Political Science 149T
Middle Eastern Politics
Lisa Blaydes*
Autumn 2018

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

Teaching Associate: Scott Williamson (scottw3@stanford.edu)
Sections: TBD
Teaching Associate Office Hours: TBD

Course Overview

This course offers a thematic approach to the study of Middle Eastern politics. We will cover 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

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 Canvas. The agenda of topics and readings is as follows:

---

*Office Phone: (650)723-0649; blaydes@stanford.edu*
September 25: Introduction

September 27: Early Economic and Political Institutions

October 2: The Ottoman State
Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapters 2 and 3.

October 4: European Economic and Political Interventions
Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapters 4 and 5.

October 9: Sectarianism

October 11: Nationalism and Anti-Colonial Protest

October 16: State Building
Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapters 10 and 11.

October 18: Oil

**October 23: Autocracy**


**October 25: Rebellion and Violence**


**October 30: The Arab Uprisings**


**November 1: Monarchy**


**November 6: Islam and Identity**


**November 8: Islamist Mobilization**


November 13: Islam and Gender

November 15: Radicalization

November 27: Terrorism and Political Behavior

November 29: Attitudes toward the US

December 4 (End-Quarter Period): Class Discussion — The Looming Tower

December 6 (End-Quarter Period): Final Examination Review

December 10: Final Examination, 12:15-3:15 pm

*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.*