

Global Studies Think Tank: Development in the Arab World Spring 2007

Instructor:	Thomas E.R. Maguire	Class Time:	W 11-11:50 am
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Course Description and Goals

This course offers a broad overview of development in the Arab world. Through this course, students should:

- gain an informed understanding of Arab societies and the development challenges that they face
- refine critical thinking skills through focused reading, public speaking, and discussion

Course Requirements

Attendance

Attendance is an important part of the course and will therefore count towards the final grade. Every student will be permitted one unexcused absence. **For each additional absence, the student's final grade will be reduced by 5%.** Students will be required to sign in at the beginning of each class. Students who arrive more than five minutes late will be marked tardy. Two tardies will be counted as equivalent to one absence. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late will be considered absent.

"One Book"

This course is student driven and therefore requires dedicated preparation and participation. Each student will be required to read one book related to development in the Arab world. A list of suggested titles is included below, though students are encouraged to seek out other titles as well. All book choices require the instructor's approval. **This assignment accounts for 50% of the student's grade,** split evenly between the following two assignments:

-The student is required to submit detailed notes of the book, including an outline, main topics, important quotes, and personal commentary. These notes must demonstrate a detailed, critical reading of the book. Although there is no exact page limit, notes with sufficient detail should be at least 7-10 pages. (25% of final grade)

-Students are required to offer a 15 minute presentation on the selected books. This will serve as a basis for class discussion. Presentations will be evaluated on accuracy, insight, and effectiveness. (25% of final grade)

By the second week of class, students must select a book and sign up for a presentation time. The reading notes will be due at the beginning of class on the date of the student's presentation.

Proposed Book Choices:

Mary Anne Weaver, *A Portrait of Egypt*
Steve Coll, *Ghost wars : the secret history of the CIA, Afghanistan, and bin Laden, from the Soviet invasion to September 10, 2001*
Daniel Lerner, *The passing of traditional society: modernizing the Middle East (1958)*
Gamal Amin, *Whatever Happened to the Egyptians and Whatever Else Happened to the Egyptians*
Sayyid Qutb, *Milestones*
Saad Eddin Ibrahim, *Egypt, Islam and Democracy*
Rashid Khalidi, *Iron Cage: the Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*
Naomi Sakr, *Satellite Realms: Transnational Television, Globalization and the Middle East*

Other possible book topics:

Arab nationalism, history of modern Arab world, Islamism, theories of development, Palestine, corruption, debt crisis, economic challenges, Ba'th Party, oil, jihad, intellectual history, colonialism, role of women in the Arab world

Students should select books written by credible journalists, qualified academics, or major historical figures whose written works have been influential in the Arab world. If you have any difficulty in selecting a title for this assignment, do not hesitate to contact the instructor.

Weekly reading assignments

In conjunction with the presentation topic/s each week, short supplemental readings will be assigned. These readings will be accessible through the class D2L website and will not require the purchase of any materials. Readings are designed to provide basic background information on the issues or events addressed in class.

Students are required to post comments and questions based on the week's reading by 9am on Wednesday. Students who are scheduled to present will not be required to submit reading responses. However, they should read the assigned material since it will be a basis of class discussion. These reading response assignments will constitute 25% of the student's final grade.

Participation

Participation is essential for this class, and will therefore constitute 25% of the student's final grade.

Grades

Grades will be based on the following:

"One Book" Reading Notes: 25%

"One Book" Presentation: 25%

Weekly Reading Responses: 25%

Class Participation: 25%

Special Notes

Participation by Students with Disabilities: If you need special accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible.

Accommodation for Religious Observances: Students will be allowed to complete examinations or other requirements that are missed because of a religious observance.

Academic Misconduct: The university has a responsibility to promote academic honesty and integrity and to develop procedures to deal effectively with instances of academic dishonesty. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources, and for respect of others' academic endeavors. A more detailed description of Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures may be found in Regents Policy Statements, UWS Chapter 14 and UWM Faculty Document #1686.

Complaint Procedures: You may direct complaints to the head of the department. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

Grade Appeal Procedures: You may appeal a grade on the grounds that it is based on a capricious or arbitrary decision of the course instructor. Such an appeal shall follow the established procedures adopted by the department, college, or school in which the course resides. These procedures are available in writing from the respective department chairperson or the Academic Dean of the College/School. A more detailed description of the grade Appeal Policy may be found in UWM Selected Academic and Administrative Policies, Policy #S-28 and UWM Faculty Document #1243.

Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment is reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the University. It subverts the mission of the University and threatens the careers, educational experience, and well being of students, faculty, and staff. The University will not tolerate behavior between or among members of the University community which creates an unacceptable working environment.

Financial Obligation: The submission on your registration form and your subsequent assignment to classes obligates you to pay the fee-tuition for those classes or to withdraw your registration in writing no later than the date specified in the schedule of classes. It is important to both you and the University that you make payment on time. A complete description of UWM fee policies may be found in the Schedule of Classes.

Incomplete: A notation of "incomplete" may be given in lieu of a final grade to a student who has carried a subject successfully until the end of a semester but who, because of illness or other unusual and substantiated cause beyond the student's control, has been unable to take or complete the final examination or to complete some limited amount of term work. An incomplete is not given unless you prove to the instructor that you were prevented from completing course requirements for just cause as indicated above. A more detailed description of the Incomplete Policy may be found in UWM Selected Academic and Administrative Policies, Policy #S-31 and UWM Faculty Documents #1558 and #1602. Also, a description of this policy may be found in UWM Schedule of Classes.