ECON 4733 Economic Development in the Middle East

Instructor: Firat Demir
Office: Cate Center 1, Room 436; Office Hours: TW 10:00-12:00, Tel. 325-5844, E-mail: fdemir@ou.edu
Class time: MW 3:00-4:15 pm. Cate Center 0338

1. Course Objective
This course is an introduction to the existing debates on comparative economic development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region during the post-independence period. The main objective of the course is to provide the students with a solid background in economic, institutional and historical issues and challenges that have shaped the development trajectories of the MENA countries. Some of the questions that will be addressed include the following: a) What are the sources of current economic challenges in the region including historical, institutional, geographical, and cultural factors? b) How can we reconcile the existence of massive natural resources with the high levels of poverty and underdevelopment throughout the region? c) What is the role of economic globalization in determining the future development paths of countries in the region? d) What are the causes and effects of Arab uprisings?

2. Course Structure
The course is designed around lectures, assigned readings, and class discussions and will be conducted in a format closer to that of a seminar. The students are expected to come to each class after having read the assigned readings, and to participate in class discussions. The topics covered in the lectures will overlap the materials found in the readings. However, the lectures and discussions will, on occasion, cover some materials that are not found in the assigned readings. Students will be responsible on examinations for ALL ASSIGNED MATERIALS.

3. Course Requirements
The final grade will be based on your performance from: a) one midterm (25%) and a final exam (35); b) a term paper (20%); c) homework assignments and quizzes (10%), and d) class participation (10%).

4. Term Paper
The term paper should be on a problem or issue in the historical or contemporary experience of a particular Middle Eastern country or alternatively, it could be comparative. It should be focused, analytic, reflect critical thinking of materials read and must be well-documented with complete references given (at least 10 sources). Internet material should be used with care and very sparingly (Wikipedia is not acceptable). The topic for the term paper must be approved by the instructor in advance. A 1-2 page draft of what you propose to do must be submitted by Wednesday, September 11 and the final paper is due Monday, December 2. Both the proposal and the final copy of your paper need to be submitted in print and online (using the Dropbox folder at D2L). More details on term paper are provided at D2L.

5. Policy on Make-up Exam
There is no make-up for the midterm exam. If you miss the exam because of a valid reason the weight of the final exam will be increased accordingly. Otherwise you will obtain a score equal to zero.

6. Textbook and Additional Readings

Required Text

Suggested Readings


7. **Academic Ethics**

Cheating on assignments and exams, or plagiarizing is penalized by the University of Oklahoma. A student found in such a situation will be given an F and be brought to University of Oklahoma Honor Council for further penalties as defined under Academic Misconduct. For further information, refer to [http://www.ou.edu/honorcouncil/index.html](http://www.ou.edu/honorcouncil/index.html)

8. **Students with Disabilities**

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately as soon as possible to discuss his or her specific needs. For details refer to [http://drc.ou.edu/](http://drc.ou.edu/)

9. **Religious Holidays**

“It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances.”

10. **Grading Scale**

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<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97.5-100:</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>95-97.49:</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-94.49:</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87.5-89.9:</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>82.5-87.49:</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-82.49:</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>77.5-79.9:</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>72.5-77.49:</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-72.49:</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>67.5-69.9:</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>62.5-67.49:</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-62.49:</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
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Your final grade will follow the University of Oklahoma’s grading scale, that is A, B, C, D, and F without the intermediate grades on the left.

I reserve the right to adjust this schedule of grade equivalents in the student's favor.
11. Tentative Course Outline and Reading Assignments (* refers to optional readings)

I. Introduction

1. Overview
   a. Definitions and Geography: Is there a Middle East?
      - Is there a Middle East, Chs. 1-3.
   b. Overview and basic data
      - Richards and Waterbury, Chs. 1-2.

II. Emergence of the Modern Middle East

2. Historical Origins
   - El-Ghonemy, Ch. 2.

3. State-led Development and the logic of Developmental state:
   - Richards and Waterbury, Chs. 3, 7.
   - Is there a Middle East, Ch. 9
   - Owen and Pamuk, Introduction to Part 2.

4. Oil and the Price of Wealth
   - Richards and Waterbury, Ch. 3, pp.46-57.

Exam 1: September 30

III. Globalization and Development in the Middle East

5. The End of Developmental State
   - Richards and Waterbury, Ch. 8.
6. Development Fault lines
   
   a. Institutions

   b. Human Capital, Labor Markets, Gender and Demographical Challenges
   - Richards and Waterbury, Chs. 4-5;
   - Richards and Waterbury, Ch. 15.

   c. Environmental issues and Water
   - Richards and Waterbury Ch. 6.

7. Neoliberalism in the Middle East
   - David Harvey, *Neoliberalism*, Oxford (2005), Ch. 1.
   - Richards and Waterbury, Ch. 9.
IV. Current Challenges and the Future of Middle East

8. The Arab Uprisings

- Richards and Waterbury, Ch. 16.
- Demir, F. 2013. “Here is What You Need to Know about the Clashes in Turkey.” *Foreign Policy*, June 1.

Final Exam: Friday, December 13, 4:30-6:30 pm.