



## Political Economy of the Middle East

Dr. Yakub Halabi

**Course Number:** 702.2790

**Class Time:** TBA

**E-Mail:** [yhalabi@gmail.com](mailto:yhalabi@gmail.com)

**Room:** TBA

### Course Description:

The modern Middle East, with its wars, its wealthy few and impoverished millions, its stagnant economies and authoritarian/monarchic regimes embody the general features of a Third World underdeveloped region. The purposes of this course are to: 1) explore the social-class structure and analyze states-society relations within these nations; 2) seek an understanding of the issues and problems facing the societies, economies and states of the region, such as the link between demographic growth and food security, or between rentier economies and the absence of democratization; 3) assess the successes and failures of the public-sector policy aimed at dealing with those concerns and difficulties; 4) the link between the transformation into free-market economies during the late 1990s and globalization on the one hand and the Arab-Spring revolutions, on the other. While the course focuses primarily on processes within in the MENA states, rather than on the Middle East's place in the international political order and the world economy, it is not possible to think coherently about subjects such as oil and political Islam without reference to the region's complex interactions with the developed world.

### **Required Textbook:**

Richards, A., J. Waterbury, M. Cammett and I. Diwan (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Westview Press.

**Magazine:** *Middle East Economic Digest* (MEED).

#WhyHaifa  
**MultiExperience**

Excellence.Diversity.Innovation



## **Requirements**

- 1) **Class participation (attendance and active participation) (20%):** This course will be conducted in a seminar format. All students should be prepared to contribute to each class discussion by raising questions about the readings.
- 2) **Four assignments (20%) (2-3 pages double-spaced):** each student should submit four assignments. In the assignment you are expected to analyze the main ideas of the author and provide a critique of the reading. The assignments are evaluated based on the student's critical analysis of the reading and the contribution of this analysis to the class discussion.
- 3) **Presentation (10%):** Each student should present one reading from the syllabus (8-10 minutes). You should make the presentation on a reading other than those picked up by you for the assignments. Each presentation will be followed by Q&A. It is highly recommended that you present a reading that relates to your research topic.
- 4) **Final Paper (50%):** The final paper should be on a course-related topic of your choice. The paper should be between 3000-3200 words in length, excluding bibliography and footnotes. You are encouraged to consult with me about your topic. You are required to pose a research question and collect evidence that enables you to answer your research question. Submission of the paper is divided into two deadlines. **You must submit the paper-topic and research question by Week 8.** The final paper is due two weeks from the last day of the semester. Please submit the paper to me electronically and a hard-copy in my mailbox.

### **I. History of the Political Economy of the Middle East-A Brief Review**

\*Richards, et al. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chap. 1.

\*Bayat, (2013). *Life as politics: How ordinary people change the Middle East*. Chap. 1.

### **II. Social Classes: Is there an Arab Bourgeoisie?**

\*Richards, et al. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chap. 2.

\* Sharabi, Hisham. (1988). *Neopatriarchy: A Theory of Distorted Change in Arab Society*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 1-39.

\* Salame`, Ghassan. (1987). 'Strong' and 'Weak' states, a Qualified Return to Muqaddimah. In *The Foundation of the Arab Integration*, ed. G. Salame`. London: Croom Helm.

### **III. Solidarity, Civil Society and Political Organization:**

\* Richards, et al. .2015. *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chap. 11. (Solidarism and its enemies).

#WhyHaifa  
**MultiExperience**

Excellence.Diversity.Innovation



- \*Montagu, C. 2010. "Civil Society and the Voluntary Sector in Saudi Arabia." *MIDDLE EAST JOURNAL* 64(1): 67-83.
- \* Bayat, Asef. 1997. Cairo's poor: Dilemmas of survival and solidarity. *Middle East Report* Winter.
- Clement Henry and Rodney Wilson. *The politics of Islamic finance*. Edinburgh University Press, 2004.

#### **IV. Authoritarian Regimes and Central Planning Policy:**

- \* Richards, et al. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chap. 3.
- \* Owen, Roger and Sevket Pamuk. 1999. *A History of Middle East Economies in the Twentieth Century*. London: I. B. Tauris. Chap. 6-7.
- \* Harik, Iliya. 1997. *Economic Policy Reforms in Egypt*. Miami: University Press of Florida. Chap. 3

#### **V. The Public Sector and the Bureaucracy:**

- \* Richards, et al. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chap. 7.
- \* Ali Zafar. 2012. "Fiscal policy and Diversification in MENA"  
[https://moodle2.brandeis.edu/pluginfile.php/100682/mod\\_resource/content/1/Fiscal%20Policy%20and%20Diversification%20in%20MENA%20%282012%29%20.pdf](https://moodle2.brandeis.edu/pluginfile.php/100682/mod_resource/content/1/Fiscal%20Policy%20and%20Diversification%20in%20MENA%20%282012%29%20.pdf)  
Fiscal Policy and Income Inequality in MENA (2014)  
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/pp/eng/2014/012314.pdf>

#### **VI. Demographic Growth Food Security and Development :**

- \* Richards, et al. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chaps. 4,6.
- \* UNDP. 2017. *Arab Human Development Report 2014: Creating Opportunities for Future Generations*. New York: United Nations Publications: Chap. 3.  
<http://www.undp.org/rbas>
- \* "Women and Economic Development in Middle East and North Africa" 2013,  
<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&context=sppp>
- \*"Paradox of Female Economic Participation in Middle East and North Africa" , 2014,  
<http://bakerinstitute.org/media/files/Research/c3b86006/BI-Brief-030714-Paradox-1.pdf>
- \*UNDP, *The Arab Human Development Report 2014: Towards the Rise of Women in the Arab World*, Executive Summary, pp. 1-24.

#### **VII. Islam, Modernity and Revolution:**

- \* Kuran, T. (2012). *The long divergence: How Islamic law held back the Middle East*, Princeton University Press. Chaps. 3-4.
- \* Richards, et al. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chap.12

#### **VIII. Rentier Economies, Taxation and Authoritarianism in the Oil Sheikdoms:**

#WhyHaifa  
**MultiExperience**

Excellence.Diversity.Innovation



- \* Beblawi, Hazem. 1990. The rentier state in the Arab world. In *The Arab State*.
- \* Ross, Michael. 2001. Does oil hinder democracy. *World Politics* 53 (April): 325-361.
- \*Herb, M. (2009). "A Nation of Bureaucrats: Political Participation and Economic Diversification in Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 41: 375-95.

#### **IX. Oil Market, Dependency and the 1973/74 Oil Embargo:**

- \* Richards, et al. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chap. 9.
- \* Gilbar, Gad. 1997. *The Middle East Oil Decade and Beyond*. London: Frank Cass. Chaps. Introduction, 1-4.
- \* Halabi, Yakub. 2006. "Oil, Petrodollars and Islam: U.S. Hegemony and the Social Construction of the Arab World. *International Studies*. Vol. 43 (4)(October).

#### **X. Economic Liberalization in the Middle East:**

- \* Richards, et al. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chap. 8.
- \*Rutherford, B. K. (2008). *Egypt after Mubarak : liberalism, Islam, and democracy in the Arab world*. Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press. Chaps. 1&5.
- \*Hvidt, M. (2009). "THE DUBAI MODEL: AN OUTLINE OF KEY DEVELOPMENT-PROCESS ELEMENTS IN DUBAI." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 41: 397-418.

#### **XI. Globalization and the Middle East:**

- \* Richards, et al. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chap. 13.
- \*Noland, M. and H. Pack (2004). "Islam, globalization, and economic performance in the Middle East." *SAIS Review of International Affairs* 24(2): 105-116.
- \*Eltahawy, M. (2008). "The Middle East's generation facebook." *World policy journal* 25(3): 69-77.
- \*GCC Trade and Investment Flows (2013)  
<http://www.economistinsights.com/sites/default/files/GCC%20Trade%20and%20investment%20flows.pdf> link to open resource.

#### **XII. Political Economy of the Arab Spring:**

- Bayat, Asef. (2013). *Life as politics: How ordinary people change the Middle East*, Stanford University Press. Chaps. Chaps. 2-3,5-6,8.
- \* Richards, et al. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*, Chap. 14.

#WhyHaifa  
**MultiExperience**

Excellence.Diversity.Innovation