab Resources: The Transformation of a Society* (pp. 213-234). Washington, DC: Center for Contemporary Arab Studies.

Yahya Sadowski (2006). Political Islam: Asking the Wrong Questions? *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9, 215-240.

Nazih Ayubi (1991). *Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Arab World*. London: Routledge. Read pp. 120-145, 155-7.

Assignment: Read one country profile from the following: Algeria, Egypt, or Yemen in Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East* (pp. 1-25). Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Recommended Reading

Alan Richards and Richard Waterbury (2008). *Political Economy of the Middle East.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Read Chapter 14, "Is Islam the Solution?"

Ray Takeyh (2001). The Lineaments of Islamic Democracy. *World Policy Journal*, 18(4), 59-67.

Richard Bulliet (2002). The Crisis Within Islam. *Wilson Quarterly*, 26(1), 11-19

May 25 Political Participation

Amaney Jamal (2011). Actors, Public Opinions, and Participation. In Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East* (pp. 193-237). Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Jill Crystal (1995). Civil Society in the Arabian Gulf. In Augustus Richard Norton (Ed.) *Civil Society in the Middle East: Volume 2* (pp. 259-286). Brill Academic Publishers.

Quintan Wiktorowicz (2000). Civil Society as Social Control: State Power in Jordan. *Comparative Politics*, 33(1), 43-61.

Vickie Langhor (2005). Too Much Civil Society, Too Little Politics: Egypt and the Arab Liberalizers. In Marsha Pripstein Posusney and Michelle Angrist (Eds.), *Authoritarianism in the Middle East.* Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

June 1 Predicting Foreign Policy in the Middle East: Focus on Iran

Marc Lynch (2011). Regional International Relations. In Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East* (pp. 314-340). Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Gregory Gause (1999). Systemic Approaches to Middle East International Relations. *International Studies Review,* 1(1), 11–31.

Anoushiravan Ehteshami (2002). The Foreign Policy of Iran. In Raymond Hinnebusch and Anoushiravan Ehteshami (Eds.), *The Foreign Policies of Middle Eastern States* (pp. 283-309). Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Malik Mufti (1966). *Sovereign Creations: Pan-Arabism and Political Order in Syria and Iraq,* Ithaca: Cornell University Press. Read Introduction: The Arab State as Conceptual Variable.

Mehrzad Boroujerdi (2011). Iran. In Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East* (pp. 193-237). Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Recommended Reading

Raymond Hinnebusch and Anoushiravan Ehteshami (2002). Introduction: The Analytical Framework. In Raymond Hinnebusch and Anoushiravan Ehteshami (Eds.), *The Foreign Policies of Middle Eastern States* (pp. 1-27). Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

June 8 War, Peace, and International Intervention

Francesco Cavatorta (2011). International Politics of the Middle East. In Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East* (pp. 341-369). Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Ian S. Lustick (1997). The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political 'Backwardness' in Historical Perspective. *International Organization,* 51(4), 653–83..

Etel Solingen (2007). Pax Asiatic versus Bella Levantina: The Foundations of War and Peace in East Asia and the Middle East. *American Political Science Review*, 101(4), 757-780.

Luis Martinez (2011). Libya. In Ellen Lust (Ed.), *The Middle East* (pp. 551-575). Washington, DC: CQ Press.

June 15 Political Economy of Reform

Raj Desai, Anders Olofsgård, and Tarik Yousef (2009). The Logic of Authoritarian Bargains. *Economics and Politics*, 21(1), 93-125.

Giacomo Luciani (1995). Resources, Revenues, and Authoritarianism in the Arab World: Beyond the Rentier State? In Rex Brynen, Bahgat Korany, and Paul Noble (Eds.), *Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World: Theoretical Perspectives* (pp. 211-228). Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Daniel Brumberg (1995). Authoritarian Legacies and Reform Strategies in the Arab World. In Rex Brynen, Bahgat Korany, and Paul Noble (Eds.), *Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World: Theoretical Perspectives* (pp. 229-260). Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Samih Farsoun and Christina Zacharia (1995). Class, Economic Change, and Political Liberalization in the Arab World. In Rex Brynen, Bahgat Korany, and Paul Noble (Eds.), *Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World: Theoretical Perspectives* (pp. 261-280). Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

June 22 Democratization: Current Challenges and Future Directions

Gabriel Ben-Dor (1995). Prospects of Democratization in the Arab World: Global Diffusion, Regional Demonstration, and Domestic Imperatives. In Rex Brynen, Bahgat Korany, and Paul Noble (Eds.), *Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World: Theoretical Perspectives* (pp. 307-329). Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Jack Goldstone (2009). Rethinking Revolutions: Integrating Origins, Processes, and Outcomes. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, 29(1), 18-32 .

Rashid Khalidi (2011, March 21). The Arab Spring. *The Nation*, 292(12), 7-9.

June 29 Public Holiday
Final paper due (email)