**Government, Politics and Society of the Middle East**

Dr. Lawrence Rubin INTA 2XXX

Habersham 149 Spring 2014

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Office Hours: 3-4:30; Tues. and Thurs.

**Course description:**

The purpose of this course is to analyze contemporary Middle East Politics with an emphasis on the Arab states. Utilizing theoretical insights from Comparative Politics and International Relations, the course examines the impact of the Great Powers, pan-Arabism, the Islamic resurgence, the oil crisis, authoritarianism, and democratization on the international and domestic politics of the Middle East. This course will provide substantive knowledge about the region using political science tools and methodology.

Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior. Students will also be able to describe how these forces influence the global system. In doing so, students will also be able to think critically, collaborate with others, and demonstrate reading, writing, and presentation skills.

This course has no prerequisites. It fulfills both Social Science General Education and Global Perspectives requirements.

**Learning outcomes:**

Student will demonstrate proficiency in the process of articulating and organizing rhetorical arguments in written, oral, visual, and nonverbal modes, using concrete support and conventional language. Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior. Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system.

INTA specific learning outcomes are as follows:

* *Problem Solving in International Affairs.* Students will be able to use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical problem-solving way to address issues of immediate international concern.  Includes knowledge of key issues, familiarity with methods to assess solutions, data-gathering research skills through which to put different methods into place.
* *Scientific analysis of international politics.* Students will be proficient in basic mathematical skills and be able to formulate problems in international affairs mathematically if appropriate.  Use software, process and analyze information, quantitative and qualitative methods.
* *Effective communication skills.* Students will be able to express their arguments clearly and effectively both in written reports and in their research and oral presentations.
* *Teamworking skills.* Students will be able to work in small groups in a way that demonstrates respect for their colleagues and efficiency in working collaboratively towards projects and goals.

**Requirements and grading:**

Students are expected to attend lectures, read the assigned material, and participate actively in all course discussions. This course is taught as a hybrid lecture/seminar-style. The course grade will be based on the following criteria:

15% Participation

15% 3-5 page critical writing assignment based on *The Yacoubian Building*

25% In-class mid-term

45% Take-home final

The mid-term and final exams will be based on lectures, class discussions, and readings. Late papers will lose half a letter grade every day unless the instructor has given prior approval. There will be no make-up exams except for excused absences due to a documented medical condition, official university team activity, or religious holiday. Students with a disability or a health related issue who require special accommodation should speak with me as soon as possible. \*Smartphones must be turned off during class. The use of computers is not allowed unless stated otherwise.

**Honor Code**: All coursework must meet the Georgia Tech standards of academic honesty. <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9>

**Required texts available for purchase at the bookstore and on-reserve at the library:**

* Michele Penner Angrist, ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner, 2010).
* Thomas Hegghammer, *Jihad in Saudi Arabia*  (Cambridge University Press, 2010)
* Nikki Keddie, *Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution* (Yale, 2003)
* Alaa Al Aswany, *The Yacoubian Building* (Harper Perennial, 2002)

**Important**: Readings followed by \* can be downloaded from the course website.

**WEEK ONE: Introduction**

Introduction, 1-25, Michele Penner Angrist, ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner, 2010).

**WEEK TWO: The modern emergence of Middle East states**

Alan Richards and John Waterbury, “Military and the State,” in A Political Economy of the Middle East, (New York: Westview Press, 1994), pp. 329-345\*

Owen, Chapters, 1, 3,4\*

Michael Hudson, “The Legitimacy Problem in Arab Politics” in *Arab Politics* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977), pp.1-30\*

**WEEK THREE: Political economies**

Pete W. Moore, “Political Economy,” in Michele Penner Angrist, ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner, 2010).

Giacomo Luciani, “Oil and Political Economy in International Relations of the Middle East,” in Fawcett, pp. 79-104\*

Greg Gause, *Oil and Monarchies*: Domestic and Security Challenges in the Arab Gulf States (CouncilonForeign Relations Press, 1994), pp. 10-118\* (on-line)

**WEEK FOUR: Regime types and regime survival**

Curtis Ryan, “Jordan”; Nathan Brown and E. Shahin, “Egypt”; Alan Dowty, “Israel”; in Michele Penner Angrist, ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner, 2010).

Eva Bellin**.** 2004**. “**The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East**:** Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective**,”***Comparative Politics 36****:*** *139-157\**

**WEEK FIVE: Iran: Revolution and domestic politics**

Arang Keshavarzian “Iran” in Michele Penner Angrist, ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner, 2010).

Keddie, *Roots of Revolution*, 1-21 (skim), 132-169, 214-231, 240-284

Imam Khomeini, "The Granting of Capitulatory Rights to the US", trans. Hamid Algar, in Islam and Revolution, pp 181-189\*

**WEEK SIX: Strategies of Islamic political activism**

Carrie Rosefsky Wickham, “Interests, ideas, and Islamist outreach in Egypt” in *Islamic activism*, pp. 231-249\*

Glenn E. Robinson, “Hamas as a social movement,” in *Islamic activism*, pp. 112-142, in Quintan Wiktorowicz (ed*.*)*, Islamic Activism: A social movement theory approach* (2003)\*

Mona al-Ghobashy, “The Metamorphosis of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 37 (2005): pp. 373–95\*

**WEEK SEVEN: Strategies of Islamic Political Activism II –Radical Islam and Political Violence**

T. Hegghammer, *Jihad* *in Saudi Arabia*, 16-32; 38-52, 70-83, 99-142

G. Kepel, *The Trail of Political Islam*, pp. 25-88\*

**WEEK EIGHT: Islamic oppositions and state responses (March 8 & 10)**

Glenn E. Robinson, “Defensive Democratization in Jordan,” *International Journal  
of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 3 (Aug., 1998), pp. 387-410

Michael Willis, “Justice and Development or Justice and Spirituality?: The Challenge of Morocco's Non-Violent Islamist Movement' in Bruce Maddy-Weitzman and Daniel Zisenwine (Editors): *The Maghrib in the New Century: Identity, Religion and Politics*, (University of Florida Press, Gainesville, 2007)\*

T. Hegghammer, *Jihad in Saudi Arabia*, 143-160, 70-83, 199-226

**WEEK NINE: Identities and Politics (March 15 & 17)**

D. Patel, “Identity and Politics,” J. Schwedler, “Religion and Politics,” F. Lawson, “Iraq” in Michele Penner Angrist, ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner, 2010).

Amatzia Baram, "Neo-Tribalism in Iraq: Saddam Husayn's Tribal Policies 1991-1996", *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 1, (February 1997), pp. 1-31.

**WEEK TEN: Political spaces (March 29)**

March 29: Sheila Carapacio “Civil Society”; Diane Singerman, “Gender and Politics” in Michele Penner Angrist, ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner, 2010); Lisa Wedeen, The politics of deliberation; *Qat chews* as *public* spheres in Yemen. *Public* *Culture*, 19, 59-84. (2007)\*

March 31: Midterm

**WEEK ELEVEN: International Dimensions (April 5 & 7)**

F. Gregory Gause III, “The Impact of International Politics,” in Michele Penner Angrist, ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner, 2010);

Arab-Israeli Conflict: TBA

**WEEK TWELVE: Democratization, Development and Reform? (April 12 & 14)**

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

Bernard Lewis, “What Went Wrong?” *Atlantic Monthly* (January 2002)\*

Michael L. Ross, “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics* 53, no. 3 (2001): pp. 325-361\*

Steven Fish, “Islam and Authoritarianism,” *World Politics* 55 (October 2002), pp. 4-37\*

Larry Diamond, “Why are there no Arab Democracies? *Journal of Democracy*, Vol. 21 no. 1, January 2010\*

**WEEK THIRTEEN: (April 19 & 21: Guest lecture on Turkey. ICT and politics)**

“Turkey” in Michele Penner Angrist, ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East* (Lynne Rienner, 2010);

Marc Lynch, “Young Brothers in Cyberspace,” *Middle East Report*, no. 245 (Winter 2007): http://www.merip.org/mer/mer245/lynch.html

Mona Eltawy, “Facebook, YouTube and Twitter are the new tools of protest in the Arab world” *Washington Post*, August 7, 2010, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/06/AR2010080605094.html

**WEEK FOURTEEN: Arab media and conclusion (April 26 & 28)**

**FINAL EXAM DUE AT THE TIME OF THE SCHEDULED EXAM.**

YOU WILL HAVE 48 HOURS TO COMPLETE THE FINAL EXAM. I WILL SEND THE QUESTIONS TO YOU THROUGH T-SQUARE. YOU CAN ALSO PICK UP A COPY OF THE FINAL FROM MY OFFICE.

YOU WILL TURN IN A HARD COPY TO 149 HABERSHAM. E-MAILED COPIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.