

Middle East Politics and Government

PSC 24800 • Fall 2019

Tuesdays and Thursdays
11:00 AM-12:15 PM
NAC 4/133

Professor Diana Greenwald
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:30-5:00 PM
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1. Course Description

This course provides an overview of the recent political history of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), then transitions to recent theoretical and empirical social science research on the region. We will examine themes and issues such as: colonialism and decolonization; the rise and fall of Arab nationalism; the role of natural resources, such as oil, in the region's development; the significance of Islam in politics; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and the Arab uprisings and their aftermath, among other topics. At the end of this course, students will be able to engage in informed and civil discussions about regional politics with their peers. Students will also develop a grasp of how qualitative and quantitative research methods are used for inference in the social sciences.

2. Assignments and Deadlines

<i>Item</i>	<i>Due</i>	<i>Percent of grade</i>
Attendance/participation		10%
Map quiz	September 12	5%
Pop quizzes		10%
Discussion posts		15% (+up to 5% EC)
Midterm exam	October 22	20%
Final project		
Topic approval	November 21	5%
Oral presentation	December 3-12	10%
Final paper	December 17	25%
		100% (+up to 5% EC)

3. Class Attendance

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class.
- You are permitted one (1) *unexcused* absence over the course of the semester. Subsequently, all unexcused absences will result in a deduction from your class attendance and participation grade.
- Absences due to illness or emergency will be excused with appropriate documentation (i.e. doctor's note, flight/train/bus ticket, etc). If you are unsure of what constitutes appropriate documentation, please speak with me.
- Absences for professional development or career-related opportunities may also be excused in certain cases and with appropriate documentation.
- If you need to miss class for religious observance that is not during a university holiday or vacation period, please contact me at least two weeks prior to the date so that your absence may be excused.

Class participation is defined broadly, and includes speaking in class, asking questions, actively participating in classroom exercises, and listening attentively and respectfully to your peers. Cell phone use is not permitted in class. Laptops and other devices must be used exclusively for class purposes. If I observe laptop being used excessively for non-class-related purposes, they will be prohibited for the rest of the semester.¹ If you find it hard to ignore internet distractions, I highly recommend downloading an app such as [Freedom](#) that will temporarily block or limit your access to certain websites (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc).

4. Readings

Please consult the schedule below for the assigned readings. I do not require you to purchase any books. All assigned readings will be available either via Blackboard or for free online via the CCNY/CUNY libraries. Please bookmark CUNY OneSearch (onesearch.cuny.edu) so that you can access it easily throughout the semester.

You are unlikely to pass the course if you attend class but do not do the readings. Similarly, you are unlikely to pass the course if you do the readings but do not attend class. Additionally, it is important that you bring an electronic or paper copy of your readings to class on the day they are assigned.

5. Map Quiz

There will be a map quiz in which you need to label 22 countries in the Middle East and North Africa. The quiz will comprise 5% of your grade and will take place **September 12** at the beginning of class.

6. Pop Quizzes

There will be three (3) pop quizzes over the course of the semester. Each quiz will count for 5% of your grade, but your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. The quiz will be distributed at the beginning of class and will cover the readings assigned for that day only. The quiz will take 10 minutes, and no notes or books will be permitted. If you do not attend class or if you arrive late on the day of a pop quiz, you will receive a zero grade on that quiz. (The only exception is for excused absences. In these cases, and only in these cases, you will have an opportunity to make up the quiz.)

7. Discussion Posts

You are required to submit three (3) discussion posts on Blackboard over the course of the semester, each of which will comprise 5% of your final grade. You may submit up to one (1) additional post for extra credit. There are three types of discussion posts, described in more detail below. Discussion posts should be 250-300 words in length. Please proofread your post before submitting it.

- 1) **A reading response:** This is a post in response to one of the assigned readings. Discussion posts must be submitted on Blackboard by 9:00 PM the day before the assigned reading is due. Reading responses posted after this time will not receive credit.
- 2) **A news analysis post:** This is a post in response to a recent news item or piece of analysis pertaining to MENA politics. Each post should contain a link to the original item. Following the link, include your own response. This is not a venue to share your personal opinions, rather, the goal is to provide your own analysis. Even better if you can link your post to a concept, theme, or historical development that we have covered in

¹ The only exceptions will be those students whose laptop usage is approved by the AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services.

class! As a CUNY student, you can take advantage of free access to the *New York Times* [here](#) and the *Wall Street Journal* [here](#). Other sources of news and analysis include: [The Washington Post](#), [Los Angeles Times](#) and [The Guardian](#); MENA-specific English-language sources include: [Al-Monitor](#), [Al Jazeera English](#), Atlantic Council's [MENASource](#), Carnegie's [Diwan](#) blog.

- 3) **A peer response:** Instead of starting your own “thread”, you might choose to respond to something one of your peers has posted. If you choose this option, you should engage with what your peer has posted and you should link your response to a concept, theme, or development that we have covered in class.

All discussion posts will be graded on a 5-point scale. Posts that follow the instructions above and that demonstrate a high level of originality and thoughtfulness will receive full credit.

8. Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will take place on **October 22** during class time. You will have the full class period (75 minutes) to complete the exam. Please arrive on time with pencils/pens. You do not need blue books. The exam is closed-book: no notes or books are permitted. More details on the format of the exam will be provided in advance.

9. Final Project

The largest assignment of the course is your own research project. In the final research project, you will apply concepts and methods from the course to a particular event, conflict, political regime, institution, popular movement, feature of the economy, or another “case” of your choosing from the broad field of MENA politics. More detailed instructions will be provided over the course of the semester. In summary, the assignment has three (3) components:

- 1) You must send me a one-paragraph summary of the topic for approval by **November 21**.
- 2) You will provide an 6-minute presentation of your topic in front of the class **between December 3 and December 12**. I will provide more details about expectations for the presentation.
- 3) Your final paper should be 8-10 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1” margins). Specific instructions for the paper will be provided in advance. **Papers must be submitted on Blackboard by December 17**. Because of end-of-semester grading deadlines, late papers will not be accepted. If you encounter a last-minute technical difficulty with Blackboard, please send your paper to me via email.

10. Office Hours and E-Mail

I encourage you to come to office hours early in the semester and as frequently as you'd like. If you cannot attend my regular office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please reach out so that we may schedule an alternative time to meet. I will make every effort to respond to e-mail within 24 hours (or, if over the weekend, the next business day). There are two exceptions:

- 1) Emails sent less than 48 hours prior to the midterm or final paper due date are not guaranteed a response.
- 2) Questions whose answer is clearly stated on this syllabus are not guaranteed a response.

11. Grade Grievances

If you believe a grade you have received is unfair or in error, you will need to:

- 1) Wait 24 hours after receiving the grade before approaching me.

- 2) Within one week (7 days) of receiving the grade, provide an explanation in writing for why you believe the grade you received was unfair or in error and submit it with the original assignment. The entire assignment will be re-graded, and note that this may raise or lower your grade.

For more information on appealing grades, please visit the Office of Academic Standards' website [here](#).

12. Academic Integrity

Plagiarism means presenting someone else's words or ideas as your own. It is one of the most frustrating and depressing things to discover as a professor. Cheating, including plagiarism, will not be tolerated in this class. Plagiarism is very easy to avoid by giving recognition to the original author or website from which the material came. In this class, we will review proper citation methods for your final paper. Academic misconduct such as cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero grade and possibly trigger disciplinary action. The CUNY Academic Integrity Policy is available [here](#). If you have made it this far through the syllabus, please [email](#) me a picture of a cute animal.

13. Disability Accommodations

The AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services (AAC/SDS) ensures equal access and full participation to all of City College's programs, services, and activities by coordinating and implementing appropriate accommodations. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations and services, please visit the office in NAC 1/218, or contact AAC/SDS via email (disabilityservices@ccny.cuny.edu), or phone (212-650-5913 or TTY/TTD 212-650-8441).

14. Student Mental Health and Well-Being

Your health and well-being is important to me, your other professors, your colleagues and friends, and the City College community. Please do not hesitate to visit [Health and Wellness Services](#), where you can be linked to relevant services on campus, including the Counseling Center, Gender Resources, and other services. Note that both the Counseling Center and Gender Resources are temporarily located in NAC 8/213. Student Health Services is temporarily located in Marshak 418S. Sometime during the fall semester, all services are expected to return to Marshak J-15 after renovations are complete. Please also consult [this link](#) for mental health resources in the community.

15. Reading and Assignment Schedule

August 27: Introductions
August 29: Early Islam and Islamic States <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Albert Hourani. 1991. <i>A History of the Arab Peoples</i>. “Prologue” and “The Making of an Empire.” (pp. 1-4, 22-37)• Michael Gasper. 2017. Excerpt from “The Making of the Modern Middle East”. In Ellen Lust (Ed.). <i>The Middle East</i>. (pp. 1-5)
September 3: The Ottoman Empire and the Entry of Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Gasper. 2017. Excerpt from “The Making of the Modern Middle East”. In Ellen Lust (Ed.). <i>The Middle East</i>. (pp. 5-25)• Albert Hourani. 1991. Excerpts from “Part IV: The Age of European Empires” and “European Power and Reforming Governments,” (pp. 263-278)
September 5: NO CLASS
September 10: European Colonialism (I) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laila Parsons. 2017. Excerpt from “Ottoman Officer”. (pp. 20-37)• Albert Hourani. 1991. “The Climax of European Power (1914-1939)”. (pp. 315-332)
September 12: <u>MAP QUIZ</u> European Colonialism (II) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daniel Neep. 2012. <i>Occupying Syria under the French Mandate: Insurgency, Space and State Formation</i>. “The Architecture of the Colonial State”. (pp. 20-38)• Roger Owen. 2004. <i>State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East</i>. “The End of Empires: The Emergence of the Modern Middle Eastern States”. (pp. 5-22)
September 17: Nation-States and Arab Nationalism <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adeed Dawisha. 2003. <i>Arab Nationalism in the Twentieth Century: From Triumph to Despair</i>. “Defining Arab Nationalism”. (pp. 1-13)• Adeed Dawisha. 2003. “The Path to Nationalist Ascent: From the Palestinian Revolt to the Egyptian Revolution” and “Consolidating Arab Nationalism: The Emergence of ‘Arab’ Egypt”. (pp. 107-159)
September 19: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (I) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Tessler. Excerpt from “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict”. In Ellen Lust (Ed.). <i>The Middle East</i>. (pp. 288-305) <p><i>Recommended:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rashid Khalidi. 2010 (1st edition 1997). <i>Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness</i>. “Contrasting Narratives of Palestinian Identity.” (pp. 9-34).• Benny Morris. 2008. 1948. “Some Conclusions.” (pp. 392-420)• Lila Abu-Lughod. 2007. “Return to Half-Ruins: Memory, Postmemory, and Living History in Palestine.” In Ahmad H. Sa’di and Lila Abu-Lughod, eds. <i>Nakba</i>. (pp. 77-104)
September 24: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (II) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mark Tessler. Excerpt from “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict”. In Ellen Lust (Ed.). <i>The Middle East</i>. (pp. 305-335)

<p>September 26: Varieties of Authoritarianism (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Owen. 2004. "The Growth of State Power in the Arab World: The Single-Party Regimes." (pp. 23-38)
<p>October 1: NO CLASS</p>
<p>October 3: Varieties of Authoritarianism (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Owen. 2004. "The Growth of State Power in the Arab World under Family Rule, and the Libyan Alternative." (pp. 39-55) • Lisa Anderson. 1991. "Absolutism and the Resilience of Monarchy in the Middle East." <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> 106 (1): 1-15.
<p>October 8: NO CLASS</p>
<p>October 10: The Politics of Oil (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Ross. 2012. <i>The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations</i>. "The Trouble with Oil Revenues". (pp. 27-62)
<p>October 15: The Politics of Oil (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Ross. 2012. <i>The Oil Curse: How Petroleum Wealth Shapes the Development of Nations</i>. "Petroleum Perpetuates Patriarchy." (pp. 111-132)
<p>October 17: Islamist Politics (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mehrzad Boroujerdi. "Iran" In Ellen Lust, ed. <i>The Middle East</i>. (pp. 455-475)
<p>October 22: <u>MIDTERM</u></p>
<p>October 24: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (III)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Tessler. Excerpt from "The Israeli Palestinian Conflict". In Ellen Lust. (Ed.). <i>The Middle East</i>. pp. 335-367
<p>October 29: Islamist Politics (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrie Rosefsky Wickham. 2013. <i>The Muslim Brotherhood: Evolution of an Islamist Movement</i>. "The Brotherhood's Early Years" and "The Brotherhood's Foray into Electoral Politics". (pp 20-75)
<p>October 31: Islamist Politics (III)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Roy. 2011. <i>Hamas and Civil Society in Gaza: Engaging the Islamist Social Sector</i>. "The Evolution of Islamist Social Institutions in the Gaza Strip: Before and During Oslo (A Sociopolitical History)". (pp. 70-96) • Sharan Grewal, Amaney A. Jamal, Tarek Masoud and Elizabeth R. Nugent. 2019. "Poverty and Divine Rewards: The Electoral Advantage of Islamist Political Parties." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i>. (pp. 1-16)
<p>November 5: Gender, Religion and Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saba Mahmoud. <i>Politics of Piety</i>. Excerpts (pp. 1-5, and pp. 40-78).

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lihi Ben Shitrit. 2013. "Women, Freedom, and Agency in Religious Political Movements: Reflections From Women Activists in Shas and the Islamic Movement in Israel." <i>Journal of Middle East Women's Studies</i> 9(3): 81-107.
<p>November 7: Civil War: Lebanon (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Salem. 2017. "Lebanon". In Ellen Lust. (Ed.). <i>The Middle East</i>. (pp. 590-601) • Samir Khalaf. <i>Civil and Uncivil Violence in Lebanon: A History of the Internationalization of Communal Conflict</i>. "On Proxy Wars and Surrogate Victims". (pp. 1-22)
<p>November 12: Authoritarian Persistence (I)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jason Brownlee. 2012. <i>Democracy Prevention: The Politics of the U.S.-Egyptian Alliance</i>. "Introduction" and "Peace before Freedom". (pp. 1-42) • Tarek Masoud. 2017. "Egypt." In Ellen Lust. (Ed.). <i>The Middle East</i>. (pp. 430-438)
<p>November 14: Authoritarian Persistence (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva Bellin. 2004. "The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Exceptionalism in Comparative Perspective." <i>Comparative Politics</i> 36(2): 139-157.
<p>November 19: Civil War: Syria (II)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wendy Pearlman. 2016. "Narratives of Fear in Syria." <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 14(1): 21-37. • Steven Heydemann. 2013. "Syria and the Future of Authoritarianism." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 24(4): 59-73.
<p>November 21: <u>FINAL PROJECT TOPIC SUBMISSION</u></p> <p>Tunisia's Transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfred Stepan. 2012. "Tunisia's Transition and the Twin Tolerations." <i>Journal of Democracy</i> 23(2): 89-103. • Amel Boubekeur. 2015. "Islamists, secularists, and old regime elites in Tunisia: bargained competition." <i>Mediterranean Politics</i> 21(1): 107-127.
<p>November 26: TBD (Current events in Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, and/or Yemen)</p>
<p>November 28: NO CLASS</p>
<p>December 3, 5, 10, 12: <u>ORAL PRESENTATIONS</u></p>
<p>December 17: <u>FINAL PAPER DUE</u></p>