McGill University
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Fall Term 2009

POLI 340
Developing Areas: Middle East

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Rex Brynen
                 office: LEA 331
                 phone: (514) 398-5075 (office)   email: rex.brynen@mcgill.ca

CLASS HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10h05 – 11h25 (ENGMC 204)

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays 12h00 – 14h00, or by appointment.
                 TA office hours will be posted on WebCT

Course Description

This course will examine the historical, social, and economic context of contemporary Middle East politics; explore political dynamics of selected Middle Eastern regimes; and offer a comparative examination of key political trends and themes. The prerequisite for the course is a previous course in comparative politics, or a previous course on the region.

Please note that Middle East international relations/foreign policy and Israeli politics will not be covered in this course, since they are addressed in POLI 341 and POLI 437 respectively.

This course involves a substantial reading load. Students are urged to keep on top of this, and to read all relevant articles before each lecture for maximum benefit.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change

Text

The texts for this course will be available at the McGill bookstore:

David E. Long, Bernard Reich, and Mark Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa* 5th ed, (Boulder: Westview, 2007).

Jillian Schwedler and Deborah Gerner, *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* 3rd ed. (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2008).

Most readings for the course are drawn from the course texts, or have been placed online via mycourses/WebCT (http: http://www.mcgill.ca/mycourses/). They are also available on reserve in the library. Because of this, there is no coursepack for the course. Additional required readings may be placed on WebCT as the course progresses, so please check it regularly.

In addition, students are strongly urged to follow regional events via the *BBC News* (http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/default.stm) and *al-Jazeera* (http://english.aljazeera.net) websites. Please note that anything we discuss in class is potential material for the final exam, including discussions of recent developments in the region.

Course Requirements and Grading

- research paper proposal (due <u>in class</u> on October 15)   5%
- midterm (October 20)   20%
- research paper (4-5,000 words, due <u>in class</u> on November 24)   35%
- final examination (university-scheduled)   40%

The *midterm* will be in multiple-choice format, and will test all material covered in class up to the day of the exam. The *final exam* will consist of longer essays, and will cover all course material, emphasizing the major themes developed in the course. Further information on the *research paper* will be provided in a special handout in mid-September.

Late papers: Late papers will be accepted <u>in class</u> on December 1 (at a penalty of 2.5 marks out of 35) <u>only</u>. Only documented medical excuses (or equivalent) justify the unpenalized late submission of a paper. Graded papers will be handed back immediately after the final exam.

Plagiarism: If parts of someone else's work are used directly (paraphrased or quoted) without acknowledgement, this constitutes plagiarism. If you are unsure of what plagiarism is or how to identify your sources, ask the course instructor or consult a style manual. Plagiarism is cheating, to the detriment of both the university and fellow students. Cases of minor plagiarism will normally result in a major reduction in the assignment grade. More severe cases will result in a grade of F, and will be reported to the Faculty with a recommendation for the strongest possible disciplinary action.[1]

Supplementals: As outlined in the Faculty of Arts calendar, students receiving a final grade of D or F for the course may write a supplemental exam. If so, they may also submit a supplemental term paper at this time, UNLESS their failing grade was the result of plagiarism.

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

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1 McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

COURSE OUTLINE

September 3
Introduction to POLI 340

September 8
Overview of the Middle East

- Deborah Gerner and Philip Schrodt, "Middle Eastern Politics," in Schwedler and Gerner, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East.*

September 10, 15
Historical Context: Islamic, Ottoman and Colonial Legacies

- Arthur Goldschmidt, "The Historical Context," in Schwedler and Gerner, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East.*

September 17
Economic Context: Statism, Liberalization, and Oil Rents
- Agnieszka Pacynska, "The Economies of the Middle East," in Schwedler and Gerner, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East.*
- Mary Ann Tétrault, "The Political Economy of Middle Eastern Oil," in Schwedler and Gerner, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East.*
- Valentine Moghadam, "Population Growth, Urbanization, and the Challenges on Unemployment," in Schwedler and Gerner, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East.*

September 22, 24
Social Context: Kinship, Religion, Ethnicity, Class, Gender

- Laurie King-Irani, "Kinship, Class, and Ethnicity," in Schwedler and Gerner, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East.*
- Jillian Schwedler, "Religion and Politics in the Middle East," in Schwedler and Gerner, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East.*
- Lisa Taraki, "The Role of Women," in Schwedler and Gerner, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East.*

September 29, October 1
Political Dynamics: Egypt from Nasser to Mubarak

- Marius Deeb, "Arab Republic of Egypt," in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa* .
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

October 6
Political Dynamics: Ba'thist Syria

- David Lesch, "Syrian Arab Republic," in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa* .
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

October 8
Political Dynamics: Hashemite Monarchy of Jordan

- Curtis Ryan, "Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan," in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa* .
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

October 13
Comparative Analysis: Islamist Politics

- Jillian Schwedler, "Religion and Politics in the Middle East," in Schwedler and Gerner, eds. *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* (reread).
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

October 15
Open Topic
- see WebCT for any additional readings
- research paper proposals due

October 20
Midterm Exam
- 1 hours, 40 multiple-choice questions

October 22
Political Dynamics: Occupied Palestinian Territories
- Glenn Robinson, "The Palestinians," in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa* .
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

October 27, 29
Political Dynamics: Lebanon's Confessional System

- William Harris, "Republic of Lebanon," in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa* .
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

November 3, 5
Political Dynamics: Saudi Arabia and the GCC states

- Sebastien Maisel, "Kingdom of Saudi Arabia," in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa* .
- Jill Crystal, "Eastern Arabian States: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates," in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa*.
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

November 10
Political Dynamics: Iraq

- Judith Yaphe, "Iraq,"" in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa*.
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

November 12
Political Dynamics: Iran

- Mark Gasiorowski, "Iran,"" in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa*.
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

November 17, 19
Political Dynamics: The Maghreb

- Gregory White, "Kingdom of Morocco,"" in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa*.
- Azzedine Layachi, "Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria,"" in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa*.
- John Entelis, "Republic of Tunisia,"" in Long, Reich, and Gasiorowski, eds., *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa*.
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

November 24, 26
Comparative Analysis: Authoritarianism and Reform in the Middle East

- "Introduction," in Rex Brynen, Bahgat Korany, and Paul Noble, eds., *Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World Volume (Volume 1): Theoretical Perspectives* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1995). (on reserve)
- Steven Heydeman, *Upgrading Authoritarianism in the Arab World*, Brookings Institution Analysis Paper 13, October 2007. Online at http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/rc/papers/2007/10arabworld/10arabworld.pdf and via WebCT
- see also WebCT for any additional readings

December 1
Conclusion

- see WebCT for any additional readings