IR 363
Fall 2011
The Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa

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Office hours: M and W 10-11:30 and by appointment

Course description:
While the preponderance of political economy interest in the MENA (Middle East North Africa) region has long been oil, the revolutions and revolts currently underway in the region demonstrate that a complex set of economic factors—unemployment, corruption, underinvestment, poor human capital development, among others—has played a key role in setting the stage for the upheavals, and will certainly shape the possibilities for the future as events unfold.
This course offers students a broad introduction to the many elements and policies that have shaped the economic development of this very diverse region. We begin by examining the economies of the region in the 19th and early 20th centuries, as they were increasingly penetrated by European powers and incorporated into the international economy. We then turn to study a diverse set of economic challenges which are faced in different ways and to varying degrees by all the regional states.
Having provided this background, the course moves to several case studies: one of labor migration, one of the impact of economic sanctions, and two regarding business and globalization. We conclude the semester by devoting several weeks to the political economy of the currently unfolding Arab revolutions/revolts.

Course requirements:
This course will involve both lectures as well as significant class discussion time. Students are therefore expected to complete all assigned readings prior to each class in order to be prepared to participate effectively. Questions to help guide students in their readings and to serve as a basis for the discussion will be posted on blackboard prior to each class meeting. Student participation in class discussions will constitute 10% of the final grade. A mid-term examination, to be administered on October 5, will be worth 30% of the final grade. Another 10% will be based on two pop quizzes that will be given during the semester.
The rest of the class grade will be related to the writing and presentation of a 10-15 page paper on some aspect of the political economy of the ongoing revolts/revolutions in the region. Students are free to choose what they want to work on, but must submit to me for approval a one-page proposal with an initial bibliography no later than the course
meeting on October 10. Papers written on topics not approved by me will receive an F. The last four meetings of class will be devoted to student presentations of these papers and discussion of the findings. This presentation will be worth 20% of the final grade, and the final paper itself will be worth 30% of the grade.

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Statement for Students with Disabilities
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Statement on Academic Integrity
USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/; Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/.

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Required Textbooks:
Melanie Cammett, *Globalization and Business Politics in Arab North Africa*
John Chalcraft, *The Invisible Cage: Syrian Migrant Workers in Lebanon*
Yasmin Al-Jawaheri, *Women in Iraq: The Gender Impact of International Sanctions*
Richards and Waterbury, *The Political Economy of the Middle East, 3rd edition*

Class meeting and topic schedule:

August 22: Introduction to class and requirements.

August 24-29: Historical Background
Richards and Waterbury, chapter 2

Surveying the Region and its Challenges

August 31: Economic Growth and Structural Change
Richards and Waterbury, chapter 3
September 7: Demographic Change
   Richards and Waterbury, chapter 4

September 12: Water and Food Security
   Richards and Waterbury, chapter 6

September 14: The Emergence of the Public Sector
   Richards and Waterbury, chapter 7

September 19: Contradictions of State-led Growth
   Richards and Waterbury, chapter 8

September 21: The Washington Consensus
   Richards and Waterbury, chapter 9

September 26: Human Capital
   Richards and Waterbury, chapter 5

September 28: Labor Migration
   Richards and Waterbury, chapter 15

October 3: Review for mid-term examination

**October 5: Mid-term examination**

**Migration case study: Syrian migrants in Lebanon**

October 10: Historical background – **Paper topics are due**
   Chalcraft, introduction and chapter 1

October 12: Transformation and protest
   Chalcraft, chapters 2 and 3

October 17: Pax Syriana
   Chalcraft, chapter 4

October 19: Instability and Exile
   Chalcraft, chapter 5

**Sanctions case study: Iraq**

October 24: Sanctions, Iraqi women and the state
   Al-Jawaheri, chapters 1 and 2

October 26: Employment and Education
   Al-Jawaheri, chapters 3 and 4
October 31: The Family
    Al-Jawaheri, chapters 5, 6 and 7

    Business Politics case study: North Africa

November 2: The Institutional Context
    Cammett, chapters 3 and 4

November 7: Tunisia
    Cammett, chapter 5

November 9: Morocco
    Cammett, chapter 6

    The Political Economy of Arab Revolts and Revolutions

November 14: Regime organization
    Richards and Waterbury, chapter 12

November 16: The Military and the State
    Richards and Waterbury, chapter 13

November 21: Student presentations

November 23: Student presentations

November 28: Student presentations

November 30: Student presentations

Final Papers due: Wednesday, December 7