Middle East Politics
Spring 2014
CUNY Graduate Center
Tuesdays, 4:15-6:15 pm

Professor Jillian Schvedler
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Office Hours: Fridays, 11 am-noon, or by appointment

Overview:

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the key debates in the comparative study of Middle East politics. No prior knowledge of the region is required, but would be helpful. The readings are organized thematically rather than geographically, covering major issues in comparative politics and many of the key readings in Middle East politics.

Readings:

Each week includes required readings. These must be completed in their entirety prior to class, and students should come prepared to discuss any aspect of these works. The syllabus provides additional readings and resources that are not required, but may be of interest to students with particular interests and for future reference. Several books are required reading, so students may wish to investigate how to obtain them used, at low cost, or through library loan. They are listed below but also marked on the syllabus with an asterisk *. All other required readings will be available on Blackboard or online.

Required books:


**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation and preparedness</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response papers</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
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**Response papers:**

Students are required to prepare a response paper each week. The precise assignment for the response paper will be discussed the previous week; if you miss a class, be sure to contact the professor for information. Response papers must be posted on BB by 11:59 pm the evening prior to each class. Students are strongly encouraged (but not required) to read others’ response papers prior to our meeting Tuesday afternoons. Each student may miss one response paper over the course of the semester without penalty. (HINT: Use your “skip” week wisely!)

**Research papers:**

Students will write a 20-25 page research paper on a topic of their choosing in consultation with the professor. Students must meet with the professor, in person, by the end of February for approval of their topic. The paper will be prepared in stages over the course of the semester, with portions presented to the seminar or in small groups for peer review.
Schedule of readings and writing assignments:

January 28
Orientalism

Required Reading:


Additional Reading and Reference:


February 4
Empire and Independence

Required Reading:


February 11
Authoritarianism and the State (1)

Required Reading:


Additional Reading and Reference:


Lust-Okar, Ellen. Structuring Conflict in the Arab World: Incumbents, Opponents, and Institutions (New York: Cambridge University Press).


February 18

Democracy and Democratization (2)

Required Reading:


Additional Reading and References:


**February 25**

**Civil Society**

*Required Reading:*


*Additional Reading and Reference:*


**March 4**

**Social Movements**


**March 11**

**Revolution**


*Additional Readings and Resources:*

March 18
Resistance


Additional Reading and Resources:


March 25
Compliance


April 1
Political Economy


Additional Reading and Resources:

Mitchell, Object of Development

April 8
Gender


Additional Reading and Resources:


**April 29**

**Geography and Neoliberalism**


**Additional Reading and Resources:**


May 6
Reflections on the Study of Middle East Politics

Required Reading:


May 13
Presentations or TBA

May 17
Papers due by 11:59 pm