

325-State and Society in Comparative Perspective

Cases from the Middle East

Fall 2005

Instructor: Gamze Cavdar (Yasar)
Time: T & Th, 12.40 pm - 2.00 pm
Location: Case Hall 339
Office Hours: T & Th, 2.00 pm-3.00 pm/by appointment
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Course Description: What are the different ways of thinking about the state and its relationship to society? What can we learn by comparing the experiences of different states and societal actors? This course explores state-society relations in the Middle East through providing conceptual framework and exploring case studies. After examining the emergence of the modern state in the region, the course lays out a number of competing theoretical approaches that explore state-society relations and discusses their relative explanatory power by identifying commonalities and peculiarities of the region with the rest of the world. Within this framework, we will look at certain themes in different countries to analyze the specific ways in which citizens experience the state and the effects of state actions and discuss policy relevance of each theme. These themes include democratization/political liberalization, Islamism, gender, economic restructuring and ethnicity. General readings applicable to the whole region will be accompanied by case-specific readings on Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, Jordan and Kurds.

Objectives:

- understand peculiarities of the state in the Middle East
- develop skills in evaluating competency of theoretical arguments
- develop a solid understanding about regional politics and the themes emerging out of state-society tension
- experience and demonstrate skill in working as an active and contributing member of a collaborative team
- analyze and share knowledge with others

Readings: All readings are available at the JMC Library and Angels.

Assignments and Grading Criteria:

Of the total 100 points,

A	4	100-96
A-	3.7	95-92
B+	3.3	91-89
B	3	88-85
B-	2.7	84-82
C+	2.3	81-78
C	2	77-75
C-	1.7	74-61
D+	1.3	60-56
D	1	55-51
D-	0.7	50-45
F	0	<45

Grades depend upon a combination of the followings:

- 1. Midterm (25%) and Final Examinations (25%):** Midterm and final will be based on required readings, lectures and class discussions. I will provide [study questions](#) one week before each exam to emphasize issues to be raised in the exams. Exam questions will be compatible with study questions. No make-up exam unless I am contacted in advance and provided with necessary documentation.
- 2. Have You Been Paying Attention? (5 points each, 20%):** There will be five quizzes based on readings and lectures. Quizzes intend to facilitate your preparation for the class. You need to prepare the class material before each class with the help of [weekly outlines](#) and review the previous ones as the dates of the quizzes are not going to be announced in advance. The value of each quiz will be 5 points and the highest four quizzes will be counted toward your final grade. No make up.
- 3. Research Paper (20-25 pages, 20%):** I will provide a detailed guideline for your papers with a list of suggested topics. You need to clear your research question with me no later than September 15. You will also need to turn in a first draft of the paper by November 17 and a final corrected version by December 11. I will provide a detailed outline regarding conducting research at MSU Libraries as well as additional outside sources that you may need for your paper. I will also meet separately with those who need further assistance about the Library's research facilities. No late and e-mail attached assignments.
- 4. Class Participation (10%):** I fully expect that all students will have completed the reading by class time. This is crucial for your participation in group discussions that we will have throughout the class. Attendance in all

classes is mandatory. I will post [weekly outlines](#) on the course's home page to guide your readings and class participation, and to clarify my expectations of you. You are expected to print each outline and study it in advance. Each outline will be ready a week before each class meeting. I also expect all students to follow relevant contemporary developments and to raise these issues in their discussions. Reading a daily newspaper is strongly recommended. See the course home page at Angels for a list of newspapers.

Schedule of Classes, Readings and Assignments

Introduction: August 30-No Readings Assigned

Topic 1: Emergence of Modern State in the Middle East

September 1, 6 & 8

Readings:

- Abbas Kelidar, "States Without Foundations: the Political Evolution of State and Society in the Arab East," Journal of Contemporary History 28 (April 1993): 315-339.
- Lisa Anderson, "The State in the Middle East and North Africa," Comparative Politics 20 (1987): 1-18.
- Roger Owen, "The End of Empires: The Emergence of the Modern Middle Eastern States," State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East (New York: Routledge, 2000), 8-22.
- Eugene L. Rogan, "The Emergence of the Middle East into the Modern State System," in International Relations of the Middle East edited by Louise Fawcett (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 1-37.
- Iliya Harik, "The Origins of the Arab State System," in The Foundations of the Arab State edited by Ghassan Salame (Croom Helm: New York, 1987), 19-46.

Topic 2: Liberal/Pluralist theories

September 13

Readings:

- Alfred Stepan, The State and Society (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1978), 7-17.
- Martin Cornay, The State and Political Theory (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984), Chapter 1.
- Andrew Vincent, Theories of the State (New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987), Chapter 6.

Topic 3: Marxist/Neo-Marxist Theories

September 15 & 20

Readings:

- Alfred Stepan, The State and Society (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1978), 17-27.
- Andrew Vincent, Theories of the State (New York: Basil Blackwell, 1987), Chapter 5.
- Jeffrey Issac, “Marxism and the State,” in Power and Marxist Theory (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1987), Chapter 5.
- Martin Cornay, “Gramsci and Political Theory,” in The State and Political Theory (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984), Chapter 3.

Topic 4: State-Centered Theory

September 22 & 27

Readings:

- Theda Skocpol, “Bringing the State Back In: Strategies of Analysis in Current Research,” In Bringing the State Back in, edited by Peter B. Evans, Dietrich Rueschemeyer and Theda Skocpol. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1985), Chapter 1.
- Eric Nordlinger, On the Autonomy of the Democratic State (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1981), Chapter 1.
- Eric Nordlinger, “Taking the State Seriously,” in Understanding Political Development edited by Myran Weines and Samuel Huntington. (Boston, MA: Little Brown and Company, 1987).

Topic 5: Democratization/Political Liberalization: Egypt

September 29, October 4, 6 & 11

Readings:

- Guest Speaker: Mohammed Ayoob, University Distinguished Professor, JMC
- Mohammed Ayoob, “The Muslim World’s Poor Record of Modernization and Democratization: The Interplay of External and Internal Factors,” in Modernization, Democracy and Islam, edited by Shireen T. Hunter and Huma Malik (Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2005), 186-202.
- Anoushiravan Ehteshami, “Is the Middle East Democratizing?” British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies 26 (Nov. 1999): 199-217.
- Eva Bellin, “The Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East,” Comparative Politics (January 2004): 139-157.
- Glenn Perry, “Arab Democracy Deficit: The Case of Egypt,” Arab Studies Quarterly 26 (Spring 2004): 91-107.
- Ariel Ivanier, “Democratization in the Middle East: The Case of Egypt,” Perspectives 19 (2003): 77-87.

October 13: Review Session

October 18: Midterm Exam

Topic 6: The Question of Islamism: Algeria

October 20, 25, 27 & November 1

Readings:

- Video-recording: In Search of Bin Laden (HV6430.I5 2001)
- John Entelis, “Religion and Politics in Algeria: Conflict or Consensus?” Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations 12 (October 2001): 417-345.
- Robert Woltering, “The Roots of Islamist Popularity,” Third World Quarterly 23 (2002): 1133-1143.
- John Esposito, Mohammed Muqtedar and Jillian Schwedler, “Religion and Politics in the Middle East” in Understanding the Contemporary Middle East, edited by Deborah Gerner and Jillian Schwedler (London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2004), 363-386.
- Najib Ghabbian, “Political Islam and Violence,” New Political Science 22 (2000).
- Gilles Kepel, Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002) 159-176 and 254-275.
- Mohammed M. Hafez, “Armed Islamist Movements and Political Violence in Algeria,” Middle East Journal 4 (2000).

Topic 7: Gender and the State: Turkey

November 3 & 8

Readings:

- Valentine Moghadam, Modernizing Women (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2003), 1-27.
- Suad Joseph, “Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East,” Middle East Report no.198 (Jan.-March 1996): 4-10.
- Nadje Al-Ali, “Gender and Civil Society in the Middle East,” International Feminist Journal of Politics 5 (July 2002): 216-232.
- Deniz Kandiyoti, “End of Empire: Islam, Nationalism and Women in Turkey,” in Feminist Postcolonial Theory edited by Reina Lewis and Sara Mills (New York: Routledge, 2003), 263-284.

Topic 8: Economic Restructuring: Jordan

November 10, 15 & 17

Readings:

- Samih K. Farsoun and Christina Zacharia, “Class, Economic Change and Political Liberalization in the Arab World” Rex Brynen et al. eds., Political Liberalization and Democratization in the Arab World. V.1 (Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1995), 261-280.

- Augustus R. Norton, “The Puzzle of Economic Reform in the Middle East,” in International Relations of the Middle East edited by Louise Fawcett (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 131-146.
- Giacomo Luciani, “Oil and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East,” in International Relations of the Middle East edited by Louise Fawcett (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), 79-101.
- Lisa Anderson, “Peace and Democracy in the Middle East: The Constraints of Soft Budgets,” Journal of International Affairs, June 1995.
- Lamis Andoni and Jillian Schwedler, “Bread Riots in Jordan,” Middle East Report (October-December 1996): 30-43.

November 22: Video-recording: Promises

November 24: No Class-Thanksgiving

Topic 9: Ethnicity and State Formation: The Case of Kurds

November 29 & December 1

Readings:

- Videorecording: Kurds
- Mordechai Nisan, Minorities in the Middle East (London: McFarland, 2002), Chapters 1 & 2.
- Moshe Ma’oz, “Middle Eastern Minorities: Between Integration and Conflict,” in Middle Eastern Minorities and Diasporas, edited by Moshe Ma’oz and Gabriel Sheffer (Portland: Sussex Academic Press, 2002), 29-40.

Topic 10: Overview

December 6: No Readings Assigned

Review Session: December 8

Final Exam: December 16