

Political Science 149T

Middle Eastern Politics

Lisa Blaydes*

Autumn 2019

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

Teaching Associate: Aliz Toth (aliztoth@stanford.edu)
Sections: 1:30-2:20 and 2:30-3:20 pm, Friday
Teaching Associate Office Hours: 4:30-6:30 pm, Tuesday

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:

Gelvin, James. 2015. *The Modern Middle East: A History, 4th Ed.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Wright, Lawrence. 2007. *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11.* New York, NY: Vintage.

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

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September 24: Introduction

September 26: Early Economic and Political Institutions

Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapter 1.

Kuran, Timur. 2004. "Why the Middle East Is Economically Underdeveloped: Historical Mechanisms of Institutional Stagnation," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. 18.

October 1: The Ottoman State

Barkey, Karen. 2008. *Empire of Difference: The Ottomans in Comparative Perspective*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. pgs. 67-132.

Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapters 2 and 3.

October 3: European Economic and Political Interventions

Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapters 4 and 5.

Owen, Roger. 1993. *The Middle East in the World Economy*. London: I.B. Tauris. pgs. 100-108 and 122-135.

October 8: Sectarianism

Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapter 6.

Makdisi, Ussama. 2000. *The Culture of Sectarianism: Community, History, and Violence in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Lebanon*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Chapter 1.

Weiss, Max. 2010. *In the Shadow of Sectarianism: Law, Shi'ism, and the Making of Modern Lebanon*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. Chapter 3.

October 10: Nationalism and Anti-Colonial Protest

Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapter 13.

Lawrence, Adria. 2013. *Imperial Rule and the Politics of Nationalism: Anti-Colonial Protest in the French Empire*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.

October 15: State Building

Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapters 11 and 12.

Migdal, Joel. *Strong Societies and Weak States: State-Society Relations and State Capabilities in the Third World*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 4 and 5.

October 17: Oil

Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapter 16.

Ross, Michael. 2012. *The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 2 and 3.

October 22: Autocracy

- Bellin, Eva. 2004. "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective," *Comparative Politics*. 36.
- Diamond, Larry. 2010. "Why Are There No Arab Democracies?" *Journal of Democracy*. 21.
- Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapter 15.

October 24: The Arab Uprisings

- Bellin, Eva. 2012. "Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring," *Comparative Politics*. 44.
- 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.
- Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapter 19.

October 29: Micro-dynamics of Mobilization

- Lawrence, Adria. 2016. "Repression and Activism among the Arab Spring's First Movers: Evidence from Morocco's February 20th Movement," *British Journal of Political Science*. 47.
- Pearlman, Wendy. 2016. "Moral Identity and Protest Cascades in Syria," *British Journal of Political Science*. 48.

October 31: Economic Development Trajectories

- Hertog, Steffen. 2010. "Defying the Resource Curse: Explaining Successful State-Owned Enterprises in Rentier States," *World Politics*. 62.
- Jones, Calvert. 2019. "Adviser to the King: Experts, Rationalization, and Legitimacy," *World Politics*. 71.

November 5: 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.
- Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapters 8 and 9.

November 7: Islamist Mobilization

- Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapter 18.
- Kandil, Hazem. 2015. *Inside the Brotherhood*. Cambridge: Polity Press. Chapter 1.
- Wickham, Carrie Rosefsky. 2003. *Mobilizing Islam: Religion, Activism, and Political Change in Egypt*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. Chapter 7.

November 12: Islam and Gender

- Blaydes, Lisa and Drew Linzer. 2008. "The Political Economy of Women's Support for Fundamentalist Islam," *World Politics*. 60.
- Ross, Michael. 2008. "Oil, Islam, and Women," *American Political Science Review*. 102.

November 14: Radicalization

Gambetta, Diego and Steffen Hertog. 2016. *Engineers of Jihad: The Curious Connection between Violent Extremism and Education*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapters 1 and 2.

Nielsen, Richard. 2017. *Deadly Clerics: Blocked Ambition and the Paths to Jihad*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 1.

November 19: Terrorism and Political Behavior

Getmansky, Anna and Thomas Zeitzoff. 2014. "Terrorism and Voting: The Effect of Rocket Threat on Voting in Israeli Elections," *American Political Science Review*. 108(3).

Shayo, Moses and Asaf Zussman. 2011. "Judicial Ingroup Bias in the Shadow of Terrorism," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. 126.

November 21: Attitudes toward the US

Blaydes, Lisa and Drew Linzer. 2012. "Elite Competition, Religiosity and Anti-Americanism in the Islamic World," *American Political Science Review*. 106.

Gelvin, James. 2015. Chapter 17.

Jamal, Amaney. 2012. *Of Empires and Citizens: Pro-American Democracy or No Democracy at All?* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 2.

December 3 (End-Quarter Period): Class Discussion — The Looming Tower

Wright, Lawrence. 2007. *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*. New York, NY: Vintage.

December 5 (End-Quarter Period): Final Examination Review

Final Examination

*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.