

Government and Politics in the Middle East

Political Science 157, Summer Session A 2017

Syllabus

Instructor: Yuree Noh

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Class: M/W 1:00-3:05 PM (Bunche 1209B)

Office Hours: M/W 3:30-4:30 PM (Bunche 4250)

Course Overview

This course offers an introduction to the complex world of Middle Eastern politics. It will cover major areas of political science research on the Greater Middle East region and also build specific knowledge about the politics of individual countries. The course will help students understand and evaluate broad trends in Middle Eastern politics and evaluate existing explanations for those trends. It will also acquaint students with some of the basic tools and theories that political scientists use to understand the developing world and dictatorships.

Each class will mix lectures with some discussion of the readings. Students are expected to complete all readings BEFORE coming to class. Lectures will generally not reiterate materials that are already in the readings. There will also be a discussion of current events. Students are expected to read the news regularly and participate.

Reading Materials

All readings are available via the course website. There is no course reader. This is to save you money, but I expect you to read the materials just as carefully as you would if you had purchased them in a reader. You are **required** to read the materials *before* the lecture. Please be prepared to contribute and ask questions.

Grading

Students will be evaluated on the following bases:

Map Quiz (10%)

Participation (20%)

Exam (30%)

Paper (40%)

Extra credit: Course Evaluation (2 points)

Attendance is mandatory. I will post PowerPoint slides after the lectures, but the slides are mostly outlines and will not include details.

There will be *no make-up quiz/exam.*

Grade Disputes

If you are going to dispute a grade you will need to hand in a written explanation for doing so within one week of the quiz or final exam being handed back to the class. I will not consider grade disputes after this one-week period. You will receive a response within one week of receiving it. Please be warned, however, that a reassessment does not automatically result in a higher grade. Your grade could stay the same, go up, or be lowered.

News Sources (beyond the standard sources such as BBC, Al-Jazeera, and The New York Times)

- Jadaliyya, independent online e-zine: <http://www.jadaliyya.com/>
- Top 35 Middle East Blogs: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/galleries/top-35-middle-east-blogs.html?displayTab=damascusbureau>
- The Middle East Channel at Foreign Policy: <http://foreignpolicy.com/channel/middle-east-africa/>

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of California at Los Angeles are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. Please refer to <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/students/integrity/> to view the specific guidelines. If you have any questions related to this policy, please contact the Office of the Dean of Students at (310) 825-3871. You can also speak with me.

OSD Accommodations

If you have received the right to testing accommodations through the Office of Students with Disabilities, please contact me ASAP so we can anticipate communication with OSD regarding arrangements for your midterm. Students seeking accommodations are responsible for requesting service from OSD no later than the end of the second week of the quarter. Please let me know if you will be seeking arrangements and/or have any questions or concerns. More information on the procedures for requesting testing accommodations through OSD can be found here: <http://www.osd.ucla.edu/Proctoring-Center-Guidelines>.

Campus Resources

If you have any concerns about:

- Academic Writing: You can make a one-on-one appointment at the undergraduate writing center: <http://www.ugeducation.ucla.edu/counseling/contact-us.html>
- Academic counseling: If you are a non-UCLA student, you can contact the Student Affairs Officer for summer sessions, Lola Green, at lgreen@summer.ucla.edu.
- Mental health: You can speak to a therapist or counselor through the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) services: <http://www.counseling.ucla.edu/>

Readings and Topics

1. Introduction to the Modern Middle East

June 26

Owen, Roger. 2004. *State Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East, Third Edition*. New York, NY: Routledge. Chapter 1. (pp. 5-22)

Optional: Gasper, Michael. 2017. "The Making of the Modern Middle East." In *The Middle East, 14th Edition*. ed. Ellen Lust. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press.

2. Colonial Legacies and State Building

June 28

Cleveland, William L. and Martin Bunton. 2009. *A History of the Modern Middle East, Fourth Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Chapter 11 (pp. 193-216). Skim Chapter 13 (pp. 239-272).

Harik, Iliya. 1985. "The Origins of the Arab State System." *The International Spectator* 20 (2): 20-32.

Optional: Fromkin, David. 1999. "How the Modern Middle East Map Came to Be Drawn." *Smithsonian*.

3. Authoritarianism in the Middle East

July 3

Map Quiz

Bellin, Eva. 2004. "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective." *Comparative Politics* 36 (2): 139-157.

Ross, Michael L. 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53 (3): 325-361. (Read pp. 325-337; skim the rest.)

Diamond, Larry. 2010. "Why Are There No Arab Democracies?" *Journal of Democracy* 21 (1): 93-104.

Optional: Masoud, Tarek. 2015. "Has the Door Closed on Arab Democracy?" *Journal of Democracy* 26 (1): 74-87.

4. Authoritarian Institutions; Egypt

July 5

Lust, Ellen. 2017. "Institutions and Governance." In *The Middle East, 14th Edition*. ed. Ellen Lust. Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press. (pp. 160-184, skim pp. 185-204.)

Optional: Cleveland and Bunton. 2013. Chapters 20-21.

5. Oil and Monarchies; Jordan and Saudi Arabia

July 10

Ross, Michael L. 2012. *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 4. (pp. 111-132)

Michael Herb. 2004. "Princes and Parliaments in the Arab World." *Middle East Journal* 58 (3): 367-384.

Optional: Yom, Sean, and F. Gregory Gause III. "Resilient Royals: How Arab Monarchies Hang On." *Journal of Democracy* 23 (4): 74-88.

6. (Under)Development in the Middle East

July 12

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

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

Optional: Cammett, Melani. 2013. "Development and Underdevelopment in the Middle East & North Africa."

7. Islam and Politics; Iran and Turkey

July 17

Abrahamian, Ervand. 2009. "Why the Islamic Republic Has Survived," *Middle East Report* 250: 10-16.

Zubaida, Sami. 2000. "Trajectories of Political Islam: Egypt, Iran and Turkey." *The Political Quarterly*: 60-78.

Optional: Mecham, Quinn. 2004. "From the Ashes of Virtue, A Promise of Light: The Transformation of Political Islam in Turkey." *Third World Quarterly* 25: 339-358.

8. Sectarianism and Political Violence; Bahrain and Lebanon

July 19

Council on Foreign Relations Backgrounders. "The Sunni-Shia Divide."

Gause III, F. Gregory. 2014 "Beyond Sectarianism: The New Middle East Cold War," Brookings Doha Center.

Optional: Al-Rasheed, Madawi. 2011. "Sectarianism as Counter-Revolution: Saudi Responses to the Arab Spring," *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 11 (3): 513-526.

July 24

In-Class Exam

No required readings.

9. Foreign Powers; the Iraq War

July 26

Cleveland, William L. and Martin Bunton. 2013. *A History of the Modern Middle East, Fifth Edition*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. Chapter 25. (pp. 505-521)

Biddle, Stephen, Jeffrey Friedman and Jacob Shapiro. 2012. "Testing the Surge: Why Did Violence Decline in Iraq in 2007?" *International Security* 37: 7-40. (Read pp. 7-25; skim the rest.)

Optional: Al-Ali, Zaid. 2014. *The Struggle for Iraq's Future: How Corruption, Incompetence, and Sectarianism Have Undermined Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Chapter 5.

10. The Arab Uprisings and Regime Breakdown; Libya and Tunisia

July 31

Cleveland and Bunton. 2013. Chapter 26. (pp. 523-540)

Bellin, Eva. 2012. "Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring," *Comparative Politics* 44 (2): 127-149.

Optional: Totten, Michael J. 2014, "Year Four: The Arab Spring Proved Everyone Wrong." *World Affairs* 177 (2): 43-49.

11. Current Conflicts in the Middle East; Syria and Yemen

August 2

Byman, Daniel L. and Jennifer R. Williams. 2015. "ISIS vs. Al Qaeda: Jihadism's Global Civil War." Brookings.

BBC. 2016. "Syria: The Story of the Conflict."

Hincks, Joseph. 2016. "What You Need to Know About the Crisis in Yemen." *Time*.

Optional: Fildis, Ayse Tekdal. 2012. "Roots of Alawite-Sunni Rivalry in Syria." *Middle East Policy* 19 (2): 148-156.

August 5

Paper Due at 5pm - Electronic Submission