ECON 5990-108: Special Studies: Middle Eastern Economics

Course Description:
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.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: August 23 – 25 & 30 – September 1, 2019
Location: College of Allied Health, OU Health Sciences Center, 1200 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1215
Hours: Friday 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: July 25, 2019

Site Director:
Email: apokc@ou.edu, Phone: 405-271-4522.

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Firat Demir, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Dept. of Economics, 436 CCD1, 308 Cate Center Drive
Norman, OK 73019-2103
Telephone Number: 405-325-5844
E-mail Address: fdemir@ou.edu
Web: http://firatdemir.oucreate.com
Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact apsyllabi@ou.edu. Text prices are available online

2. Additional readings and lecture slides will be posted on the OU Canvas system: Access Canvas at https://canvas.ou.edu, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.
Course Objectives:
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?

Course Outline:
(* refers to optional readings)
1. Introduction
   a. The post WWII evolution of development thinking
      i. Lecture Notes Part 1
      ii. Political Economy of the Middle East, Ch. 2 (pp. 36-37/Box 2.1).
   b. Middle East defined
2. Historical Origins of the Modern Middle East
   c. Political Economy of the Middle East, Ch. 3.
3. Industrialization, State-led Development and the Logic of Developmental State
   a. Lecture Notes Part 3
   b. Political Economy of Middle East, Chs. 2 (pp.46-49), 7 (233-258).
   d. *Chang: Kicking Away the Ladder, Ch.2, pp.13-68.
4. The End of Developmental State
   a. Political Economy of Middle East, Chs. 2, 7 (258-271).
5. Neoliberalism in the Middle East
   b. Political Economy of Middle East, Ch. 8 (273-287, 316-317).
6. Oil and the Price of Wealth
   a. Political Economy of Middle East, Ch. 2 (p.45), 9, *10.
   b. Owen, E.R. 2008. One Hundred Years of Middle Eastern Oil. Middle East Brief, Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University.

7. Development Fault Lines
   a. Institutions
      i. Chang, Bad Samaritans, Ch. 9. pp. 167-188.
   b. Environmental issues, food and water security
      i. Political Economy of Middle East, Ch. 6.

   a. Political Economy of Middle East, Chs. 1, 14.
Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:
The final exam will consist of essay questions and will be given during the last class meeting.

Post Seminar Assignment:
The research paper (6-8 pages, single-spaced) 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 final paper is due on September 15, two weeks after class. The paper should be submitted by using the Assignments folder in Canvas.

Grading:
This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-class quizzes &amp; participation</td>
<td>In Class</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>Last day of class</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>September 15, 2019</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html.
Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615-0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office’s website at http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Firat Demir, Ph.D.

Education
- Ph.D. in Economics, University of Notre Dame, 2006.

Current Positions
- Professor, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma, 2018 – present.

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
- ECON 5633 International Economics – Finance
- ECON 5990 Comparative Economic Systems
- ECON 5853 World Economic Development

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- International Finance
- Development Economics
- Political Economy

Representative Publications and Presentations

Books

Publications in Refereed Journals

Representative Honors and Awards Received
Fulbright Award, University of Montenegro, 2015-2016.

Major Professional Affiliations
- Eastern Economic Association; Southern Economic Association