INTL 423/523
Development and the Muslim World
(M/W 2:00-3:50, GSH 117)

(The Professor reserves the right to update this syllabus over the course of the term).

Professor: Angela Joya (ajoya@uoregon.edu)
Office Hours: Tue/Thu 9:00-10:00

Course Description

This course critically examines processes of development in the most contested part of the Muslim World, i.e. the Middle East and North Africa. In the first section, we examine the problems of defining the ‘Muslim World’ and assessing the role that Islam plays in the region’s social, economic and political development. It should be noted that no two Muslim countries are the same. Therefore, emphasis will be placed on the problem of ‘essentializing’ the Muslim world at the expense of appreciating the specific histories, struggles, cultures and languages that constitute the various countries that make up the countries that fall within what is identified broadly as the Muslim world. Section two surveys the impact of colonialism, imperialism and modern state formation on the development the Middle East and North Africa in the modern period. In section three, we examine specific cases of national development by looking at state building, nationalism, the role of Political Islam, the creation of Islamic institutions, and the various economic development models adopted in different Muslim countries. Finally, section four examines specific areas of development such as unemployment and poverty, child labour, food insecurity, poverty and women’s rights.

A critical examination of these themes will be organized around a number of broad questions: How has development been defined and why does it remain contested? What are the alternatives and what do these mean for a new development project? What is the role of geopolitics in shaping developments in the Muslim World? How can the Muslim world reconcile the goals of social justice and meaningful human development while embracing a capitalist system?

The course concludes with an examination of the complexities that define different Muslim countries and the commonalities they increasingly share in the context of globalization. We will also examine the alternative models of development and assess their relevance in dealing with the social problems that affect the daily lives of citizens in Muslim countries.

By the end of this course students will:

- Develop a historical understanding of how various societies in the Muslim world have emerged as a result of historical processes such as colonialism, imperialism and nationalism.
- Become familiar with theoretical explanations of countries in the Muslim World have not replicated the western model of ‘development’
- Be able to identify a number of socioeconomic problems that the case study countries grapple with such as poverty, unemployment, women’s rights, food security.
Acquire knowledge of alternative models of development espoused in the countries under study and the tools of such development such as Islamic Finance.

Develop writing skills by examining the developmental models in a specific ‘Muslim’ country through their assignment of a Country Case Study.

Class Organization

Students will meet twice weekly on Monday and Wednesday from 2:00-3:50. In the first part of class, you will have a 30-45 minute lecture that will introduce you to the reading materials of the week. The remainder of the class will be conducted as a seminar with the expectation that all of you do the required readings and fully participate in class discussions. This second part will take the form of group and class discussions. You are strongly encouraged to read a newspaper from the case study countries and share relevant news items pertaining to the topic of the class with others on a regular basis.

Assessment

I. Class Participation: 20%

(Attendance: You are required to attend 80% of classes as the minimum requirement to pass the course).

II. Country Case Study: 40% (Mid-Term Report: 10%); (Essay: 30%). Topics will be handed out on the first day of class.

III. Group Presentation and written portfolio to be submitted: 20%

IV. Mid-Term Exam: 20% (Take Home)

Course Reading:

- All the reading materials (book chapters, journal articles, international reports) will be made available on BlackBoard or you will be provided the links to them. A number of books that are frequently used will be ordered at the Duck store for purchase. YOU NEED TO BRING HARD COPIES OF THE REQUIRED READINGS TO CLASS!
- Where relevant and to learn why themes such as poverty, women and girls’ rights, food security have been identified as challenges by the United Nations, we will be referring to the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml
- We will be referring to the UN Human Development Report (2013) for various countries under study here so be sure to familiarize yourself with the report. The report is available at: http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/14/hdr2013_en_complete.pdf

Course Outline
I. Introduction: Development Theory and the Islamic World

Week 1: Conceptualizing Development and Underdevelopment in the Muslim World (Date)

- What is the Muslim World? Reza Aslan: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzusSqcotDw (9 mins.)

Recommended:

Week 2: Explaining ‘Underdevelopment’ in the Muslim World (Date)


Recommended:
- A History of the Middle East since World War II, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdsmZo_1-gw (1.23 mins)

II. Colonialism, Imperialism and the emergence of Modern States in the Middle East:
(State building, nationalism, Political Islam, Economic Liberalization, crisis of the state)

Week 3. The Middle East and North Africa (Date)

**Recommended:**


**Week 4.1. Tunisia: From French Colonialism to Poster Child for Free Market (Date)**

- DW, ‘Last Hope for Democracy: Tunisia goes to Polls’: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tI53Ux0ed1c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tI53Ux0ed1c) (42:30 mins)

**Recommended:**


**Week 4.2. Syrian Arab Republic (Date)**


**Recommended:**

- Angela Joya, ‘Syria’s Transition: From Centralization of the State to Market Economy’, *Research in Political Economy*, 2007 (available on: [https://uoregon.academia.edu/AngelaJoya](https://uoregon.academia.edu/AngelaJoya))
- A Flood in Ba’ath Country (2003): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9a9pPZTwmc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9a9pPZTwmc)
- Everyday life in a Syrian village (1974): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80pK1u40u_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80pK1u40u_Y)
- History of the Post war Syria: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6H8_UV-smek](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6H8_UV-smek)
- Empire: Syria and the US: the complicity of Silence: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gezA1X3gThE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gezA1X3gThE)
Week 5. 1. Egypt: British Colonialism, Nationalism and Independence (Date)
   o Mid-Term Exam will be made available on BlackBoard. You will have 36 hours to complete it and submit it by email.

Recommended:
   o Beverley Milton-Edwards, Contemporary Politics in the Middle East, 2011 (3rd edition), chapter ‘Nationalism’ [Egypt and Pan Arabism].

Week 5. 2. Algeria: French Colonialism, Independence and Islamism (Date)
   o

Recommended:
   o Aljazeera, Algeria, test of power: Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jK7aK98xrr8
     o Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3jQ3ZgWqys

Week 6. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): The Making of Regional Economic Powers (Date)
   o Adam Hanieh, Capitalism and Class in the Gulf Arab States, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, Ch. 2.

Recommended:
   o Aamir A. Rehman, Gulf Capital and Islamic Finance: The Rise of the New Global Players, New York: McGraw and Hill, 2010 (ch. 3 ‘Values and Value: Islamic Finance in the Gulf and Beyond’).
   o BBC, The Rise of the Kingdom, 3 part series, http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0540h0c
   o Christopher M. Davidson, The Persian Gulf and Pacific Asia: From Indifference to Interdependence, Columbia University Press, 2010 (Introduction, chapters 1, 2 & 6).
**Week 7.1 Nationalism and State Building in Turkey (Date)**


*Recommended:*


**Week 7.2 Iran: From Monarchy to Islamic Revolution (Date)**

- Behind the Rhetoric: the real Iran, BBC documentary: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfIWvJgRNvo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfIWvJgRNvo)
- The Last Shah-Iran History BBC Documentary: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta6HZUItE2E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ta6HZUItE2E) (Political History)

*Recommended:*

- Iran Documentary: Yesterday and Today (Rick Steves): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D61uriEGsIM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D61uriEGsIM) (A cultural and social look at Iran)
- Evaleila Pesaran, *Iran’s Struggle for Economic Independence: Reform and Counter-Reform in Post-Revolutionary Era*, Routledge, 2011(chs. 3-4).

**III. Areas of Developments**
Week 8.1. Land Reform and Rural Problems (Food Insecurity) (Date)

   Recommended:
   - Film by Ray Bush and Habib Ayeb, *Fellahin* (Peasants), 2014: [http://www.athimar.org/Article-57](http://www.athimar.org/Article-57) (38min.)

Week 8.2. Unemployment and Poverty (Date)

   Recommended:

Week 9.1. The Environment: Documentaries on Tunisia (Date)
   - Sam McNeil, A Siege of Salt and Sand, 2014 discussion: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxwnQfVXtLE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxwnQfVXtLE) (Sam McNeil)
   - Habib Ayeb, Gabes Labess, (Documentary, 2014)

Week 9.2 Women’s Rights (Date)

   Recommended:
V. Conclusion

Week 10.1. Globalization, Islam and Identity (Date)

- Civil War in Lebanon-Thames Television (3 part series on the context of the rise of Hezbollah): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NWwuEIsiZk

Recommended:


Week 10.2. The War on Terror, Globalization and Human Development in the Muslim World (June 3)


Recommended:

- Lockman, ch. 7 (After Orientalism).

Country Case Study: Research Paper
Country Case Study: 40% (Mid-Term Report: 10%, Due April 29th, 2015); (Essay: 30%, Due June 3rd, 2015). Topics will be handed out on the first day of class.

This is an in-depth research project on one country. By the end of this research project you will become aware of one particular issue in your selected country and you will be able to explain how this particular issue has emerged, what groups are involved in it, what are the stakes for different social groups, what role the state plays/does not play in shaping the current nature of your chosen issue. You are to preface the discussion of your selected topic with a section on the socio-political and economic development of your selected country. Point out whether these two levels of analysis (local and state) are sufficient to understand your selected issue or whether we need a third level of analysis (global economy and related changes) to better comprehend the evolution of your selected issue.

Examples: Mine workers in Turkey, the Environment in Tunisia, Agricultural Reform in Egypt, Women’s Rights in Iran, ISIS in Syria and Iraq, Islamist Movements in Algeria. You can also investigate social issues and political issues but first discuss your topic with the professor.

Essay Proposal (10)

i. Research question and justification/reason for selecting your research question (5 points)

ii. Annotated bibliography (minimum of ten sources) (5 points)

Final Essay (30)

i. Comprehension (20)
   • Understanding of the subject, i.e. topic chosen for the essay
   • Presentation of research
   • Relevance of material selected and of the arguments proposed;
   • Planning and organization of the essay
   • Logical coherence
   • Critical evaluation
   • Comprehensiveness of research
   • Quality of synthesis

ii. Format (10)
   • Utilisation of proper academic style (e.g. citation of references)
   • Appropriate spelling / grammar / punctuation
   • Title Page
   • Bibliography
   • Font, Spacing etc.
   • Useful Online Media Sources
• Here is a list of media sources for the Muslim World that you can visit to find out about current events:
• Tehran Times (Iran)
• Al-Ahram Weekly (Egypt)
• The Gulf News (GCC)
• MERIP Reports (Middle East and North Africa)
• Zaman Online (Turkey)
• Middle East News Internet Press Directory (A resource that includes print, audio and video resources from throughout the Middle East)
• Middle East Resources (compiled by the Middle East section of the American Anthropological Association)
• Vox: Forty helpful maps of the Middle East: http://www.vox.com/a/maps-explain-the-middle-east