



Boston University Study Abroad London

Boston University Study Abroad London Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa CAS EC 322 (*Elective A*) Spring 2013

Instructor Information

A. Name Professor Parvin Alizadeh

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 **1.15, Friday, 15th February**.

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism:
<http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester>

Attendance Policy

Classes

All Boston University London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trip in order to fulfill the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme.

Authorised Absence:

Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorized Absence Approval Form 10 working days in advance of the class date (except in the case of absence due to illness, for which students should submit the Authorised Absence Approval Form with the required doctor's note as soon as possible). **Please note: Submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Form does not guarantee an authorized absence**

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:

- Illness, supported by a local London doctor's note (submitted with Authorised Absence Approval Form).
- Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
- Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

The Directors will only in the most extreme cases (for example, death in close family) allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.

Unauthorised Absence:

Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive a **4% grade penalty** to their final grade for the course whose class was missed. This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a 'Fail' in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

Course Chronology

Monday 21st January

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

Tuesday 22nd January

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

Monday 28th January

Session 3: Growth & structural change in the MENA countries
Reading: Richards A. and J. Waterbury, Chs., 2 & 3
Group 1 presentation

Tuesday 29th January

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

Monday 4th February
Field trip

Tuesday 5th February

Session 5: Demographic transition, Education, health and labour markets
Reading: Richards A. and J. Waterbury, Ch., 4&5
Group 3 presentation
MIDTERM TEST

**** Contingency Class Date: Friday 8th February.** Students are obligated to keep this date free to attend class should any class dates need to be rescheduled.

Monday 11th February

Session 6: State and development
Reading: Richards A. and J. Waterbury Chs., 7, 8, 9 & 11
Group 4 presentation

Tuesday 12th February

Session 7: Migration and regional integration
Reading: Richards A. and J. Waterbury Ch., 15
Group 5 presentation

ESSAY DUE

Friday 15th February

Session 9: Revision

Reading:

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday 19th February locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the Student Newsletter two weeks before exam dates.

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

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.

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: <https://lms.bu.edu> (you must be logged in to view materials).