

INTL 4370: Middle Eastern Political Systems

University of Georgia, Department of International Affairs

Course Instructor Information:

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Office: Candler Hall B 02
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12-1pm or
by appointment

Course Meeting Information:

Fall 2017
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00-3:15pm
Correll Hall 0221
<https://uga.view.usg.edu/>

Course Description:

This course is centered on Middle Eastern political systems. To fully explore this subject, we will begin by familiarizing ourselves with the history of the modern Middle East leading into the varieties of non-democratic political systems that have characterized most countries in the region in recent history. We will then transition to examining the causes and effects of authoritarianism in the Middle East, taking into account cultural, social, economic, political (domestic and international), as well as other factors that have both shaped, and were shaped by, non-democratic regimes. We will end with a discussion of recent political upheavals in the Middle East, how they impact the established political systems, and their potential impact on the region moving forward.

Course Objectives:

- To develop a deeper understanding of the historical, cultural, and social aspect of political/regime development in the Middle East.
- To evaluate previous and current literature and assumptions regarding authoritarian regimes in the Middle East.
- To examine potential democratic transitions across the region in light of the Arab Spring, continued conflict, and ensuing human rights issues.

Required Text

- Lust, Ellen. (2017) *The Middle East*, 14th Edition, CQ Press, an Imprint of SAGE Publications (textbook has been placed on reserve at the library)
- Additional articles and readings will be made available via email or ELC as needed.
- Students should also familiarize themselves with current events in the Middle East. While certainly not a comprehensive list of sources, these will prove to be useful to you:
 - Al-Monitor: <http://www.al-monitor.com/>
 - Foreign Policy: <http://foreignpolicy.com/channel/middle-east-africa/>
 - New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/section/world/middleeast>
 - Al Jazeera: <http://www.aljazeera.com/topics/regions/middleeast.html>
 - Sada: <http://carnegieendowment.org/sada/>

Course Requirements and Grade Breakdown

Grade Composition

Participation: 15%
Quizzes: 15%
Presentation: 10%
Midterm: 20%
Final Paper: 40%

Participation: While a portion of the class will be traditional lecture, attendance and participation are expected and required to achieve full credit for the participation portion of your final grade. Students are expected to have read the assigned material and prepare any assignments prior to the start of class. Missing more than two classes without prior approval by the instructor will result in a 5-point grade reduction for each class missed.

- Each student should bring at least one discussion question with them to class to help facilitate discussion.

Quizzes: There will be random quizzes throughout the semester. These may be announced in advance or conducted at random. The purpose of these quizzes will be to ensure students are keeping up with the scheduled readings.

Presentation: Each student will be required to sign up for one outside reading to present on during the week. A sign-up sheet will be passed around in class for students to sign up for the reading of their choice.

Midterm: The midterm exam will cover the material and readings covered in the course at that point in time. It will be a take-home exam comprised of short answer and essay questions. Late submissions will be penalized one letter grade per day.

Final Paper: This research paper will be based on a topic of the student's choice pending instructor approval. Students should utilize at least 7-10 academic sources to draw on for the paper's literature review. The paper should be between 10-12 double-spaced pages. Each paper should include an introduction, literature review, body, conclusion, and works cited. Papers must be double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins on the left and right sides and 1 inch margins top and bottom. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in a grade deduction. A grading rubric will be provided.

Paper Deadlines

- Paper topic: September 12
- Research Question: September 28
- Annotated Bibliography: November 16

Grading Scheme

A	93-100
A-	90-92
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	00-59

Policies

Academic Integrity

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to more detailed information about academic honesty can be found at: <https://ovpi.uga.edu/academic-honesty>

Special Needs

Students with special needs that require accommodation should notify me and the Office for Disability Services in the first two weeks of the course so appropriate arrangements can be made. All information and documentation of special needs is confidential. Further information can be found here: <https://drc.uga.edu/>

Laptops and Other Devices in Class

Cell phones should be turned off for the duration of the class.

Laptops are allowed, but strongly discouraged. Evidence suggests that taking notes by hand is better for your learning, your course performance, and the learning experience of your classmates. It will also help you prepare for quizzes and the midterm.

Class Schedule

** The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

1. Tuesday, August 15: Introduction to the Course

Historical Background

2. Thursday, August 17: Imagining the Middle East – Conceptions and Misconceptions

- a. Huntington, Samuel P. 1993. “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs*: 22-49
- b. Said, Edward. 2001. “The Clash of Ignorance” *The Nation*: 22(10)
- c. “The Tragedy of the Arabs” *Economist*. July 5, 2014 :
<https://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21606284-civilisation-used-lead-world-ruinsand-only-locals-can-rebuild-it>

Optional Reading:

- d. Said, Edward. 1978. *Orientalism*. (Introduction)

3. Tuesday, August 22: Colonialism and State Formation

- a. *The Middle East*, Chapter 1: “The Making of the Modern Middle East.” pp. 1-53
- b. Due: Sign up for class presentations
- c. Study map for geography quiz

Non-Democratic Political Systems

4. Thursday, August 24: Overview of Institutions and Governance

- a. *The Middle East*, Chapter 4: “Institutions and Governance”

5. Tuesday, August 29: Single Party Authoritarianism

- a. *The Middle East*, Chapter 10: “Egypt”
b. Film: *Egypt, We Are Watching You*

Presentation:

- Albrecht, Holger. 2005. “How Can Opposition Support Authoritarianism? Lessons From Egypt.” *Democratization* 12(3): 378-397

6. Thursday, August 31: Monarchy

- a. Lucas, Russell. 2004. “Monarchical Authoritarianism: Survival and Political Liberalization in a Middle Eastern Regime Type.” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 36(1): 103-119
b. Herb, Michael. 2004. “Princes and Parliaments in the Arab World.” *The Middle East Journal* 58(3): 367-384.

Presentations:

- *The Middle East*, Chapter 14: “Jordan”
- *The Middle East*, Chapter 19: “Morocco”

7. Tuesday, September 5: Theocracy

- a. *The Middle East*, Chapter 11: “Iran”
b. Film: *Persepolis*

Presentation:

- Choose an article from Al-Monitor’s Iran Pulse (www.al-monitor.com)

8. Thursday, September 7: Political Islam in Opposition – The Alternative?

- a. El-Ghobashy, Mona. 2005. “The Metamorphosis of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers.” *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 37(3): 373-395
b. Masoud, Tarek. 2008. “Are They Democrats: Does it Matter?” *Journal of Democracy* 19(3): 19-24

Presentation:

- Schwedler, Jillian. 2011. “Can Islamists Become Moderates? Rethinking the Inclusion-Moderation Hypothesis.” *World Politics* 63(2): 347-376.

9. Tuesday, September 12: Secularism, Islamism, and Democracy – The Turkish Case

- a. *The Middle East*, Chapter 25: “Turkey”
b. Bali, Asli. 2011. “A Turkish Model for the Arab Spring?” *Middle East Law and Governance* 3: 24-42.
i. <https://muftah.org/a-turkish-model-for-the-arab-spring/#.WV5wMcmQzox>

Presentation:

- POMEPS: Turkey’s Attempted Coup: https://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/POMEPS_BriefBooklet30_Turkey_Web.pdf
Authoritarian Durability? Causes, Effects, and Challenges

10. Thursday, September 14: Political Economy I

- a. *The Middle East*, Chapter 3: “The Political Economy of Development in the Middle East

Presentation:

- Kuran, Timur. 2004. “Why the Middle East is Economically Underdeveloped: Historical Mechanisms of Institutional Stagnation.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*: 71-90

11. Tuesday, September 19: Political Economy II – The Politics of Oil

- a. Ross, Michael. 2001. “Does Oil Hinder Democracy?” *World Politics* 53(3)
- b. Herb, Michael. 2005. “No Representation Without Taxation? Rents, Development, and Democracy.” *Comparative Politics* 37(3)
- c. Ross, Michael. 2011. “Will Oil Drown the Arab Spring?: Democracy and the Resource Curse.” *Foreign Affairs* 90(5): 2-7

Presentations:

- *The Middle East*, Chapter 15: “Kuwait”
- *The Middle East*, Chapter 21: “Saudi Arabia”

12. Thursday, September 21: Social Transformation and Challenges

- a. *The Middle East*, Chapter 2: “Social Change in the Middle East”

Presentation:

- Salehi-Isfahani, Djavad, and Navtej Dhillon. 2008. “Stalled Youth Transitions in the Middle East: A Framework for Policy Reform.” *Middle East Youth Initiative Working Paper* 8

13. Tuesday, September 26: The Role of the Military

- a. Rubin, Barry. 2001. “The Military in Contemporary Middle East Politics.” *Middle East Review of International Affairs Journal* 5(1): 47-63
- b. Barany, Zoltan. 2011. “The Role of the Military.” *Journal of Democracy* 22(4): 24-35

Presentation:

- Choose an article from Al-Monitor addressing the role of the military in the Middle East (www.al-monitor.com)

14. Thursday, September 28: Religion

- a. Fish, Steven. 2002. “Islam and Authoritarianism.” *World Politics* 55: 4-37
- b. Lust, Ellen. 2011. “Missing the Third Wave: Islam, Institutions and Democracy in the Middle East.” *Studies in Comparative International Development*
- c. **Midterm Handed Out**

Presentation:

- Tessler, Mark. 2010. “Religion, Religiosity and the Place of Islam in Political Life: Insights from the Arab Barometer Surveys.” *Middle East Law and Governance* 2(2): 221-252

15. Tuesday, October 3: No Class

16. Thursday, October 5: No Class

17. Tuesday, October 10: Gender I

- a. Film: Wajda
- b. **Midterm Due in Class**

18. Thursday, October 12: Gender II

- a. Ross, Michael. 2008. "Oil, Islam, and Women." *American Political Science Review* 102(01): 107-123
- b. Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2002. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others." *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 783-790
- c. Al-Ali, Nadjie. 2003. "Gender and Civil Society in the Middle East." *International Feminist Journal of Politics* 5(2): 216-232

Presentation:

- Choose an article from Al-Monitor addressing a gender issue in the Middle East (www.al-monitor.com)

19. Tuesday, October 17: Civil Society

- a. *The Middle East*, Chapter 6: "Actors, Public Opinion, and Participation"

Presentation:

- Langohr, Vickie. 2004. "Too Much Civil Society, Too Little Politics: Egypt and Liberalizing Arab Regimes." *Comparative Politics*

20. Thursday, October 19: Elections

- a. Lust, Ellen. 2009. "Competitive Clientalism in the Middle East." *Journal of Democracy* 20(3): 122-135

Presentation:

- Posusney, Marsha Pripstein. 2004. "Multi-Party Elections in the Arab World: Institutional Engineering and Oppositional Strategies." *Studies in Comparative International Development* 36(4)

Regional and International Conflict

21. Tuesday, October 24: International Politics

- a. *The Middle East*, Chapter 8: "International Politics of the Middle East"
- b. Anderson, Lisa. 1995. "Peace and Democracy in the Middle East: The Constraints of Soft Budgets." *Journal of International Affairs* 49

Presentation:

- Jamal, Amaney A. 2012. *Of Empires and Citizens: Pro-American Democracy or No Democracy at All?* Princeton University Press. Chapter 1

22. Thursday, October 26: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

- a. *The Middle East*, Chapter 7: "The Israeli Palestinian Conflict"
- b. Film / Peace Talk Simulation

Presentations:

- Choose an article from Al-Monitor's Israel Pulse (www.al-monitor.com)
- Choose an article from Al-Monitor's Palestine Pulse (www.al-monitor.com)

23. Tuesday, October 31: Sectarian Conflict

- a. Nasr, Vali. 2007. *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts Within Islam Will Shape the Future*. WW Norton & Company. Introduction & Chapter 9: "The Battle for the Middle East."

Presentations:

- *The Middle East*, Chapter 12: "Iraq"
- *The Middle East*, Chapter 16: "Lebanon"

The Arab Uprisings, Prospects for Democracy, and Human Rights

24. Thursday, November 2: Explaining the "Arab Spring" and its Multiple Trajectories

- a. *Taking to the Streets*, Introduction: "Reconsidering Activism in the Arab World: Arab Uprisings and Beyond."
- b. Gause III, F. Gregory. 2011. "Why Middle East Studies Missed the Arab Spring: The Myth of Authoritarian Stability." *Foreign Affairs* 90: 81

Presentation:

- Choose an article from Al-Monitor addressing the post-uprising situation in one of the countries of the "Arab Spring" (www.al-monitor.com)

25. Tuesday, November 7: Road to Tahrir Square

- a. *Taking to the Streets*, Chapter 2: "Egypt: A Decade of Ruptures"
- b. Film: The Square

Presentation:

- Choose an article from Al-Monitor's Egypt Pulse (www.al-monitor.com)

26. Thursday, November 9: Tunisia

- a. *Taking to the Streets*, Chapter 1: "Architecture of Resistance in Tunisia"

Presentations:

- Choose an article from Al-Monitor's Tunisia Pulse (www.al-monitor.com)
- Stephan, Maria J. and Erica Chenoweth. 2008. "Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict." *International Security* 33(1): 7-44.

27. Tuesday, November 14: The Civil War in Syria

- a. *Taking to the Streets*, Chapter 5: "Activism in Syria: Between Nonviolence and Armed Resistance"
- b. POMEPS: Syria and the Islamic State: https://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/POMEPS_BriefBooklet25_Syria_web.pdf
- c. Rubin. "Why the Islamic State Won't Become a Normal State: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2015/07/09/why-the-islamic-state-wont-become-a-normal-state/?utm_term=.382752ef0501

Presentation:

- Choose an article from Al-Monitor’s Syria Pulse (www.al-monitor.com)

28. Thursday, November 16: Open (May be cancelled due to conference)

29. Tuesday, November 21 & Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving Break

30. Tuesday, November 28: Human Rights – Interventions and Peacekeeping

- a. Peksen, Dursun. 2012. “Does Foreign Military Intervention Help Human Rights?” *Political Research Quarterly* 65(3): 558-571.
- b. Murdie, Amanda and David R. Davis. 2010. “Problematic Potential: The Human Rights Consequences of Peacekeeping Interventions in Civil Wars.” *Human Rights Quarterly* 32: 49-72.
- c. Fortna, Virginia. 2004. “Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War.” *International Studies Quarterly* 48: 269-292.

Presentations:

- Findley, Michael and Tze Kwang Teo. 2006. “Rethinking Third-Party Interventions into Civil Wars: An Actor-Centric Approach” *Journal of Politics* 68(4): 828-837.
- Karim, Sabrina and Kyle Beardsley. 2013. “Female Peacekeepers and Gender Balancing: Token Gestures or Informed Policymaking?” *International Interactions* 39(4): 461-488.

31. Thursday, November 30: Human Rights – Foreign Aid and INGOs

- a. Murdie, Amanda and David R. Davis. 2012. “Shaming and Blaming: Using Events Data to Assess the Impact of Human Rights INGOs.” *International Studies Quarterly* 56: 1-16.
- b. Nielson, Richard, Michael Findley, Zachary Davis, Tara Candland, and Daniel Nielsen. 2011. “Foreign Aid Shocks as a Cause of Violent Armed Conflict.” *American Journal of Political Science* 55(2): 219-232.

Presentation:

- Fearon, James, Macartan Humphreys, and Jeremy m. Weinstein. 2009. “Can Development Aid Contribute to Social Cohesion after Civil War? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Post-Conflict Liberia.” *American Economic Review* 99(2): 287-291.

32. Tuesday, December 5: Future of the Middle East

- a. *Taking to the Streets*, Postscript: “From Activism to Democracy” pp. 322-334
- b. Brownlee, Jason, Tarek Masoud, and Andrew Reynolds. 2013. “Why the Modest Harvest?” *Journal of Democracy* 24(4): 29-44
- c. POMEPS: From Mobilization to Counter Revolution (pp. 3-7, 18-19, 25-37, 3-69): https://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/POMEPS_Studies_20_Mobilization_Web-REV.pdf

33. Friday, December 8: Final Papers due via email by midnight.