Middle Eastern Politics

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Autumn 2017

Political Science 149T
Class: 10:30 - 11:50 am, Tuesday and Thursday
Office Hours: 1:00 - 2:00 pm, Tuesday (Encina West 408)

Teaching Associate: Ala' Alrababa'h (alaa@stanford.edu)
Sections: 2:30 - 3:30 pm and 3:30 - 4:30 pm, Friday
Teaching Associate Office Hours: TBD

Course Overview

This course offers a thematic approach to the study of Middle Eastern politics. We will over the major areas of political science research on the region while simultaneously building empirical knowledge about the politics of individual countries. There are two primary learning goals for students in this class:

1. To identify broad trends in the political, social and economic development of the Middle East and critically evaluate existing explanations for those trends.
2. To develop strategies for testing theoretically-driven hypotheses related to the region using the advanced analytic tools of the modern social sciences.

Evaluation

Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

50 percent: Assignments (10 percent x 5)
20 percent: Class participation
30 percent: Final examination

Agenda of Topics and Readings

The following books will be made available for purchase:


The rest of the readings will be available on Courseworks. The agenda of topics and readings is as follows:

**September 26: Introduction**

**September 28: Early Islamic Political Institutions**


**October 3: State Structures and Development**


**October 5: Institutions and Economic Growth (Assignment #1 Due)**


**October 10: European Economic and Political Interventions**


October 12: Nationalism and Anti-Colonial Protest


October 17: Post-Colonial State Building


October 19: Oil and Autocracy (Assignment #2 Due)


October 24: Autocratic Institutions


October 26: The Arab Uprisings

Bellin, Eva. 2012. “Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring,” Comparative Politics. 44.


October 31: Islam and Identity


November 2: Islamic Social and Political Movements (Assignment #3 Due)


November 7: Islam and Gender


November 9: Islamic Extremism


November 14: Political Violence


November 16: The Arab-Israeli Conflict (Assignment #4 Due)


November 28: Attitudes toward the US


**November 30: Class Discussion — The Looming Tower**


**December 5: Class Discussion — Black Flags**


**December 7: Course Overview (Assignment #5 Due)**

Final Examination, TBD

### Note for Students with Documented Disabilities

Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) located within the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). SDRC staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter for faculty dated in the current quarter in which the request is being made. Students should contact the SDRC as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk, (650) 723-1066.