

# Modern Middle East Politics

Instructor: Patricia Sohn

Class Arrangement: F

International Summer Session 2020

## Course Description

The course addresses Modern Middle Eastern politics from a combination of historical-institutional and political-sociological approaches. It begins with the Ottoman Empire and its institutional arrangements with a wide range of communities and community types. It moves from there to 19<sup>th</sup> century developments in nation- and identity-formation. It addresses state- and nation-building in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and then continues to several thematic issues of concern in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century Middle East politics. These themes include gender politics; religion and politics; urban culture; informal social networks; and social movements, including the Arab Spring.

## Course Objectives

*Identify* major processes relating to:

1. Nation- and identity-formation in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Middle East.
2. Nation-building and state-building processes relating to power, state-society relations, gender, nomadic settlement, bureaucratic infrastructure, religion, and individual autonomy.
3. Gender politics, particularly relating to questions of discipline and autonomy.
4. Religion and politics, particularly relating to religious resurgence; religious participation in state institutions; and women's religious fellowship movements, including veiling movements.
5. Urban culture relating especially to the use of space, e.g., gated communities, mall and café cultures, public spaces, and tensions between traditional and modernist cultures in those spaces (including signs of social status or markers through cultural "uniforms" in clothing).
6. One or two major forms of informal social networks that matter in the Modern Middle East.
7. Social movements in the Modern Middle East, including the Arab Spring.

And,

8. Provide a directed *analysis* through a written essay, as well as through brief classroom discussions.
9. *Apply* a major theory from the class readings to a country case or event in a 500-word abstract.
10. *Create a synthesis* in a 500-word policy brief.

## Topics

- Ottoman Empire, Institutions, and Communities
- Nation- and Identity-Formation
- Nation- and State-Building
- Gender Politics
- Religion and Politics
- Urban Culture
- Informal Social Networks
- Social Movements, including the Arab Spring

## Teaching Methods

The course is primarily a lecture course. Lectures include lecture slides; images; and a few video selections. Lecture is organized around author arguments as well as historical movements, events, or personages discussed in the course readings. Class includes three or more hours of lecture per day, and some limited time each day for an organized classroom discussion. The instructor provides a few questions from lectures and readings at the beginning of each day and asks students to offer answers at the end of the day.

## Assessments

6-page (1500 words) Final Essay	40%	500-word Abstract	25%
500-word Policy Brief	25%	Discussion Participation	10%
			100%

## Required Readings – One Chapter Each From:

1. Baruch Kimmerling and Joel S. Migdal, *Palestinians: The Making of a People*. Harvard University Press, 1998.
2. Leila Abu-Lughod, *Remaking Women: Feminism and Modernity in the Middle East*. Princeton Univ. Press, 1998.
3. Diane Singerman and Paul Amar, *Cairo Cosmopolitan*. American University in Cairo Press, 2006.
4. Jenny White, *Money Makes Us Relatives: Women's Labor in Urban Turkey*. Second Edition. Routledge, 2004.
5. Shala Haeri, *No Shame for the Sun: Lives of Professional Pakistani Women*. Syracuse University Press, 2002.
6. Diane Singerman, *Avenues of Participation: Family, Politics, and Networks in Urban Quarters of Cairo*. Princeton University Press, 1995.
7. Reşat Kasaba, *A Moveable Empire*. University of Washington Press, 2009.
8. Saba Mahmood, *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. Second Edition. Princeton University Press, 2011.
9. Fazlur Rahman, *Islam and Modernity*. University of Chicago Press, 1984.
10. Karen Barkey, *Empire of Difference*. Cambridge University Press, 2008.
11. Khalidi, et Al., eds. *The Origins of Arab Nationalism*. Columbia University Press, 1993.
12. Feroz Ahmad, *The Making of Modern Turkey*. Routledge, 1993.
13. Jill Schwedler, *Faith in Moderation: Islamist Parties in Jordan and Yemen*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
14. Emilio Spadola, *The Calls of Islam: Sufis, Islamists, and Mass Mediation in Urban Morocco*. Indiana University Press, 2013.
15. Manuel Castells, *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age*. Polity Press, 2015.
16. Edward Sayre and Tarik Yousef, *Young Generation Awakening: Economics, Society, and Policy on the Eve of the Arab Spring*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

## Assessments – Detail

### 6-page (1500 word) Final Paper

Double-spaced, 6-pages (1500 words, not including footnotes and references). The student can choose between responding to an essay topic that will be provided or choosing a research question with instructor approval. For papers based on a research question, the topic must be approved before the end of the day Thursday of Week I. Use Chicago Manual of Style for citations and full reference page. The style guide will be provided on the first day of class. Footnotes are preferred. Each paragraph within the final paper must be limited to 5 – 7 sentences (no fewer than 5 sentences, no more than 7 sentences per paragraph). Please limit your citations to the books for this class. Students may use some of their writing from their abstract and policy briefs in their final paper.

In most ideal form, the Final Paper should be formulated based upon a “paradox” – preferably a “why” question – where the first paragraph begins with a statement of (a) some dramatic thing/event/issue *y*. It then (b) asks why thing *y* happened. The first paragraph then (c) offers a schematic answer in a few parts (usually 3 or 4 factors/variables/events/phenomena) using keywords or key phrases for each. The remainder of the essay should be organized around an expanded analysis by each keyword/key phrase. Using a sub-heading for each keyword/key phrase throughout the essay is often useful. The essay should offer an analytical response/answer to the why question. This formula is not the only way to write. It is, however, an effective writing method in the social sciences. It is assigned for this course as a learning tool.

### 500-word Abstract

Can be single-spaced or double-spaced. 500-words, not including footnotes and references. In paragraphs formed of 5 – 7 sentences each, please provide an analytical response to the question prompt provided to the class. The question will ask the student to apply a theory from the course readings to a country case or event. Please use footnotes, include a full reference page, and format following the Chicago Manual of Style. Please limit your citations to the books for this class.

### 500-word Policy Brief

Can be single-spaced or double-spaced. 500-words, not including footnotes and references. In 5 – 7 sentences paragraphs, please provide a succinct statement and analysis of a policy question/problem in the Middle East and suggest a practical solution. Please use footnotes and include a full reference page, using Chicago Manual of Style formatting. Please limit your citations to the books for this class.

### Participation

Active and appropriate participation in responding to daily questions for the classroom. Tardiness on more than three occasions will impact your participation grade negatively. More than one absence will impact your participation grade negatively.

## READING SCHEDULE

### WEEK ONE

Tuesday, Week I: Ottoman Empire, Institutions, and Communities

Chapter 2 “A Moveable Empire” in Reşat Kasaba, *A Moveable Empire*

Chapter 2 “Emergence: Brokerage Across Networks” in Karen Barkey, *Empire of Difference*

Wednesday, Week I: Nation- and Identity-Formation

Chapter, “1834,” Kimmerling and Migdal, *Palestinians*

Chapter 12, Jankowski, “Egypt and Early Arab Nationalism, 1908-1922” in Rashid Khalidi, *The Origins of Arab Nationalism*

Thursday, Week I: State Formation

Chapter 1, Khaled Fahmy, “Women, Medicine, and Power in Nineteenth-Century Egypt” in Leila Abu-Lughod, *Remaking Women*

Chapter 2, “The Ottoman Legacy” in Feroz Ahmad, *The Making of Modern Turkey*

Friday, Week I: Gender Politics

Chapter 4, “Positive Ethics and Ritual Conventions” in Saba Mahmood, *Politics of Piety*

Chapter, “Identity: Contested Visions of Womanhood and Society” in Shahla Haeri, *No Shame For The Sun*

*500-word Abstract due*

WEEK TWO

Tuesday, Week II: Religion and Politics

Chapter 3, “Contemporary Modernism” in Fazlur Rahman, *Islam and Modernity*.

Chapter 4, “Cultural Dimensions of Political Contestation” in Jill Schwedler, *Faith in Moderation: Islamist Parties in Jordan and Yemen*.

Wednesday, Week II: Urban Culture

Chapter 1, Eric Denis, “From Dubai to Cairo: Competing Global Cities, Models, and Shifting Centers of Influence?” in Diane Singerman and Paul Amar, *Cairo Cosmopolitan*.

Chapter 2, “Nationalizing the Call” in *The Calls of Islam*.

*500-word Policy Brief due*

Thursday, Week II: Informal Social Networks

Chapter 4, “Informality: Politics and Economics in Tandem” in Diane Singerman, *Avenues of Participation*.

Chapter 9, “Money Makes Us Relatives” in Jenny White, *Money Makes Us Relatives*

Friday, Week II: Social Movements: The Arab Spring

Chapter 7, Ghada Barsoum, “A Generation Without Work Contracts: Youth in the Informal Economy in Egypt” in Sayre and Yousef, *Young Generation Awakening*

Chapter, “The Egyptian Revolution” in Manuel Castells, *Networks of Outrage and Hope*

*6-page Final Paper due*