This course analyzes the interaction between governments and citizens in the Arab states, Israel, Turkey, and Iran. The course is structured in three parts. Part I reviews defining moments in the political history of the region from the mid-19th century to 1948, including the political structure of the Ottoman Empire, European colonial rule and its legacies, the rise of nationalisms, and the varieties of states that emerged in the interwar period. Part II examines the political economy of state-society relations from 1948-1979, particularly the growth of postcolonial states, the geopolitics of oil wealth, and the Iranian revolution of 1978-79. Part III focuses on contemporary dynamics: the politics of economic restructuring, the politics of religion, and the varieties of citizen activism across the region. We begin and end with the regional uprisings, collectively called “the Arab Spring.” The course analyzes the roots of the uprisings, with an emphasis on the origins and structure of the state in the countries experiencing upheaval as well as those that have staved off popular revolts.

As a course in comparative politics, the emphasis is on political dynamics within countries. Therefore, three significant topics in Middle East politics are not systematically covered: international relations of the Middle East, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and American foreign policy in the Middle East.

This is a course for upper-level undergraduates and graduate students. Prior coursework in political science is required; the course assumes knowledge of general political science concepts and theories. Undergraduates must have completed POLS V1501 (Introduction to Comparative Politics) plus an additional political science course at the 3000 level or higher. M.A. and SIPA students must have completed at least one of the other 4000-level regional politics courses.

**Requirements**

- Map Quiz 5%
- First expository essay 25%
- Second expository essay 30%
- Third, cumulative final essay 40%
Attendance is naturally mandatory, but not recorded. Please be in your seat by 10:30; class starts promptly at 10:35 am. Class handouts are posted on Courseworks but lecture slides are not. You should read the first two-three texts associated with each lecture before attending the lecture.

The map quiz is worth 5% of your grade and will be administered in class on Tuesday, September 20. You will be asked to locate 10 countries on a blank map, and to name the capitals of five countries (but not locate these on the map). There is no make-up quiz. If you do not sit for the quiz, you forfeit 5% of your course grade.

All written work for the course is designed to sharpen your analytical writing through mastering the form of the expository essay. The three essays are all take-home and require you to compose a thoughtful argument in 1,500-2,000 words in response to a specific question. Essay questions will be distributed at least one week in advance and you will always have a choice of topics. No outside research is required for the essays, only careful, critical analysis of course readings (both required and recommended readings).

When you need more information than that found in course readings, a link has been created for the course containing much material on the Arab Spring, historical uprisings in the region, youth in the Middle East, individual country studies, and leading academic and journalistic resources on Middle East politics. The link is at: http://www.delicious.com/MENA2011

To help you plan your semester schedule, due dates for all the essays are indicated on the course schedule below. Requests for extensions must be made in writing at least one week in advance of the deadline, and are granted at the discretion of the instructor. No extensions will be granted on the deadline of the third and final essay, which is determined by the University Registrar.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the course you will be able to:

- Identify key actors and issues in Middle East politics today.
- Evaluate major theoretical approaches in the field of comparative politics and the sub-field of Middle East politics.
- Build an effective argument based on cogent reasons and evidence.
- Recognize the difference between narrative and expository essays, and master the skill of writing an expository essay.

Required Texts

The following two required books for the course have been ordered at Book Culture (112th St. btw. Broadway and Amsterdam, 212-865-1588) and also placed on reserve at Lehman Library, International Affairs Building. All other readings are accessible online via Courseworks, both on the reserves list and in a Class Files folder titled ‘Readings.’
Late Essays

Late essays will be downgraded one-third of a letter grade (e.g. from a B to a B-) if submitted after 11:50 am on the day they are due, and penalized an additional one-third of a letter grade for each subsequent day late. Essays submitted more than two days after the due date will not be accepted.

For example, if an essay is due October 18 and receives a grade of ‘B’, it will be downgraded as follows if submitted late:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>After class on Oct. 18</th>
<th>B-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 19</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Not accepted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The due date for the third and final essay is the final exam date set by the Registrar and is non-negotiable.

No grade of “Incomplete” will be assigned in this course, so please organize your schedule to hand in all work on time.

Auditing the Course

Due to classroom space constraints this year, unfortunately no auditors will be allowed to sit in on lectures.

Academic Honesty

All students enrolled in this course must adhere to the Barnard College honor code, regardless of their academic affiliation. The honor code states that it is “dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any papers or books not authorized by the instructor in examinations, or to present oral work or written work which is not entirely our own, unless otherwise approved by the instructor.”

If you have any questions about the Honor Code, please seek guidance from the TAs and instructor.
Course Schedule

September 6: Introduction, Course Overview

For your reference, these are some recommended readings on American engagement with the Middle East:


September 8: Middle East Politics Today: Some Salient Dynamics


September 13: A Closer Look at the Arab Spring


• ICG, “The Syrian People’s Slow-Motion Revolution,” July 6, 2011.


**September 15: A Framework for Understanding Middle East Politics**


• Michele Penner Angrist, Ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East*, chs. 2, 3, 4.

**Part I. Political History of the Middle East and North Africa**

**September 20: The Middle East under Ottoman Rule**


• William Cleveland, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, chs. 4, 5, 8.


*Recommended:*


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**In-class Map Quiz, Tuesday September 20**

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September 22-27: British and French Colonialism and Struggles for Independence

- Cleveland, pp. 157-70 & ch. 12.

*Recommended:*


September 29: The Rise of Nationalisms, the Building of States: Israel

- Cleveland, ch. 13.

*Recommended:*


October 4: No class (attending conference at Notre Dame)

October 6: The Rise of Nationalisms, the Building of States: Turkey and Iran

Recommended:


### Part II. The Politics of State-Building and Economic Management

**October 11: The Politics of State Formation**

- Cleveland, ch. 19 (Syria and Iraq).

Recommended:

- Steven Heydemann, ed., *War, Institutions, and Social Change in the Middle East* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000) {available as an E-BOOK via CLIO}

**October 13: The Political Economy of Oil**

- Benjamin B. Smith, *Hard Times in the Lands of Plenty: Oil Politics in Iran and Indonesia* (Cornell University Press, 2007), Introduction & ch. 2
Recommended:


October 18: The Iranian Revolution: Causes and Legacies

- Cleveland, ch. 20.


**Essay 1 due in class, Tuesday October 18**

Recommended:


October 20: The Politics of Economic Reform


Recommended:


Part III. Contemporary Political Dynamics

October 25-27: The Politics of Democratization I: Culture or Structure?


**November 1-3: The Politics of Democratization II: Elite-led, Citizen-inspired, or U.S.-promoted?**

- Steven Heydemann, “Upgrading Authoritarianism in the Arab World,” (Brookings Institution, 2007), 1-35.

**Recommended:**


**November 8:** No class (Election Day)

**November 10:** Religion and Politics I: Concepts

 Angrist, chs. 6&7.


**November 15-17:** Religion and Politics II: Political Context and the Turn to Violence

*Political Context*


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**Essay 2 due in class, Tuesday November 15**
The Strategy of Violence


Recommended:


**November 22-29: Forms of Citizen Activism**

*(Thanksgiving November 24)*

- Angrist, Ed., *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East*, ch. 5.


**Recommended:**


December 1: New Media, New Politics?


Recommended:

- Jeffrey Ghannam, *Social Media in the Arab World: Leading up to the Uprisings of 2011* (Washington, DC: Center for International Media Assistance, 2011).


December 6-8: The Arab Spring Revisited


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**Final essay due Tuesday, December 20 @ noon**

*This is the time set by the University Registrar for the final exam in this course. You may submit your essay earlier, but no extensions beyond this date will be granted.*