

POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Time TBA

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Time: TBA
Office Hours: TBA



Course Description: The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries continue to occupy a substantive role in World Politics. What is the region that we call MENA, and how do we study it? Why do some MENA countries struggle with implementing democracy and advancing their economy? Could their shortcomings be explained through institutional, structural factors or foreign influence? How can we explain the rise of terrorist groups originating from the region? In this introductory course we seek answers to such questions.

Course Objectives: This course has several objectives or learning outcomes. The first is an introduction to the study of Middle East politics. We will approach the region thematically, focusing on concepts such as history, institutions, political economy, women, refugees and minorities. The second is using this thematic approach to practice our own research skills. The third is engaging in case studies to understand the micro dynamics that motivate political change in the region. While achieving these goals, we will strengthen our foundational skills on reading and writing critically through engaging with the empirical evidence.

Course Requirements: The course requirements include: five quizzes (40%) and three reflection essays (60%). The quizzes will contain both multiple choice and short answer components, and the quiz with the lowest score will be dropped. Reflection essays, each accounting for 20% of the grade, will answer the questions on assigned readings. The **rubric** for grading reflections essays is attached to the end of this syllabus. The reflection papers should be double-spaced with the appropriate citations and a reference page at the end. Quotation marks should be used and page numbers should be indicated when the material is quoted from its sources. While there is no page limit for the essays, successful essays contain multiple pages with well constructed paragraphs and a high quality of information.

Books: In this course, we will refer to multiple books. Although the key chapters will be made available online, you are still **strongly encouraged** to obtain the following books:

- Jamal, A. A. (2009). *Barriers to Democracy*. NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Charrad, Mounira. (2001). *States and Women's Rights: The Making of Postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco*. California: University of California Press.

- Wickham, C. R. (2015). *The Muslim Brotherhood*. NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Lynch, M. (Ed.). (2014). *The Arab uprisings explained: New contentious politics in the Middle East*. NY: Columbia University Press.

Grading Scale: A+ = 100; A = 94-99; A- = 90-93; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ =77-79; C = 73-76; C- =70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = 0-59.

Reflection Paper Rubric

Category	Points				
	5	4	3	2	1
Organization	Information is very organized with well constructed paragraphs, use of subheadings, and information is factual and correct	Information is organized with well constructed paragraphs and information is factual and correct	Information is organized but paragraphs are not well constructed and information is factual	The information appears to disorganized information is suspect to being correct and factual	Information is not only disorganized but inaccurate
Quality of Information	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It includes several supporting details and/or examples	Information clearly relates to the main topic. It provides 1 – 2 supporting details and/or examples	Information clearly relates to the main topic. No details and/or examples or given	Information has little to do with the main topic	Information has nothing to do with the main topic
Mechanics	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors	Almost no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	A few grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	Way to many for a college student getting ready to enter the health education field
Sources	All sources are accurately documented in the desired format (APA)	All sources are accurately documented, but a few are not in the desired format (APA)	All sources are accurately documented, but many are not in the desired format (APA)	Some sources are not accurately documented	To many sources are not documented accurately and there is not a format used

Figure 1: The Rubric for Grading Reflection Papers

Class Schedule (Assignments TBA)

Week 1: What is MENA and how do we study it?

Day 1: Introduction to the Goals and Objectives of the Course, discussing the MENA

- **Readings:** The syllabus in its entirety
- **Optional:** Green, A. (2013) How to Read Political Science: A Guide in Four Steps. [Access here.](#)

Day 2: The Orientalism Debate and Political Science

- **Readings:** Kramer, M. (2001). Ivory Towers on Sand. The Failure of Middle Eastern Studies in America. Washington: The Washington Institute for Near East Policy.
- Anderson, L. (2006). Searching where the Light Shines: Studying Democratization in the Middle East. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 9, 189-214.

Week 2: History and Political Economy

Day 1: History

- Cleveland, W. L., Bunton, M. (2018). *A History of the Modern Middle East*. Routledge. Selected Chapters. TBA.
- Issawi, Charles. *An Economic History of the Middle East and North Africa*. Routledge, 2013. Selected Chapters. TBA.

Day 2: Political Economy Past and Present

- Cammett, M., Diwan, I., Richards, A., Waterbury, J. (2018). *A Political Economy of the Middle East*. Routledge. Selected Chapters. TBA.
- Owen, Edward Roger John, Roger Owen, and Şevket Pamuk. *A History of Middle East Economies in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998. Selected Chapters. TBA

Week 3: Institutional and Social Change

Day 1: State, Quotas and Regulations

- Anderson, L. (1987). The state in the middle east and North Africa. *Comparative Politics*, 20(1), 1-18.
- Bush, S. S., Gao, E. (2017). Small Tribes, Big Gains: The Strategic Uses of Gender Quotas in the Middle East. *Comparative Politics*, 49(2), 149-167.

Day 2: Political Culture and Religion

- Ciftci, S. (2019). Islam, Social Justice, and Democracy. *Politics and Religion*, 12(4), 549-576.
- Kuru, A. T. (2019). *Islam, Authoritarianism, and Underdevelopment: A Global and Historical Comparison*. Cambridge University Press. Chapters TBA.
- Kuran, T. (2012). *The Long Divergence: How Islamic Law Held Back the Middle East*. NJ: Princeton University Press. Selected Chapters.

Week 4: Democracy and Authoritarianism**Day 1: General Approaches**

- Tessler, Mark. "Islam and Democracy in the Middle East: The Impact of Religious Orientations on Attitudes toward Democracy in Four Arab countries." *Comparative Politics* (2002): 337-354.
- Ross, M. L. (2001). Does Oil Hinder Democracy?. *World politics*, 53(3), 325-361.

Day 2: Case Study - Turkey

- Esen, B., Gumuscu, S. (2020). Why did Turkish Democracy Collapse? A Political Economy Account of AKP's Authoritarianism. *Party Politics*.
- Carkoglu, A., Kalaycioglu, E. (2021). *Fragile But Resilient?: Turkish Electoral Dynamics, 2002-2015*. Michigan: University of Michigan Press. Selected Chapters

Week 5: Local Governance and Civil Society**Day 1: Local Governance**

- Clark, J. A. (2018). *Local Politics in Jordan and Morocco*. Columbia: Columbia University Press. Chapters TBA.
- Farzanegan, M. R., Markwardt, G. (2018). Development and pollution in the Middle East and North Africa: Democracy Matters. *Journal of Policy Modeling*, 40(2), 350-374.
- "Bureaucrat-Local Politician Linkages and Hierarchical Local Governance in Emerging Democracies: A Case Study of Tunisia" *Journal of Middle East and Africa*, Forthcoming.

Day 2: Civil Society

- Jamal, A. A. (2009). *Barriers to Democracy*. NJ: Princeton University Press. Selected Chapters.
- Doyle, J. L. (2017). State Control of Civil Society Organizations: The Case of Turkey. *Democratization*, 24(2), 244-264.

Week 6: Corruption and, Clientelism *wasta***Day 1: Corruption and *wasta***

- Kubbe, I., and Varraich, A. (Eds.). (2019). *Conceptualising the Mechanisms and Dynamics of Corruption and Informal Practices in the MENA region*. in *Corruption and Informal Practices in the Middle East and North Africa*. Routledge. 2019.
- Barnett, Andy, Bruce Yandle, and George Naufal. "Regulation, trust, and cronyism in Middle Eastern societies: The simple economics of "wasta"." *The Journal of Socio-Economics* 44 (2013): 41-46.

Day 2: Clientelism, Support for Democracy and Voting Behavior

- Benstead, Lindsay J., Lonna Rae Atkeson, and Muhammad Adnan Shahid. "Does *wasta* undermine support for democracy?: Corruption, clientelism, and attitudes toward political regimes." in *Corruption and Informal Practices in the Middle East and North Africa*. Routledge, 2019.
- Lust, Ellen. "Democratization by elections? Competitive clientelism in the Middle East." *Journal of Democracy* 20.3 (2009): 122-135.

- Yerkes, S., and Muasher, M. (2017). Tunisia's Corruption Contagion: A Transition at Risk (Vol. 25). <https://carnegieendowment.org/files/CP316YerkesBrief.pdf> Access here.

Week 7: Minorities and Refugees

Day 1: Jews, Christians and Other Minority Groups

- Lewis, B. (2014). *The Jews of Islam*. NJ: Princeton University Press. Selected Chapters. TBA.
- Harney, J. (2016). How Do Sunni and Shia Islam Differ? *The New York Times*. January 3rd, 2016.
- Nisan, M. (2015). *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression*. McFarland. Selected Chapters. TBA.

Day 2: Refugees

- Lehmann, M. C., Masterson, D. T. (2020). Does Aid Reduce Anti-Refugee Violence? Evidence from Syrian Refugees in Lebanon. *American Political Science Review*, 114(4), 1335-1342.
- Lazarev, E., Sharma, K. (2017). Brother or burden: An Experiment on Reducing Prejudice toward Syrian Refugees in Turkey. *Political Science Research and Methods*, 5(2), 201-219.

Week 8: Women's Rights

Day 1: General Approaches

- Charrad, Mounira. (2001) *States and Women's Rights: The Making of Postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco*. California: University of California Press. Selected Chapters.
- Moghadam, Valentine M. "Feminism, legal reform and women's empowerment in the Middle East and North Africa." *International Social Science Journal* 59.191 (2008): 9-16.

Day 2: Case Studies

- Wheeler, Deborah L. "Saudi women driving change? Rebranding, resistance, and the kingdom of change." *The Journal of the Middle East and Africa* 11.1 (2020): 87-109.
- Yasun, Salih. "Attitudes on Family Law as an Electoral Cleavage: Survey Evidence from Tunisia." *Middle East Law and Governance* 12.2 (2020): 131-166.

Week 9: Political Parties

Day 1: Islamist Parties

- Wickham, C. R. (2015). *The Muslim Brotherhood*. NJ: Princeton University Press. Selected Chapters
- Grewal, S. (2020). From Islamists to Muslim democrats: the case of Tunisia's Ennahda. *American Political Science Review*, 114(2), 519-535.

Day 2: Secular, Leftist, Ethnic and Other Parties

- Cavatorta, F., Storm, L., Resta, V. (Eds.). (2020). *Routledge Handbook on Political Parties in the Middle East and North Africa*. Routledge. Chapters TBA.

Week 10: Party Institutionalization and Voting Behavior

Day 1: Secular and Islamist Divide

- Stepan, A. (2012). Tunisia's transition and the twin tolerations. *Journal of Democracy*, 23(2), 89-103.
- Wegner, Eva, and Francesco Cavatorta. "Revisiting the Islamist–Secular divide: parties and voters in the Arab world." *International Political Science Review* 40.4 (2019): 558-575.

Day 2: Clientelism, Economic Voting and Other Cleavages

- Corstange, D. (2016). *The Price of a Vote in the Middle East: Clientelism and Communal Politics in Lebanon and Yemen*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Selected Chapters.
- Başlevant, C., Kirmanoğlu, H. (2016). Economic Voting in Turkey: Perceptions, Expectations, and the Party Choice. *Research and Policy on Turkey*, 1(1), 88-101.
- De Miguel, C., Jamal, A. A., Tessler, M. (2015). Elections in the Arab World: Why do Citizens Turn Out?. *Comparative Political Studies*, 48(11), 1355-1388.

Week 11: Protest and Arab uprisings

Day 1: General Approaches

- Lynch, M. (Ed.). (2014). *The Arab uprisings explained: New contentious politics in the Middle East*. NY: Columbia University Press. Selected Chapters
- Ottaway, M., Hamzawy, A. (2011). *Protest movements and political change in the Arab world* (Vol. 28). Washington, DC: CARNEGIE endowment for International Peace.

Day 2: Case Study: Protest in Tunisia

- Chomiak, L. (2011). The making of a revolution in Tunisia. *Middle East Law and Governance*, 3(1-2), 68-83.
- Antonakis-Nashif, A. (2016). Contested transformation: mobilized publics in Tunisia between compliance and protest. *Mediterranean Politics*, 21(1), 128-149.

Week 12: Terrorism, Violence and Palestine - Israel Conflict

Day 1: Terrorism

- Lynch, M. (2018). The new Arab Order: Power and Violence in Today's Middle East. *Foreign Affairs*, 97, 116.
- Tessler, M., Robbins, M. D. (2007). What leads some Ordinary Arab Men and Women to Approve of Terrorist Acts against the United States?. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 51(2), 305-328.
- Corstange, D., York, E. A. (2018). Sectarian framing in the Syrian civil war. *American Journal of Political Science*, 62(2), 441-455.

Day 2: Palestine and Israel Conflict

- Gelvin, J. L. (2014). *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War*. MA: Cambridge University Press.