

# Graduate Seminar on Middle Eastern Politics

Lisa Blaydes

Office Phone: (650) 723-0649

blaydes@stanford.edu

Spring 2017

Political Science 441L

Class: 9:30 am -12:20 pm Friday (Encina West 400)

Office Hours: 1:30 - 2:30 pm Friday (Encina West 408)

## Overview

This course overviews some of the major questions and puzzles in the study of Middle Eastern politics. We will critically evaluate research that uses advanced descriptive, theoretical, and empirical methods of the modern social sciences. Many of the course readings are recent, applied research papers. My goal is to expose students to the frontier of research in the field of Middle Eastern politics in order to assist students in identifying opportunities for making their own scholarly contributions. Students will be expected to produce a research paper related to the themes of the course that reflects an appreciation for the empirical and theoretical methods of the social sciences.

## Requirements

The requirements of the course are threefold:

1. *Class participation*: Students are expected to attend and actively participate in seminar each week.
2. *Response papers*: Each student will write a short (2-3 page) response paper for three weeks in the quarter. These papers can take a variety of forms, including a critique of the week's readings, an exploration of a particular variable, or an application of theories presented in the readings to a specific country case. Students who write papers for

a given week will also be expected to lead the group's discussion. Students should post their response papers by 8 pm on Thursday evenings to the "Discussion" section of Canvas.

3. *Research project*: Each student will write a research paper on a topic to be agreed upon in advance. We will discuss progress on student papers as part of the seminar. A one-page write-up of the paper's primary puzzle or question is due on April 14th. A detailed bibliography for the paper will be due on April 28th. An outline of the entire paper or draft of a section of the paper will be due on May 12th. Final papers are due June 14th.

## Schedule of Readings

The agenda of topics and readings is as follows:

### Week 1: States and Regimes

- Anderson, Lisa. 1987. "The State in the Middle East and North Africa." *Comparative Politics*. 20.
- Barkey, Karen. 1994. *Bandits and Bureaucrats: The Ottoman Route to State Centralization*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Chapters 3 and 6.
- Blaydes, Lisa. 2017. "State Formation in the Middle East." *Annual Review of Political Science*. 20.
- Blaydes, Lisa and Eric Chaney. 2013. "The Feudal Revolution and Europe's Rise: Political Divergence of the Christian West and the Muslim World before 1500 CE." *American Political Science Review*. 107.
- Chaney, Eric. 2013. "Revolt on the Nile: Economic Shocks, Religion, and Political Power." *Econometrica*. 81.

### Week 2: Economic Growth

- Balla, Eliana and Noel Johnson. 2009. "Fiscal Crisis and Institutional Change in the Ottoman Empire and France." *Journal of Economic History*. 69.
- Kuran, Timur. 2001. "The Provision of Public Goods under Islamic Law: Origins, Impact and Limitations of the Waqf System." *Law and Society Review*. 35.

- Kuran, Timur. 2003. "The Islamic Commercial Crisis: Institutional Roots of Economic Underdevelopment in the Middle East." *Journal of Economic History*. 63.
- Karaman, Kivanc and Sevet Pamuk. 2010. "Ottoman State Finances in European Perspective, 1500-1914." *Journal of Economic History*. 70.
- Rubin, Jared. 2017. *Rulers, Religion, and Riches: Why the West got Rich and the Middle East Did Not*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3 and 8.

### **Week 3: Colonialism and State-Society Relations**

- Charrad, Mounira. 2001. *States and Women's Rights: The Making of Postcolonial Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Chapters 5-9.
- Lawrence, Adria. 2013. *Imperial Rule and the Politics of Nationalism: Anti-Colonial Protest in the French Empire*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 1-2.
- Migdal, Joel. 1988. *Strong Societies and Weak States: State-Society Relations and State Capabilities in the Third World*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 4.

### **Week 4: Authoritarianism**

- Anderson, Lisa. 1991. "Absolutism and the Resilience of Monarchy in the Middle East." *Political Science Quarterly*. 106.
- Diamond, Larry. 2010. "Why Are There No Arab Democracies?" *Journal of Democracy*. 21.
- Hammoudi, Abdellah. 1997. *Master and Disciple: The Cultural Foundations of Moroccan Authoritarianism*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Chapter 1.
- Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1-3.
- Stepan, Alfred and Graeme B. Robertson. 2003. "An 'Arab' More Than a 'Muslim' Democracy Gap." *Journal of Democracy*. 14.

### **Week 5: Autocratic Resilience**

- Bellin, Eva. 2004. "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective." *Comparative Politics*. 36.

- Blaydes, Lisa. 2011. *Elections and Distributive Politics in Mubarak's Egypt*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapters 3 and 5-6.
- Jamal, Amaney. 2007. *Barriers to Democracy: The Other Side of Social Capital in Palestine and the Arab World*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 4.
- Quinlivan, James. 1999. "Coup-proofing: Its Practice and Consequences in the Middle East." *International Security*. 24.
- Wedeen, Lisa. 1999. *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric and Symbols in Contemporary Syria*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. Chapters 2-3.

### **Week 6: Revolution**

- Bayat, Asef. 1998. "Revolution without Movement, Movement without Revolution: Comparing Islamic Activism in Iran and Egypt." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*. 40.
- Bellin, Eva. "Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring." *Comparative Politics*. 12.
- Brownlee, Jason, Tarek Masoud and Andrew Reynolds. 2015. *The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapters 2-3.
- Campante, Filipe and Davin Chor. 2012. "Why was the Arab World Poised for Revolution? Schooling, Economic Opportunities, and the Arab Spring." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 26.
- Kurzman, Charles. 2004. *The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chapters 2-4.

### **Week 7: Islam and Identity**

- Baron, Beth. 2014. *The Orphan Scandal: Christian Missionaries and the Rise of the Muslim Brotherhood*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. Chapters 1 and 5.
- Blaydes, Lisa and Drew Linzer. 2008. "The Political Economy of Women's Support for Fundamentalist Islam." *World Politics*. 60.
- Clingingsmith, David, Asim Khwaja and Michael Kremer. 2009. "Estimating the Impact of the Hajj: Religion and Tolerance in Islam's Global Gathering." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 124.
- Patel, David. 2012. "Concealing to Reveal: The Informational Role of Islamic Dress." *Rationality and Society*. 24.

Wickham, Carrie Rosefsky. 2003. *Mobilizing Islam: Religion, Activism, and Political Change in Egypt*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Chapters 5-7.

### **Week 8: Public Goods**

- Beath, Andrew, Fotini Christia and Ruben Enikolopov. 2013. "Empowering Women through Development Aid: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Afghanistan." *American Political Science Review*. 107.
- Berman, Eli and David Laitin. 2008. "Religion, Terrorism and Public Goods: Testing the Club Model." *Journal of Public Economics*. 92.
- Blaydes, Lisa. 2014. "How Does Islamist Local Governance Affect the Lives of Women? A Comparative Study of Two Cairo Neighborhoods." *Governance*. 27.
- Cammett, Melani. 2014. *Compassionate Communalism: Welfare and Sectarianism in Lebanon*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. Chapters 1 and 4.
- Corstange, Daniel. 2016. *The Price of a Vote in the Middle East: Clientelism and Communal Politics in Lebanon and Yemen*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.
- Meyerson, Erik. 2014. "Islamic Rule and the Empowerment of the Poor and Pious." *Econometrica*. 82.

### **Week 9: Political Violence**

- Berrebi, Claude and Esteban Klor. 2008. "Are Voters Sensitive to Terrorism? Direct Evidence from the Israeli Electorate." *American Political Science Review*. 102.
- Biddle Stephen, Jeffrey Friedman, Jacob Shapiro. 2007. "Testing the Surge: Why Violence Declined in Iraq in 2007." *International Security*. 37.
- Hegghammer, Thomas. 2013. "Should I Stay or Should I Go? Explaining Variation in Western Jihadists' Choice between Domestic and Foreign Fighting." *American Political Science Review*. 107.
- Kalyvas, Stathis. "Wanton and Senseless: The Logic of Massacres in Algeria." *Rationality and Society*. 11.
- Parkinson, Sarah. 2013. "Organizing Rebellion: Rethinking High-Risk Mobilization and Social Networks in War." *American Political Science Review*. 107.
- Shayo, Moses and Asaf Zussman. 2011. "Judicial Ingroup Bias in the Shadow of Terrorism." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 126.

## **Week 10: Attitudes**

- Berman, Eli, Jacob Shapiro, and Joseph Felter. 2001. "Can Hearts and Minds Be Bought? The Economics of Counterinsurgency in Iraq." *Journal of Political Economy*. 119.
- Blaydes, Lisa and Drew Linzer. 2012. "Elite Competition, Religiosity and Anti-Americanism in the Islamic World." *American Political Science Review*. 106.
- Corstange, Daniel. 2016. "Anti-American Behavior in the Middle East: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Lebanon." *Journal of Politics*. 78.
- Jaeger, David, Esteban Klor, Sami Miaari and Daniele Paserman. 2012. "The Struggle for Palestinian Hearts and Minds: Violence and Public Opinion in the Second Intifada." *Journal of Public Economics*. 96.
- Jamal, Amaney. 2012. *Of Empires and Citizens: Pro-American Democracy or No Democracy at All?* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 2 and 4.