

Middle East Technical University
Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences
Department of Economics
Econ496/The Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa

Instructor: Onur Yıldırım

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Time and Place: Tuesday 13:40-16:30 (FZ15)

This class is intended to introduce economics students to the historical background of and the current pressing issues in the domestic and foreign economic relations of people and states in the larger region of the Middle East (the Mashriq) and North Africa (the Maghrib) (MENA). We begin with a brief introduction to the economic history of the region with an emphasis on its integration into the global economy. We then consider a series of developing country political economy concerns such as population growth, oil, debt, and the like, all within the regional context. In pursuit of this goal, we will depend on the essays compiled by J. Beinin, B. Haddad and S. Seikaly in a recently published volume entitled “A Critical Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa”. As we discuss those essays, we will also pay attention to the most recent political and economic developments in the region. The Israeli invasion of the Gaza Strip and Southern Lebanon, the complete fragmentation of Iraq and Syria, the failure of the state in Libya and Lebanon, the reconstitution of authoritarian regimes across the whole area with their broader economic implications, and the refugee flows are also addressed in the course.

Course Requirements:

There will be 5 reflection papers and a final exam. A *book report of a minimum 5 pages* is due at the final meeting of the class. There will be occasional quizzes and presentations in the class throughout the semester; each student will also present their book report to the class at the end of the term. Students are urged to attend the classes and participate in discussions.

Reflections: 20%

Final Exam: 40%

Book Report: 10%

Presentations: 10%

Attendance and Quizzes: 20%

Required Texts:

Roger Owen, *The Middle East in the World Economy*; Joel Beinin, Bassam Haddad and Sherene Seikaly, *A Critical Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa*.

February 17: Introduction

February 24: Beinin, “Introduction”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, “Introduction”

Historical Background

March 3: Owen, chs: Introduction-6

March 10: Owen, chs: 6-12

Contemporary Political Economy

March 17: Alff, “Landed Property, Capital Accumulation, and Polymorphous Capitalism...”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, ch. 1

March 24: Ajl, Haddad and Abul-Magd, “State, Market, and Class...”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, ch. 2

March 31: Mitchell, “Ten Propositions on Oil”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, ch. 3

April 7: Marshall, “Regional Militaries and the Global Military-Industrial Complex”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, ch. 4

April 14: Hanieh, “Rethinking Class and State...”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, ch. 5

April 21: Jakes and Shokr, “Capitalism in Egypt...”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, ch. 6

April 28: Alahmad, “State, Oil, and War...”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, ch. 7.

May 5: Davis, “Colonial Capitalism and Imperial Myth...” and Al-Botmeh, “Repercussions of Colonialism...”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, ch. 8 and ch. 11

May 12: Abu-Rish, “Lebanon beyond Exceptionalism”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, ch. 9

May 19: Beinin, “The US-Israeli Alliance”

Beinin, Haddad and Seikaly, ch. 10

May 26: Book Presentations

June 2: Book Presentations