



Syllabus
Global Society
6 CFU
Prof. Uzi Rabi

Course Description

The goal of this course is to enable students to use and apply recent history of the Middle East and North African (MENA) region to everyday analysis that will reflect a deep understanding of contemporary events. This course is meant to help students speak with sharper focus and articulation about the issues and events of which they will be increasingly looked to as 'experts'. Thus, student participation will be strongly encouraged in each class, and the end results will hopefully be the ability to see quickly changing day-to-day events as part of trends that may in some cases be novel or alarming, but nevertheless involve time-oriented processes that can be assessed on a deeper level than that of most journalism and news media. There will be attempts at getting closer to the sources of information in the Middle East by looking at local mainstream and social media, while again, keeping in mind that significant changes tend to be evolutionary, and often have roots that go deeper than today's 'headlines' would suggest.

An emphasis will be given to globalization, media and civil society: The struggle over the Islamic message. New and old media is shaping the political, social and cultural milieu of a more interconnected Muslim World. From the Twitter Revolution in Iran to the popular revolts in the Arab world, young protestors across the Muslim world relied on 21st century technology and social networking in an attempt to shape a more open and globalized Muslim world. This course will explore how non-state actors compete over the political and cultural message of the Muslim world, through new and renewed social spaces, focusing on the Muslim middle class and new gender roles. These trends will help explain how competition is playing out between moderate and more radical visions of Islam, and demonstrate the limits of a civil society operating in the national and trans-national domains.

Teaching Method

The course consists of 10 subjects. 2 meetings will be dedicated to each subject. Students are required to read the materials for every class and participate in every lecture, to arrive prepared and to continuously follow contemporary events in-depth, and to utilize the tools that have been gained throughout the course. There will be in-class discussions and a graded final exam.

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	The Arab Spring: Civil Society
Topic 2	Muslim Networks and Civil Society
Topic 3	Failed States
Topic 4	The larger powers and the major geopolitical trends since 2011
Topic 5	Iran – Revolution & Globalization
Topic 6	A Virtual Shi'i Crescent?
Topic 7	Muslim Networks in the West
Topic 8	Islamic Economics and Islamic eBusiness
Topic 9	The Radical Islam and the Media in the Changing Middle East
Topic 10	Minorities in a Changing Middle East

Textbook and Materials

Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisheva Machlis, The Arab State between Sectarianism, Nationalism, and Islamism, , in <i>Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring</i> (The Moshe Dayan Center, 2014) • Abouzeid, Rania "How the Arab Spring Made Bin Laden an Afterthought", <i>Time</i>, May 02, 2011 • Rudd, Kevin "Keep the Faith with the Arab Spring", <i>The Australian</i>, May 20, 2011 • Zewail, Ahmed H. "Pillars of Change in Egypt", <i>Los Angeles Times</i>, December 5, 2011
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bahry, Louay Y. "The New Arab Media Phenomenon: Qatar's al-Jazeera", <i>Middle East Policy</i> VIII:2 (June 2001), 88-99. • Abu-Lughod, Lila. <i>Local Contexts of Islamism in Popular Media</i> [electronic resource] (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press Leiden : ISIM, 2006), 5-21. • Abou Zahab, Mariam and Roy, Olivier. <i>Islamist Networks: The Afghan-Pakistan Connection</i>. Translated by John King (London: Hurst, c2004), 47-71.
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yehudit Ronen, The Libyan "Arab Spring" and Its Aftermath: Challenges to State Order and National Cohesion, in <i>Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring</i> (The Moshe Dayan Center, 2014) • Uzi Rabi, Heading Toward a "Failed State", in <i>Yemen: Revolution, Civil War and Unification</i> (I.B. Tauris, 2015) • Uzi Rabi, "The Arab Spring": The Struggle for Yemen's Future, in <i>Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring</i> (The Moshe Dayan Center, 2014) • Eyal Zisser, Syria: Between Dar'a and Suwayda: Communities and State in the Shadow of the Syrian Revolution, in <i>Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring</i> (The Moshe Dayan Center, 2014)
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fandy, Mamoun. "Information, Technology, Trust and Social Change in the Arab World", <i>Middle East Journal</i> 54:3 (Summer 2000), 378-394. • U. Rabi, "The Obama Administration's Middle East Policy: Changing Priorities", in: <i>C. Henry and J. Ji-Hyang (eds.), The Arab Spring</i> (The Asan Institute for Policy Studies, 2012), 242-255.
Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mohammadi, Ali (ed.); foreword by Fred Halliday, <i>Iran Encountering Globalization: Problems and Prospects</i> (London: New York: RoutledgeCurzon, c2003), 217-246. • Meir Litvak, The 1979 Iranian Revolution In Historical Perspective, in <i>Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring</i> (The Moshe Dayan Center, 2014)
Topic 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F. Gregory Gause, "Conclusions: War and Alliance in the Persian Gulf", <i>The International Relations of the Persian Gulf</i>, 241-250. • Joel D. Parker, Lebanon in Crisis: The Specter of Sectarian Strife, in <i>Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring</i> (The Moshe Dayan Center, 2014) • Uzi Rabi and Brandon Friedman, The Geopolitical Dimension of Sunni-Shi'i Sectarianism in the Middle East, in <i>International Intervention in Local Conflicts: Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution Since the Cold War</i> (I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2010)

Topic 7

- Allievi, Stefano and Nielsen, Jørgen (ed.). *Muslim Networks and Transnational Communities in and Across Europe* (Leiden; Boston: Brill, 2003), 5-25.
- Shavit, Uriya. *The New Imagined Community: Global Media and the Construction of National and Muslim Identities of Migrants* (Brighton [England]; Portland, Or.: Sussex Academic Press, 2009), 44-60.

Topic 8

- Tuğal, Cihan. *Passive Revolution: Absorbing the Islamic Challenge to Capitalism* (Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 2009), 1-13, 192-233.
- Paul Rivlin, *State Cohesiveness, Regime Stability, and the Economy in the Arab World*, in *Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring* (The Moshe Dayan Center, 2014)

Topic 9

- Esther Webman, *Al-Qa'ida and the "Arab Spring": Constraints and Opportunities*, in *Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring* (The Moshe Dayan Center, 2014)
- Davji, Faisal. *Landscapes of the Jihad: Militancy, Morality, Modernity* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2005), 87-111..

Topic 10

- Mira Tzoreff, *The Copts of Egypt: Fully Fledged Citizens or a New Dhimmi?*, in *Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring* (The Moshe Dayan Center, 2014)
- Ofra Bengio, *From Victims to Victors: The Kurdish Challenge to the State in the Middle East*, in *Inglorious Revolutions: State Cohesion in the Middle East after the Arab Spring* (The Moshe Dayan Center, 2014)

Assessment

There will be an oral mid-term exam and a written final exam.

Office hours

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Office hours: after classes at School of Economics.