

Life and Geography of the Arab World: From Colonialism to the Arab Spring

GEOG 294-02
Macalester College
Spring 2019

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CARN 107
MWF 3:30-4:30
Office Hours
MWF 11-noon
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Course Description: This course serves as an introduction or as a further investigation for students with a keen interest in the region. Beginning with the colonial era and moving to the present, the course will thematically discuss the major human geographic forces that shape the region today: state formation and post-colonial development policy; oil, natural resource extraction and petrodollar investments; regional economic exchange; labor migration and intra-regional population displacement; and generational pressures and political change. With a *focus on daily life*, the course will offer a framework through which to understand ripped-from-the-headlines issues, and place them within a larger historic and regional context.

Week	Day	Topic	Assigned Readings	Assignments Due
January 21	Friday	Physical Geography of the Region	Reading: The Middle East: A Geographic Perspective. Manners, McKean & King (2013).	
Jan 28	Monday	Oil! And post-WW2 neo-colonialism	Video: The Prize Episode 2 by Daniel Yergin (1992)	
	Wednesday		America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier by Robert Vitalis (2009) – Chapters 5 & 6 Podcasts: Backstory “Black Gold” 2015	
	Friday		Reading Discussion: Carbon Democracy – Intro & Chap 1 by Timothy Mitchell (2013)	
Feb 4	Monday		Reading Discussion: Carbon Democracy – Chap 2 & 7 by Timothy Mitchell	Map Quiz
	Wednesday	The Art of the Scientific Presentation	Video: Five Things You Can Do Right Now to Make Your Presentations a Little Bit Better – Scott St. George Website: Peruse presentationzen.com	
	Friday	Colonialism and State Formation	Isbister, J. (2006). Imperialism. In <i>Promises not Kept</i> (Seventh, pp. 65–97). Bloomfield, CT: Kumarian	
Feb 11	Monday		Mitchell, T. (1988). Enframing. In <i>Colonizing Egypt</i> (pp. 34–62). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. Mitchell, T. (1998). An Appearance of Order. In <i>Colonizing Egypt</i> (pp. 63–94). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.	
	Wednesday		Hanieh, A. (2013). Framing the Region: Imperialism and the Middle East. In <i>Linneages of Revolt</i> . Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books.	
	Friday		In-class video: Umm Kulthum, A Voice Like Egypt	
Feb 18	Monday	Neo-Imperialism: Why Iraq?	All about Oil by David Harvey (2003) & Rebuilding America's Defenses by The Project for A New American Century (2000), selections	
	Wednesday	Neo-Imperialism: Why Iraq?	Reading discussion: Bagdad Year Zero by Naomi Klein (2004)	
	Friday		Selection from “Imperial Life in the Emerald City”	
Feb 25	Monday		Reading Discussion: Weapons of Mass Persuasion by Paul Rutherford, selections	
	Wednesday		No Class Evening Film Screening – Standard Operating Procedure	
	Friday		Film Discussion: Standard Operating Procedure & Frozen Scandal by Mark Danner (2008)	

March 4	Monday		Comaroff, J., & Comaroff, J. L. (2012). Theory from the South: Or, how Euro-America is Evolving Toward Africa. <i>Anthropological Forum</i> , 22(2), 113–131.	
	Wednesday	Population Geography: Conflict and Displacement	Chapter on History of Refugees On the Media Consumer's Handbook on Migration from "A Failure of Imagination" Jul 28, 2016	
	Friday		Hosting Guests, Creating Citizens: Models of Refugee Administration in Jordan and Egypt by Davis Benton, Todman and Murphy (2017)	
March 11	Monday		Explaining the (non)Encampment of Syrian Refugees: Security, Class and the Labour Market in Lebanon and Jordan by Lewis Turner Guest Lecture: Colette Salemi	
	Wednesday		Wrap up and review	
	Friday	Mid-Term Exam		
		Spring Break!!		
March 25	Monday	The State and Daily Life	Scott, J. C. (1998). <i>Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed</i> . Yale University Press. (selections) Assaad, R., Zhou, Y., & Razzaz, O. M. (1997). <i>Why is Informality a Useful Analytical Category for Understand Social Networks and Institutions?</i>	Book Proposal Due
	Wednesday		Hanieh, A. (2013). The Regional Scale: Bringing the Gulf Arab States Back In. In <i>Lineages of Revolt</i> . Chicago, IL: Haymarket Books.	
	Friday		Bayat, A. (2010). The Quiet Encroachment of the Ordinary. In <i>Life as Politics</i> (pp. 43–65). Stanford, California: Stanford University Press. Bayat, A. (2010). Feminism of Everyday Life. In <i>Life as Politics</i> (pp. 97–114). Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.	
April 1	Monday	Population Geography: The Youth Bulge	Introduction to the youth bulge	
	Wednesday		No Class Special Evening Screening: Garbage Dreams by Mia Iskandar	
	Friday		Amin, M., Assaad, R., Al-Baharna, N., Dervis, K., Desai, R. M., Dhillon, N. S., ... Yousef, T. M. (2012). The Origins of the Arab Spring. In <i>After the Spring: Economic Transition in the Arab World</i> (pp. 31–53). New York, New York: Oxford University Press.	
April 8	Monday	The Arab Spring:	The Arab Revolutions that Shook the World by Farhad Khosrakhavar (2012) – Chapters 2 & 3	

	Wednesday	Antecedents and Repercussions	The Egyptian Revolution: First Impressions from the Field (2011) by Muhammed Bamyeh Bamyeh, M. A., & Hanafi, S. (2015). Introduction to the special issue on the Arab uprisings. <i>International Sociology</i> , 34(4), i–ii.	
	Friday		Ruthven, M. (2014). What Happened to the Arab Spring? <i>New York Review of Books</i> , 61(12), 72–75. El Bernoussi, Z. (2015). The postcolonial politics of dignity: From the 1956 Suez nationalization to the 2011 Revolution in Egypt. <i>International Sociology</i> , 30(4), 367–382.	
April 15	Monday	No class – Geography Honors Day		
	Wednesday	Final Exam		
	Friday	Israel/Palestine	Reading: Why Palestine by Muhammed Bamyeh (2003) & Israel in a Nutshell by Shlomo Swirski (2011)	
April 22	Monday		Reading Discussion: Off-Shore Zionism by Gadi Algazi (2006)	
	Wednesday		Reading Discussion: Palestine: Listening to the Inaudible by Muhammed Bamyeh (2003) & Reading Discussion: Prophecy, Politics and the Popular by Melani McAlister (2003)	
	Friday		Reading Discussion: Israel the Alternative by Tony Judt (2003) & Selected Responses	
April 29	Monday	Final Presentations	Attendance Mandatory	Book Review and Final Presentation
	Wednesday		Attendance Mandatory	
	Friday			
May 6	Monday			

Grading and Possible Points per Assignment	
20	Map Quiz
100	Exam #1
100	Exam #2
25	Final Presentation
75	Final Book Review
50	Participation (minus 5 points per class missed)
30	Two Outside Class Lectures or Events
400	Total Points for the Course

Course Materials: Most of the readings and other materials for the course can be accessed through the course Moodle website, which can be found through <http://moodle.macalester.edu> We will review how to access this on the first day of class. Most reading will be posted directly to Moodle.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to arrive on time to class and to attend all lectures. Attendance and participation in discussions will be a part of your grade. You must contact the instructor prior to class if you will be absent. Please familiarize yourself with what counts as a **legitimate absence** at the end of the syllabus in “Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences.”

Late Work: All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due and must be submitted electronically (unless indicated otherwise). Students are required to contact the instructor before class if the assignment will be late. **The assignment will be deducted 1 letter grade for each day it is late** unless the student has a legitimate absence (for more information see “Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences” at end of syllabus.) For example, an A paper would go to an A- the first day it was late, a B+ the second, etc. There will be no makeup for the midterm or final exams, unless there is a legitimate absence.