



Boston University Study Abroad
London

Boston University British Programmes
Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa
CAS EC 322
Elective A

Instructor Information

A. Name	Parvin Alizadeh
B. Day and Time	TBA
C. Location	Room TBA, 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU
D. BU Telephone	020 7244 6255
E. Email	
F. Webpage	http://www.bu.edu/london/virtual-library/[insert course number]
G. Office hours	By appointment

Course Objectives

- Conceptualize the importance of initial conditions and historical development in shaping the present structure of the countries in the MENA regions.
- Have a conceptual framework for understanding the economic challenges and the role of policy in countries with different human and natural resource availabilities.
- Classify countries in the region according to their structural characteristics (oil-based and non-oil –based economies, labour surplus and labour deficit countries, etc)
- Understand the connection and interdependence among MENA countries through labour, capital flows and trade.
- Have a conceptual framework for analyzing the problems of industrialization and corruption in a resource based economy.

Course Overview

The focal point of this course is on the economic structure, institutional evolution and political configuration in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). MENA includes the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey. The course provides an analytical framework for understanding the structural characteristics of MENA region in the context of its human and natural resource availability and historical development. The course address selected issues including; legacies of the colonial era, the impact of oil income, demographic transition, dilemma of industrialization and economic growth in resources based economies, and labour migration and capital flows.

Methodology

The course will be taught over nine 4-hour sessions by the selective use of lectures and seminars. Lectures will identify the main points of each topic and provide an explanation of, and comment

on the relevant analytical material. Seminars require you to have read the recommended material, enabling you to participate fully in class discussion.

Assessment

1. 1500 word paper (35% of the total marks)
2. Group presentation (10% of the total mark).
3. Mid-term test (20% of the total marks) in Week 3 during Lecture 6
4. Essay-based, three-question examination (35% of the total marks)

For the essay you will be offered a choice of questions, with associated reading. The paper must be submitted by week 4 in lecture 8.

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria, attendance requirements and policies on plagiarism:

[http://www.bu.edu/london/files/2010/09/ACADEMICHANDBOOK\[SEMYEAR\].pdf](http://www.bu.edu/london/files/2010/09/ACADEMICHANDBOOK[SEMYEAR].pdf)

Required Reading

The required reading for each class session is indicated in the Course Chronology from the following texts. All readings are available through the BU London library.

Richards, A. and J. Waterbury (2007), *A Political Economy of the Middle East*, 3rd edition, Boulder Colorado: Westview

Plus the following articles/chapters which will be available the course webpage:

Owen, Roger and Sevket Pamuk (1998) *A History of the Middle East Economies in the Twentieth Century*, London: I. B. Tauris. Chapters 1-4

Karshenas, Massoud (1990), *Oil, State and Industrialization in Iran*, Cambridge: CUP, Ch 2, pp 30-63.

Sachs, J.D. (2007), 'How to Handle the Macroeconomics of Oil Wealth', in M. Humphreys, J.D. Sachs & J. E. Stiglitz (eds.), *Escaping The Resource Curse*, Ch.7 pp.173-93, Columbia University Press: New York.

Or

Sachs, J.D. and M. Warner (2001), 'Natural Resources and Economic Development: The Curse of Natural Resources', *European Economic Review* 45, pp.827-38.

Course Chronology

Session 1: Historical development and the initial conditions: 1918-1945, Turkey, Egypt, and Iran

Reading: Roger Owen & Sevket Pamuk, Chs.,1 & 2, Karshenas, pp33-63

Session 2: Historical development and the initial conditions: 1918-1945, Economies of the British and French mandates, the Arabian Peninsula.

Reading: Roger Owen & Sevket Pamuk, Chs., 3&4

Session 3: Growth & structural change in the MENA countries

Reading: Richards A. and J. Waterbury, Chs., 2 & 3

Group 1 presentation

Session 4: Natural resources and diversification dilemma, the curse or the blessing of natural resources, Dutch disease and exchange rate appreciation, natural resources and corruption.

Reading: Sachs, J.D. and M. Warner (2001) Richards A. and J. Waterbury, Ch., 3

Group 2 presentation

Session 5: Demographic transition, Education, health and labour markets

Reading: Richards A. and J. Waterbury, Ch., 4&5

Group 3 presentation

Session 6: State and development

Reading: Richards A. and J. Waterbury Chs., 7, 8 & 11

Group 4 presentation

MIDTERM TEST

Session 7: State and market

Reading: Richards A. and J. Waterbury Chs., 9

Group 5 presentation

Session 8: Migration and regional integration

Reading: Richards A. and J. Waterbury Ch., 15

Group 6 presentation

ESSAY DUE

Session 9: Revision

Reading:

FINAL EXAM Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the Student Newsletter two weeks before exam dates.

On all syllabi:

**** Contingency Class Date: TBC.** Should any class dates need to be rescheduled; students are obligated to keep this date free to attend classes.

Students must check their email and the weekly Student Newsletter for field trip updates and reminders, if any are to be included.

Supplementary and Secondary Readings

The following texts are useful for expanding upon the required reading, for researching seminar papers and for preparing for the final examination.

Shafik, N. (ed., 1998a), *Economic Challenges Facing Middle Eastern and North African Countries – Alternative Futures*, Basingstoke and London: Macmillan Press.

Shafik, N. (ed., 1998b), *Prospects for Middle Eastern and North African Economies – From Boom to Bust and Back?*, Basingstoke and London: Macmillan Press.

Hakimian, H. and Z. Moshaver (eds, 2000), *The State and Global Change: The Political Economy of Transition in the Middle East and North Africa*, London: Curzon Press.

Alizadeh, P (ed., 2000), *The economy of Iran : The Dilemma of an Islamic state*, London, I. B. Tauris.

Data Sources

World Bank, *World Development Report*, annually (contains useful development data for various regions including MENA); an electronic database of the World Bank's indicators is found in *World Development Indicators (WDI)*, CD-ROM, updated annually, Washington D.C.

ERF (1998), *Economic Trends in the MENA Region*, (annual), The Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey, Cairo: ERF (electronic version also available on the net, see ERF site below).

OPEC, *Annual Statistical Bulletin*, annual report with much data on oil; an electronic version of this major oil database is found in *Asb*, (diskette available from the library's periodical room).

Some Useful Web sites on Middle East

1. <http://www.erf.org.eg> (The site for Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey, Cairo: ERF; see especially Working Papers and Economic Trends)
2. <http://www.meeaweb.org/> (Middle East Economic Association, MEEA, based in North America, contains some electronic papers; also useful for conferences, etc)
3. <http://www.mesa.arizona.edu> (Middle East Studies Association of North America, MESA; this is more interdisciplinary)
4. <http://www.ssc.upenn.edu/~mewin/links.html> (on water issues)
5. <http://cnn.com/WORLD/meast> (CNN site for current affairs on the Middle East and North Africa)
6. <http://www.bp.com/worldenergy/>(The BP site for useful downloadable data on various aspects of world energy (production, consumption, prices, etc).

Additional readings may be posted on the course webpage:

[http://www.bu.edu/london/virtual-library/\[insert course number\]](http://www.bu.edu/london/virtual-library/[insert course number]) (you must be logged in to view materials).