

University of Southern Mississippi
Department of Political Science, International Development and International Affairs

IDV 875 The Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa

Spring 2009

Synchronous Chat 7:00-9:00 p.m. Wednesday (central)

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Course Description:

This course will examine the current issues concerning the political economy of and the economic challenges facing countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)—the area comprising the Arab States, Israel, Iran and Turkey. While these countries differ substantially from one another this course will focus on themes that permeate many if not all of these countries including population growth, agriculture, labor migration, oil, economic liberalization, gender and development, and the economics of war and peace.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete the course will gain a familiarity with the most pressing economic issues confronting the Middle East today and be able to effectively analyze changes in the economic and political climate of these countries.

This course will use economic models and the framework of international political economy in order to explain issues affecting the political economy of the region. The approach will focus on the role of institutions within and between countries and how these institutions determine the framework for economic and political interactions.

This course will help students improve their research skills and develop their ability to write clear analyses of economic and political issues of the Middle East. Short reaction papers and one extensive research paper will help develop these skills.

The course will also help students develop an understanding of the social and cultural aspects of the Middle East, for these issues are an important aspect of understanding the institutional framework.

Required Readings

There are three required books, as well as required readings on reserves at the library. All required reading is marked by a †. All other listed readings are merely recommended in case you want to study this issue further, for example, in preparation for your paper.

Richards, Alan and John Waterbury, 2007. *A Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa*. Third Edition. Boulder, CO: Westview,

Henry, Clement and Robert Springborg, 2001. *Globalization and the Politics of Development in the Middle East*, Cambridge University Press.

Rubin, Barry 2002. *The Tragedy of the Middle East* Cambridge University Press.

Course Requirements

The primary requirement for the course will be to keep current with the readings. While some of the readings are more technically difficult, none of the readings selected presumes extensive knowledge of the Middle East or economic theory. However, the discussions will not substitute for the readings, and you are responsible for material in the readings even if it is not explicitly covered during a chat session.

The most substantial aspect of this course will be an individual project that will include writing a final paper and providing a presentation. Presentations will be evaluated in part by the quality of discussion that they are able to stimulate.

Grading

5 %	Discussion Questions/ Asynchronous chat
10 %	Synchronous chat
15 %	Book Review of <i>The Tragedy of the Middle East</i>
10%	Reaction papers
50%	Paper Project
10%	Presentation

Research Paper

A. Paper Specifications

The paper should be 20-25 pages. The paper must be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins all around. Careful and complete footnoting of all quotations and paraphrasing is essential. Any reasonable manner for citations is acceptable including Chicago, APA, or you can follow the style used in an economics journal.

B. Calendar of Requirements

1. **Proposal**: Submit a copy of this written statement by **September 14th**. The statement should include
 - a. A statement of the problem or question with which your paper will deal.
 - b. A brief topic outline that shows how you intend to organize your paper; and
 - c. a preliminary bibliography of books and journal articles you plan to use in your research. Write full, clear citations, so that I can help you with sources.
2. **Literature Review**. Due **October 5th**. You need to summarize and synthesize the most important sources on your topic. This portion of the paper will be 3-5 pages long and should tie in to your overall thesis.
3. **Model Description** Due **October 26th**. You will need to submit a full description of the economic model that you propose to use in your paper. This model can be a mathematical model, a graphical model, or a conceptual model. This description should be complete and demonstrate the model's appropriateness for the question you are attempting to address. Your description should be 1-2 pages long.
4. **First draft of paper**. Due **November 16th**. A copy of a complete, typed draft with footnotes and bibliography, is to be submitted. You should think of this as a **third** draft rather than a first draft. It should be spell checked, and include an introduction and conclusion.

5. Final draft of paper. Due **November 30th**
6. Paper presentation. The formal presentation of your paper will take place during the final in person session . You can use PowerPoint or overheads, but some form of visual aids must be used.

C. Grading

You will receive a grade on each portion of the paper outlined above (B.1-6). The breakdown of the grade will be as follows Proposal 5%; Literature Review 10%; Model Description 10% First Draft 15%; Final Draft 60%. These constituent parts will then be averaged in order to determine the overall grade for the project, which counts towards 50% of your final grade.

Late Penalties

All deadlines must be met. Failure to do so will result in grade penalties. If the proposal, literature review, model, or final draft is late, a 1/3 grade penalty is imposed for the first day. Each additional day raises the penalty by 1/3rd of a letter grade. However, you do have 2 grace days that can be used at any point in the semester.

First draft and final draft submission deadline: if either of these is late, a **one letter-grade** penalty is imposed for the first day. Each additional day raises the penalty by 1/3 grade.

Reaction Papers

These papers are based upon a particular theme of the readings. There are three papers listed, due throughout the semester; however, you only need to turn in two. If you choose to turn in the other one on its due date, you will receive your highest two grades. Reaction papers should be 2-3 pages typed (double spaced) and should use the readings as a point of departure. These papers are not only summaries; they should be essays related to the readings and incorporating some major theme that is discussed in the readings. All papers are due at 8:00 p.m. central time on the date listed below.

The model for your reaction paper should be an Op-Ed in a major paper. It should be roughly 800 words, on a single topic that is current, but relates to the readings from class.

Reaction paper due dates

Reaction Paper #1: September 21st

Reaction Paper #2: October 12th

Reaction Paper #3: November 23rd

Topics Covered

I. The Stagnation of ME economic growth

II. The Public Sector, Liberalization and Privatization

III. The Economics of War and Peace in the Middle East

Asynchronous Chat—Discussion Questions

This course will include a seminar-style discussion of the books and papers during a synchronous chat each week. You are expected to read the article or book ahead of time and submit two discussion questions each Monday on the readings to be discussed for that week. These discussion questions can ask for clarification, to make a general or specific comment about the readings, or to extend upon an idea from the readings. You should submit at least one discussion question per week that is not simply a clarification question. If you have a lot of clarification questions, feel free to post them all, but at least one question should try to synthesize the information. Here is an example of a discussion question

I finished reading the article about Saudi Arabia, and I found it kind of optimistic. I read the book "La vie après le pétrole", of Jean Luc Wingert and Jean Laherrere, which is a lot more pessimistic. It is in French and I didn't bring the book here, but I remember that the authors were talking about the Hubbert's peak, which claims that the oil production will reach its peak before 2010 at a probability of 70%. It also talks about OPEC countries cheating on their production and on their reserves: they pretend having the same reserves each year, which is almost impossible, because it means that they are discovering exactly what they are producing.

Are the French more pessimistic -as always-, or is it true?

Your questions will be the starting point for the synchronous chat on Wednesday nights, so be sure to read and think about your classmates' questions before Wednesday. Post your questions to WebCT by 8:00 p.m. Monday night.

DISABILITY STATEMENT:

Disability Statement: "If a student has a disability that qualifies under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical impairments, or chronic health disorders. Students should contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies. Box 8568; Telephone (601) 266-5024; TTY (601) 266-6837; Fax (601) 266-6035."

PLAGIARISM/INTEGRITY STATEMENT:

Plagiarism/Integrity Statement: Integrity is of the highest importance in the academic community and at The University of Southern Mississippi. Students are expected to conduct themselves with complete honesty and integrity. Nothing less is acceptable. Please refer to the "Code of Student Conduct" in the Student Handbook for greater detail.

Offenses involving academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

- cheating on quizzes or examinations
- computer dishonesty
- plagiarism
- grade falsification
- collusion

In the event of student dishonesty, the instructor may award failing grades either on the pertinent assignment or for the course; and, at his/her discretion, report the student to the office of the Dean of Students for possible judicial proceedings under the University's Code of Student Conduct.

Faculty members are expected to enforce rigorously the University's Academic Honesty Policy.

For further information on Academic Honesty, please refer to the current Bulletin or to the Student Handbook. Additionally, the University library provides a Web site that reviews the topic of plagiarism at

<http://www.lib.usm.edu/research/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php>. Students are encouraged to review the information on this site.

Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty as outlined in the Student Handbook. Academic dishonesty will result in the grade of a "0" on the assignment or for the entire course, and/or the student may be reported to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for further action.

USM NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY:

USM Non-discrimination Policy Statement: The University of Southern Mississippi offers to all persons equal access to educational, programmatic and employment opportunities without regard to age, sex, religion, color, national origin, Vietnam era veteran status or disability status. These provisions are pursuant to applicable federal and state regulations." Inquiries concerning discrimination should be directed to the following: Office of Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity 221 Weathersby Hall The University of Southern Mississippi Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39406-5168 601-266-6618 TTY: 601-266-6872 This non-discrimination policy protects students whenever they are involved in activities related to USM, both on and off campus.

Schedule of Topics and Readings by Subject

I. Overview: The New Middle East

† Chapters 1&2 Richards and Waterbury

†† Steven A. Cook. "The Right Way to Promote Arab Reform";
Foreign Affairs. : Mar/Apr 2005. Vol.84, Iss. 2; pg. 91

†† Leenders, Reinoud. "How UN Pressure on Hizbullah Impedes Lebanese Reform" MERIP online May 23, 2006

II. Economic Development and Economic Growth in the Middle East

† Chapter 3 Richards and Waterbury

† Chapters 1 and 2 in *Arab Human Development Report 2002*

† Chapters 1 and 2 in Henry and Springborg

Kuran, Timur "Why the Middle East is Economically Underdeveloped: Historical Mechanisms and Institutional Stagnation" *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Summer 2004, Vol 18, N 3, pp. 71-90

III. Population and Human Resources

† Chapter 4-5 Richards and Waterbury

† Yousef, Tarik, 2004. "Employment, Development and the Social Contract in the Middle East and North Africa" World Bank working paper.

† Khawaja, Marwan, 2000. "The Recent Rise in Palestinian Fertility: Permanent or Transient?" *Population Studies*, Vol. 54, pp. 331-346.

† Chapters 3 and 4. Arab Human Development Report

† Olmsted, Jennifer, 2003. "Reexamining the Fertility Puzzle in the Middle East" in Eleanor Abdella Doumato and Marsha Pripstein Posusney, eds., *Women and Globalization in the Arab Middle East: Gender, Economy & Society*, pp. 73-92. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

Hyneman, Stephen, 1997. "The Quality of Education in the Middle East and North Africa" *International Journal of Education Development*, vol. 17, No. 4, pp. 449-466.

Shaban, Radwan, Ragui Assaad and Sulayman Al-Qudsi, 1995. "The Challenge of Unemployment in the Arab Region," *International Labour Review*, Vol. 134, No. 1, pp. 63-81.

van Eegen, Willem, 1998. "Poverty in the Middle East and North Africa" in Nemat Shafik ed., *Prospects for Middle Eastern and North African Economies*, pp. 226-261.

IV. Agriculture and Food Security

†Chapter 6 Richards and Waterbury

†Adams, Richard H, 2000. “Self-Targeted subsidies: The Political Economy and Distributional Impact of the Egyptian Food Subsidy System” *Economic Development and Cultural Change* Vol 49. No. 1, October, pp. 115-36.

Mubarak, Jamil, 1998. “Development Policy in View of a Narrow Agricultural Natural Resource Base” *World Development*, Vol. 26, No. 5, pp. 877-895.

†Lofgren, Hans, ed., 2003. *Food Agriculture and Economic Policy in the Middle East and North Africa*. Volume 5 in *Research in Middle East Economics*, Oxford: JAI Press.

V. The Public Sector and Policy Reform

† Chapters 7-9 Richards and Waterbury

†Yousef, Tarik, 2004. “Development, Growth and Policy Reform in the Middle East and North Africa since 1950” *JEP* Summer, pp. 91-116.

†Chapters 3-5, Henry and Springborg

Boratav, Korkut, Oktar Tuerel and Eric Yeldan, 1996. "Dilemmas of Structural Adjustment and Environmental Policies Under Instability: Post-1980 Turkey," *World Development*, Vol. 24, No. 2, pp. 373-393, 1996.

Cecen, A. Aydin, A. Suut Dogruel and Fatma Dogruel, 1994. “Economic Growth and Structural Change in Turkey 1960-1988” *IJMES* vol 26, number 1, February 1994, pp 37-56.

Case study on Syrian Liberalization

†† Hinnebusch, Raymond “Globalization and Generational Change: Syrian Foreign Policy between Regional Conflict and European Partnership.” *Review of International Affairs*, Winter2003, Vol. 3 Issue 2, p190-208.

††Haddad, Bassam “Syria’s Curious Dilemma” Middle East Report, Fall 2005
<http://www.merip.org/mer/mer236/haddad.html>

Hinnebusch, Raymond A., 1995. “The Political Economy of Economic Liberalization in Syria” *IJMES* vol 27, #3, August, p 305-320

Lawson, Fred H. “Private Capital and the State in Contemporary Syria” *MERIP* Spring 1997, pp8-13.

Heydemann, Steven, 1992. “The political Logic of Economic Rationality: Selective Stabilization in Syria” in Henri Barkey (ed.) *The Politics of Economic Reform in the Middle East*. St. Martins: 11-40

VI. The Economics of Peace and War

†Chapter 13 Richards and Waterbury

†Krueger, Alan and Jitka Maleckova, 2003. "Education, Poverty and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol 17, No. 3, Fall, pp. 119-144.

†Foote, Christopher, William Block, Keith Crane and Simon Gray, 2004. "Economic Policy and Prospects in Iraq" *JEP* Summer, 47-70.

† Medani, Kalid Mustafa, 2004. "State Building in Reverse: the Neo-Liberal 'Reconstruction' of Iraq." *Middle East Report*, No. 232, Fall 2004, pp. 28-35.

Diwan, Ishac and Radwan A. Shaban (eds), 1999. *Development Under Adversity; The Palestinian Economy in Transition*. Washington, DC: World Bank (executive summary available online).

Graham-Brown, Sarah and Chris Toensing, 2002. *Why Another War? A Backgrounder on the Iraq Crisis* MERIP, October.

Alkadiri, Raad and Fareed Mohamedi, 2003. "World Oil Markets and the Invasion of Iraq" *Middle East Report*, No. 227, Vol. 33, No. 2, Summer, pp. 20-31.

Mishal, Shaul, Ranan Kuperman and David Boas, 2001. *Investment in Peace: The Politics of Economic Cooperation between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians*. Portland, OR; Sussex University Press.

VII. The Economics of Oil

†Mohamed, Fareed, 2004. "Oil Prices and Regime Resilience in the Gulf" *Middle East Report*, No. 232, Fall, pp. 36-38.

†Maas, Peter, 2005. "The Breaking Point" *New York Times Magazine*, August 21, 2005, pp. 30-35.

†Henry and Springborg, Ch. 6

Bialer, Uri, 1999. *Oil and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1948-1963*. London: MacMillan.

Chaudhry, Kiren. 1997. *The Price of Wealth: Economies and Institutions in the Middle East*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

VIII. Labor Migration

†Chapter 15 Richards and Waterbury

†Shafik, Nemat, 1999. "Labor Migration and Economic Integration in the Middle East" in Michael C. Hudson, ed. *Middle East Dilemma: The Politics and Economics of Arab Integration*, pp. 279-298, NY: Columbia University Press.

Case Study on Palestinian Migration

†Shaban, Radwan. "Palestinian Labor Mobility" *International Labour Review* 1993.

†Sayre, Ward and Jennifer Olmsted, 1999. "Economics of Palestinian Return Migration" *Middle East Report* vol 29, number 3, pp. 8-9. (available on MER website
http://www.merip.org/mer/mer212/212_olmsted_sayre.html)

†Sayre, Edward, 2003. "The Economic Effects of Palestinian Return Migration" *Topics in Middle Eastern and North African Economies* vol. 5, available online at <http://www.sba.luc.edu/orgs/meea/volume5>

Arnon, Arie, et al. 1997. "The Labor Market" in *The Palestinian Economy*, pp 61-86. London: Brill.

Van Hear, Nicholas, 1995. "The Impact of the Involuntary Mass 'Return' to Jordan in the Wake of the Gulf Crisis," *International Migration Review*, Vol. XXIX, No. 2, pp. 352-374.

Shah, Nasra, 1995. "Structural Change in the Receiving Country and Future Labor Migration - The Case of Kuwait," *International Migration Review*, Vol. XXIX, No. 4, pp. 1000-1021.

IX. Islamic Economics

†Chapter 14 Richards and Waterbury

†Kuran, Timur, 1995. "Islamic Economics and the Islamic Subeconomy," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 9, No. 4, Fall, pp. 155-173.

Moore, Clement Henry, 1990. "Islamic Banks and Competitive Politics in the Arab World and Turkey," *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 44, No. 2, pp. 234-255, Spring.

X. Gender Issues in MENA Development

†Doumato, Eleanor Abdellah, 1999. "Women and Work in Saudi Arabia: How Flexible are Islamic Margins?," *Middle East Journal*, vol 53 no. 4.

† Shafik, Nemat, 2001. "Closing the Gender Gap in the Middle East and North Africa" in E. Mine Cinar, ed., *The Economics of Women and Work in the Middle East and North Africa Volume #4 of Research in Middle East Economics*, pp. 13-31, Oxford: JAI Press.

†Murphy, Emma, 2003. "Women in Tunisia: Between State Feminism and Economic Reform", in Eleanor Abdella Doumato and Marsha Pripstein Posusney, eds., *Women and Globalization in the Arab Middle East: Gender, Economy & Society*, pp. 73-92. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.