

Seminar on Middle East Politics

Dr. Russell E. Lucas

Office: DM 482-B

305-348-3295

lucasr@fiu.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 12:30 – 1:30 and by appointment

CPO 6407

Spring 2008

Monday 5:00 – 7:40 pm

PC 419

This course will survey the political structures of Middle Eastern states and societies. It will highlight: the processes of state and nation building, regime stability and change, the growth of political ideologies, and economic changes in the region. A number of theoretical perspectives will be used to compare Middle Eastern cases with each other and with cases from other regions as well.

Readings

Students should buy the following texts for the course from one of the usual suspects:

Karen Armstrong, *Islam: A Short History*. New York: The Modern Library, 2002.
ISBN: 081296618X.

Zachary Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism*. Cambridge, 2004. ISBN: 0521629373.

Roger Owen, *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East* 3rd Edition.
Routledge, 2004. ISBN: 0415297141.

Alan Richards and John Waterbury, *A Political Economy of the Middle East* 3rd Edition.
Perseus Publishing, 2007. ISBN: 9780813343488.

Quintan Wiktorowicz, ed., *Islamic Activism: A Social Movement Theory Approach*.
Indiana, 2004. ISBN: 0253216214.

Chapter and article length readings will be loaded into WebCT.

Policies

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

Academic honesty is presumed and required on the part of all students in the course. Use of the work of others is positively encouraged and is central to scholarship, but it must always be properly credited. When it is not credited, and when the thoughts/words/ideas of others are passed off as your own, then that is PLAGIARISM. Plagiarism is serious academic misconduct and will be reported to the appropriate university office; penalties are severe. If you are in doubt about how to handle quotations or citations, please consult the instructor. Please consult <http://academic.fiu.edu/docs/misconduct.htm> for further information.

Electronic devices are to be turned off and stowed for the duration of the class. Any failure to do so may result in the confiscation of the device for the duration of the class and a penalty counted towards class participation.

Requirements

Students will be evaluated based on class discussions and presentations of the readings and written papers.

Class attendance is required for all students. Readings should be done before the class for which they are assigned. The quality of class participation is valued more than quantity. *Class attendance and participation will be worth 10% of the final grade.*

Students are required to make a formal presentation of the readings for at least one topic during the course. The student will be responsible individually, or as part of a team, for leading discussion on that week's readings. In their presentations students should highlight the main arguments of the readings, discuss their assumptions and methodologies, and critique the authors' arguments. *The presentation of a topic will be worth 10% of the final grade.*

Students are required to write four literature review papers during the course. Each paper should be about 7 pages in length (double spaced, 1 inch margins, 12 point Times font). In each paper, students should: 1) locate an academic journal article related to the week's topic from relevant academic sources (see below) and summarize the article's argument; and 2) relate that article's argument to the various class readings for that week. Each paper is due the week following the covering of the topic in class. *Each literature review paper is worth 20% of the final grade.*

Students should locate articles from academic source databases such as Index Islamicus, PAIS International, or the Social Science Index. Important academic journals that deal with the Middle East include: *International Journal of Middle East Studies (IJMES)*, *The Middle East Journal*, *Middle East Report*, *Middle East Studies*, *The Journal of Democracy*, *Comparative Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*, and *Middle East Review of International Affairs*. This list is suggestive, not exhaustive. When in doubt, please consult the instructor.

Please note dates and readings may be subject to change. Appropriate notice will be given of any changes in class.

Overview of Islam and Middle Eastern History (1/7)

Armstrong, begin book.

Introduction: Themes, Terms, and Definitions (1/14) [1/21 MLK Day]

Armstrong, finish book.

Daniel Lerner, *The Passing of Traditional Society: Modernizing the Middle East*. Glencoe, Ill.: The Free Press, 1958, 19-42.

Lewis, "What Went Wrong?" *Atlantic Monthly* 289 (January 2002), 43-47.

Social Science and Orientalism (1/28)

Lockman, all.

Colonialism and State Building (2/18) [2/4 & 2/11 No class]

Owen, 1-38.

Hanna Batatu, "Of the Diversity of Iraqis, the Incohesiveness of their Society, and their Progress in the Monarchic Period toward a Consolidated Political Structure," in Albert Hourani et al eds., *The Modern Middle East: A Reader* (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1993), 503-525.

Ted Swedenburg, "The Role of the Palestinian Peasantry in the Great Revolt (1936-1939)," in Albert Hourani et al eds., *The Modern Middle East: A Reader* (Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1993), 468-502.

Nazih N. Ayubi, "Chapter 3: State Formation in the Modern Era: The Colonial/Indigenous Mix," in *Over-stating the Arab State* (New York: IB Tauris, 1995), 86-134.

Regimes and States, Taxonomies and Social Origins (2/25)

Owen, 39-110.

Richards and Waterbury, Chapters 11, 12, & 13, 289-361

Nazih N. Ayubi, "Chapter 12: Conclusion: the 'Strong', the Hard', and the 'Fierce,'" in *Over-stating the Arab State* (New York: IB Tauris, 1995), 447-459.

Russell E. Lucas, "Monarchical Authoritarianism: Survival and Political Liberalization in a Middle Eastern Regime Type," *IJMES* 36:1 (February 2004): 103-119.

Political Economy in the Middle East: Overview of States and Economies (3/3)

Alan Richards and John Waterbury, finish book

Political Economy in the Middle East: The Rentier State Debate (3/10)

[3/17 Break]

Owen, 111-130.

Hazem Beblawi, "The Rentier State in the Arab World," in in Giacomo Luciani, ed., *The Arab State* (Los Angeles: The University of California Press, 1990), 85-98.

Michael L. Ross, "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* 53 (April 2001), 325-361.

Michael Herb, "No Representation Without Taxation?: Rents, Development, and Democracy," *Comparative Politics* 37:3 (April 2005), 297-316.

Political Culture in the Middle East: A Debate & Approaches (3/24)

Michael C. Hudson, "The Political Culture Approach to Arab Democratization: The Case for Bringing It Back In, Carefully," in Rex Brynen et al eds., 61-76.

Lisa Anderson, "Democracy in the Arab World: A Critique of the Political Culture Approach," in Rex Brynen et al eds., 77-92.

Mansoor Moaddel, "The Saudi Public Speaks: Religion, Gender, and Politics," *IJMES* 38:1 (2006), 79-108.

Marc Lynch, "Beyond the Arab Street: Iraq and the Arab Public Sphere," *Politics & Society* 31:1 (March 2003), 55-91.

Joseph Massad, "Palestinians and the Limits of Racialized Discourse," *Social Text* 34 (1993), 94-114.

Political Islam (3/31)

Owen, 154-177.

Wiktorowicz, all.

Sub-State Actors, Non-State Actors, and the State

(4/7)

Owen, 200-216.

Mary Ann Tetreault, "A State of Two Minds: State Cultures, Women, and Politics in Kuwait," *IJMES* 33:2 (May 2001), 203-220.

Amatzia Baram, "Neo-Tribalism in Iraq: Saddam Hussein's Tribal Policies 1991-96," *IJMES* 29:1 (February 1997), 1-31.

Richard T. Antoun, "Civil Society, Tribal Process, and Change in Jordan: An Anthropological View," *IJMES* 32:4 (November 2000), 441-463.

Mark LeVine, "Chaos, Globalization, and the Public Sphere: Political Struggle in Iraq and Palestine," *Middle East Journal* 60:3 (Summer 2006), 467-492.

Democratization and Regime Change

(4/14)

Owen, 131-153.

Rex Brynen et al, "Introduction: Theoretical Perspectives on Arab Liberalization and Democratization," in Rex Brynen et al eds., 3-28.

Daniel Brumberg, "The Trap of Liberalized Autocracy," *Journal of Democracy* 13:4 (October 2002), 56-68.

Marsha Pripstein Posusney, "The Middle East's Democracy Deficit in Comparative Perspective" in Marsha Pripstein Posusney and Michele Penner Angrist eds. *Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Regimes and Resistance*. Lynne Rienner, 2005, 1-18.

Wrap-up

(4/19)

Owen, 230-240.