



EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL
and CONTINUING STUDIES

ECON 5990-490: 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.

Course Dates:

May 1 – August 31, 2021

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: April 2, 2021

Site Director:

This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or email our online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

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 e-mail or Zoom. Students should email the professor to schedule an 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

1. Cammett, M., Diwan, I., Richards, A., & Waterbury, J. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*. (4th ed.) Boulder, CO: Westview Press. ISBN 9780813349381
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.

OU Email:

All official correspondence from instructors will be sent only to students' ou.edu address.

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:

1. Introduction: The post WWII evolution of development thinking

- a. Lecture Notes Part 1
- b. Streeten, P. (2008). The meaning and measurement of development, in *International Handbook of Development Economics*, Volume One A. K. Dutt and J. Ros (Eds).
- c. Political Economy of the Middle East, Ch. 2 (pp. 36-37/Box 2.1).
- d. Developing countries, description and record in historical context: Lecture Notes Part 2.

2. Historical Origins of the Modern Middle East

- a. Lecture Notes Part 2
- b. Middle East defined: Bonine, M., Amanat, A., and Gasper, M. 2011. Is there a Middle East, Chs. 1-3.
- c. Owen and Pamuk, Introduction to Part 1.
- d. Owen, R. 2006. "The end of empires: The emergence of the modern Middle Eastern states" in *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Ch.1. Routledge: New York.
- e. Political Economy of the Middle East, Ch. 3.

3. Industrialization, State-led Development and the Logic of Developmental State

- a. Lecture Notes Part 3
- a. Chang: Kicking Away the Ladder, Ch.2, pp.13-68
- b. Political Economy of Middle East, Chs. 2 (pp.46-49), 7 (233-258).
- c. Owen and Pamuk, Introduction to Part 2.

4. The End of Developmental State

- a. Lecture Notes Part 4
- b. Political Economy of Middle East, Chs. 2, 7 (258-271).

5. Neoliberalism in the Middle East

- a. Lecture Notes Part 5
- b. Harvey, David. 2005. Neoliberalism, Oxford, Ch. 1.
- c. Political Economy of Middle East, Ch. 8 (273-287, 316-317).
- d. Rodrik, D. 2006. "Goodbye Financial Consensus, Hello Washington Confusion? A Review of the World Bank's Economic Growth in the 1990s." *Journal of Economic Literature*, 44: 973-987.
- e. Mitchell, T. 1999a. "No Factories, No Problems: The Logic of Neoliberalism in Egypt." *Review of African Political Economy*, 26(82): 455-468.
- f. Mitchell, T. 1999b. "Dreamland: The Neoliberalism of Your Desires." *Middle East Report*, 28-33.
- g. Beinin, J. 1999. "The Working Class and Peasantry in the Middle East: From Economic Nationalism to Neoliberalism." *Middle East Report*, 18-22.

6. Oil and the Price of Wealth

- a. Lecture Notes Part 6
- b. Political Economy of Middle East, Ch. 2 (p.45), 9, *10.
- c. Owen, E.R. 2008. One Hundred Years of Middle Eastern Oil. *Middle East Brief*, Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University.
- d. Ross, M. 2001. "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics*, 53: 325-61.
- e. Mitchell, T. 2009. "Carbon Democracy," *Economy & Society*, 38(3): 399-432.
- f. Davis, M. 2006. "Fear and Money in Dubai." *New Left Review*, 41: 46-68.
- g. Haber, S. and Menaldo, V. 2011 Do natural resources fuel authoritarianism? A reappraisal of the resource curse. *American Political Science Review*, 105(1): 1-26.

7. Development Fault Lines

a. Institutions

- a. Lecture Notes Part 7a
- b. Chang, Bad Samaritans, Ch. 9. pp. 167-188.
- c. Said, Edward (1978) "Introduction" and "Knowing the Oriental", in *Orientalism*, (NY: Vintage Books, 1978).
- d. Lewis, B. 1996. Islam and Liberal Democracy: A Historical Overview. *Journal of Democracy*, 7(2): 52-63.
- e. Kuran, T. 2004. "Why the Middle East is Economically Underdeveloped: Historical Mechanisms if Institutional Stagnation." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18(3): 71-90.
- f. Islamoglu-Inan, H. 2004. "Introduction: Oriental Despotism in World-System Perspective," in H. Islamoglu-Inan (Ed.), *The Ottoman Empire and the World Economy* (pp. 1-24). Cambridge University Press.
- g. *Dahi, O., and Demir, F. 2008. "The Middle East and North Africa." In A.K. Dutt and J. Ros (Eds.), *International Handbook of Development Economics* (pp.522-535). Edward Elgar.

b. Environmental issues, food and water security

- a. Lecture Notes Part 7c
- Political Economy of Middle East, Ch. 6.
- *Arab Human Development Report, 2009.

8. Middle East Uprisings and the Refugee Crisis

- a. Political Economy of Middle East, Chs. 1, 14.
- b. Moore, P.W. 2013. The Bread Revolutions of 2011: Teaching Political Economies of the Middle East. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, April.
- c. Wright, R. 2016. How the Curse of Sykes Picot Still Haunts the Middle East. *The New Yorker*, April 30. Available at: <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-the-curse-of-sykes-picot-still-haunts-the-middle-east>
- d. Editors, 2013. "Egypt in Year Three." *Middle East Report*, July 10.
- e. Springborg, R., and Henry, C.M. 2011. Army Guys. *American Interest* (May-Jun)
- f. Hinnebusch, R. 2012. Syria: From 'authoritarian upgrading' to revolution? *International Affairs*, January 20.
- g. *Sallam, H. 2011. "Striking Back at Egyptian Workers." *Middle East Report*, #259, 41: 2.
- h. *Dahi, O. 2011. "Understanding the Political Economy of the Arab Revolts." *Middle East Report*, #259, 41:2.
- i. *Marzouki, N. 2011. "From People to Citizens in Tunisia." *Middle East Report*, #259, 41: 2.
- j. *Chomiak, L., and Entelis, J. 2011. "The Making of North Africa's Intifadas." *Middle East Report*, #259, 41: 2.
- k. *Tadros, M. 2011. "Sectarianism and its Discontents in Post-Mubarak Egypt." *Middle East Report*, #259, 41: 2.

- l. *Yousef, T. 2004. "Development, Growth and Policy Reform in the Middle East and North Africa since 1950." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18(3): 91-116.
- m. *Kahf, M. 2014. The Syrian Revolution, Then and Now. *Peace Review*, 26(4): 556-563

Course Schedule

May

1. Introduction
2. Historical Origins of the Modern Middle East

June

3. Industrialization, State-led Development and the Logic of Developmental State
4. The End of Developmental State

July

5. Neoliberalism in the Middle East
6. Oil and the Price of Wealth

August

7. Development Fault Lines
 - a. Institutions
 - b. Environmental issues
8. Middle East Uprisings and the Refugee Crisis

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

Quizzes:

There will be 7 quizzes in the form of short essays from assigned readings. You can use outside resources, but I expect your answers to specifically refer to assigned readings and make connections between current and previous readings. The quizzes will be posted on Canvas and you will have ten days to complete them. Therefore, you should complete the assigned readings before the end of each section. You are expected to use all required readings in each section to answer the questions. I will drop the lowest graded quiz from your final grade calculation.

Final Examination:

The final exam will in take-home format with essay questions and will be given one week before the last day of class.

Research Paper

The research paper (4,000-6,000 words, excluding references) 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 topic for the term paper must be approved by the instructor in advance. A 1-2 page proposal of your paper is due on **June 1st** and the final paper is due on **August 20th**. Both the proposal and the final copy of your paper need to be submitted online through Canvas. More details are provided at Canvas.

Grading:

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

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Final Grade
Short essays/quizzes	TBA in Canvas	20%
Final Examination	August 31, 2021	40%
Term Paper	August 20, 2021	40%

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.

Policy for Late Work:

Please contact the professor regarding his/her policy for late work

Attendance Policy:

In addition to interaction via Canvas and email contact, students are required to contact the instructor via email or telephone **before** the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, email, or fax as needed

Incomplete Grade Policy:

A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:

If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: <http://webapps.ou.edu/it/> or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

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 making 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.

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, PhD

Education

- Ph.D. in Economics, University of Notre Dame, 2006.
- M.A. in Economics, University of Notre Dame, 2002.

Current Positions

- Professor, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma, 2018 – present.
- Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma, 2012 – 2018.
- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma, 2006 – 2012.

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

- Open Economy Macroeconomics
- Development Economics
- Political Economy

Representative Publications and Presentations

- “South-South Trade and Finance in the 21st Century: Rise of the South or a Second Great Divergence.” [Anthem Press](#), 2016 (with O.S. Dahi).

Publications in Refereed Journals

- “Effects of Motherhood Timing, Breastmilk Substitutes and Education on the Duration of Breastfeeding: Evidence from Egypt.” *World Development* 133, 2020 (with P. Ghosh and Z. Liu).
- “Effects of Cultural Institutes on Bilateral Trade and FDI Flows: Cultural Diplomacy or Economic Altruism?” *The World Economy* 43(9): 2463-2489, 2020 (with H. Im).
- “Destination Institutions, Firm Heterogeneity and Exporter Dynamics: Empirical Evidence from China.” *Review of World Economics (Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv)* 156: 183-217, 2020 (with C. Hu).
- “Exchange Rate Movements, Export Sophistication and Direction of Trade: The Development Channel and North-South Trade Flows.” *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 43(6): 1623-1652, 2019 (with M. Caglayan).
- “Bilateral FDI Flows, Productivity Growth and Convergence: The North vs. the South.” *World Development* 101: 235 – 249, 2018 (with Y. Duan).
- “South-South vs. South-North Economic Exchanges: Does it Matter Who is Exchanging What and with Whom?” *Journal of Economic Surveys* 31(5): 1449 – 1486, 2017 (with O.S. Dahi).
- “Effects of FDI Flows on Institutional Development in the South: Does It Matter Where the Investors are from?” *World Development* 78: 341 – 359, 2016.

Representative Honors and Awards Received

Fulbright Award, University of Montenegro, 2015-2016; Vilnius University, 2021

Major Professional Affiliations

- American Economic Association
- Eastern Economic Association
- Southern Economic Association