

Professor Akacem
Econ 4999-100
Summer 2007

POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Class Time: 12:45 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

Location: Atlas 104

Office: Econ 10

Office Hours: M-T 2:25 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Mondays and Tuesdays

Prerequisites for this course: Econ 3070 and Econ 3080. If you signed up for this course but have not taken these courses, I will assume that you are able to follow the discussion and ma

Second, the course will also help you identify the religious, historical, social, political, Economic and security issues that affect the region as a whole. Again, students are encouraged to read the papers (print and via the Web) to discuss ongoing developments either for the whole region or developments that affect their particular country or countries. The emphasis will be on the economic development, policy and overall economic issues facing your country or region of interest.

Third, we will also make an attempt to compare the Economic and Political developments in the region with other regions of the world. Has democracy taken hold? Why or why not? Has the region achieved sustainable economic growth and development? Why or why not? Finally and the schedule allows for it, I will invite a number of outside speakers who will speak to the class on specific topics, such as the role of Islam, politics in the region, the economic models chosen by these countries and why, and other topics by people who have lived in the region.

Fourth: At least two thirds-or more- of your paper will have to deal with economic issues of the country, region, topic at hand. Remember, this is an Econ course.

Fifth: E-Reserves has a number of articles posted on it. These will be assigned in class as the material and the topic as well as the events are fluid and change so we need to be flexible. The list of articles will be expanded.

Main Sources:

1. Political Economy of the Middle East, Second Edition, by Alan Richards and John Waterbury, Westview Press, 1998. Recommended chapters for your projects and papers:

Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. The book will left on Reserve at the library.

International Monetary Fund: Regional Economic Outlook, September 2006 and 2005 found respectively at:

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2006/eng/01/mreo0506.pdf>

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2005/eng/meca0905.pdf>

Special issue of Finance and Development on the Middle East and North

Africa @:

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2003/03/index.htm>

Other Sources and Reports:

2. Arab Human Development Report 2003, United Nations Development Program, 2003 found at:

<http://www.miftah.org/Doc/Reports/Englishcomplete2003.pdf>

Or:

<http://hdr.undp.org/reports/>

and the UNDP Information Portal Dedicated to Development and Governance in the Arab Region at:

<http://www.pogar.org/>

3. Arab World Competitiveness Report 2002-2003, The World Economic Forum, Geneva, 2003 and other more recent ones. You may have to order some of these:

<http://www.weforum.org/en/events/middleeast/ArabWorldCompetitivenessReport/ArabWorldCompetitivenessReport>

4. For data on the region from the UNDP and the Human Development Reports and Development indicators for the region:

<http://hdr.undp.org/statistics/data/>

5. An authoritative source for international oil data from BP and other sources:

<http://www.bp.com/productlanding.do?categoryId=91&contentId=7017990>

The Joint Oil Data Initiative:

<http://www.jodidata.org/FileZ/ODTmain.htm>

Energy Information Agency:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/>

International section of the EIA:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/international/contents.html>

EIA's country's analysis briefs:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/contents.html>

The International Energy Agency (Paris) (do not confuse with the EIA, part of

Country information page:

<http://www.imf.org/external/country/index.htm>

Finance and Development:

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2006/09/index.htm>

The World Bank:

<http://www.worldbank.org>

Special page on the Middle East and North Africa:

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/MENAXT/0,,menuPK:247603~pagePK:158889~piPK:146815~theSitePK:256299,00.html>

9. Other Websites:

The International Crisis Group

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm>

Middle East Studies Association <http://www.mesa.arizona.edu/>

University of Texas, Austin <http://menic.utexas.edu/menic.html>

Harvard University <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~mideast/>

There is one site out of Egypt whose address: <http://www.erf.org.eg/> . It also carries reports on the whole region.

10. Optional from the library and for your paper projects:

Peter Mansfield, A History of the Middle East

H.W. Brands, Into the Labyrinth: The United States and the Middle East, 1945-1993

Ian J. Bickerton and Carla L. Klausner, A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (4th edition)

James F. Hoge, Jr. and Gideon Rose (editors), How Did This Happen? Terrorism and the New War

Read the National Security Directive 54, ordering the U.S. attack on Iraq - - available from the National Security Archive:

Begin Intro lecture on the key issues on economic policy of the region

page 22 and 25 no the Objectives of the future Oil funds

"Oil in Troubled Waters" from the Economist On E-Reserve, Lecture material on property rights theories and Case Studies if times permits.

Week Four and Five: Paper presentations and coverage of any other material

Exam: Friday July 6th, 2007

Please note that the Exam will NOT be given if you come AFTER a student has finished and left the room consistent with University Policy. This would be equivalent to missing the test so please remember to be on time.

Grading:

Each student will have to complete the following:

1. A major paper on the country(ies) or

3 . Attendance and class participation both in class will count toward the final grade. Attendance means being in class on time. Being late will count as

Recap: Assignments and assessment:

One paper: 30%