Assessment
The course will be conducted in a seminar format. Students will be required to submit three essays during the course of the term and make presentations on individual topics. Assessment will be through a three-hour examination at the end of the year.

Useful websites and Common Data Sources
The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES): http://www.eces.org.eg/
Arab Social Science Research http://www.assr.org/
Middle East Review of International Affairs http://meria.idc.ac.il
Economic Research Forum http://www.erf.org.eg/
Arab Monetary Fund www.amf.org.ae/pages/page.aspx
UN Conference on Trade And Development FDI Country Report
www.unctad.org/Templates/Page.asp?intItemID=3198&lang=1
The Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation. http://www.iaigc.org/
World Bank’s Website site on The Middle East and North Africa
Middle East Economic Association: http://meeaweb.org/
Energy Information Administration, http://www.eia.doe.gov/
Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries: http://www.opec.org/home/

Useful Sources for regular information on MENA Economies
Middle East Economic Digest: http://www.meed.com/
Zawya, Website Adress: http://www.zawya.com/

Some Relevant Journals:
International Journal for Middle East Studies, Middle East Journal, Review of Middle East Economics and Finance
Useful Reference Text Books


Seminar 1

Introduction to the Political Economy of MENA
(Adeel Malik)

- Economic history


- Introduction to MENA political economy


Seminar 2
Growth and Volatility in MENA
(Adeel Malik)

- The economic record of MENA


- Explaining economic growth in MENA


- Islam and development


Seminar 3
Themes in Poverty and Inequality in MENA
(Adeel Malik)


- Population and unemployment


Seminar 4
Food, Agriculture and Water in MENA
(Bassam Fattouh)

This lecture will discuss the interaction between water scarcity, food security and agricultural policy and how these influence development and urbanization patterns in MENA. Until recently, agriculture was the major economic activity in the region and is still significant in some countries. However, with the development of oil reserves, agriculture has declined in importance in most countries. As a result, the Middle East has become a net importer of food with the food gap rapidly increasing. This lecture will analyse the policy constraints on the development of the agriculture sector including the role of land tenure, price signals, water resources and rapid urbanization. The lecture will also discuss rural-urban migration in the Middle East and analyse its causes and consequences. The geopolitics of water and the extent to which water will drive regional conflict (water wars) or cooperation (peace dividend) will be critically analysed.

Discussion Questions
• Should the Middle East be concerned about the issue of food security?
• What are the main push and pull factors behind rural-urban labour migration in the Middle East?
• Is water scarcity a significant factor in the modern political economy of the Middle East?

Readings


Seminar 5
Structural Adjustment in the Middle East: Success or Failure?
(Bassam Fattouh)

This lecture will assess the recent macroeconomic stabilization policies and structural reforms undertaken in MENA in response to economic shocks and fiscal crisis using country case studies. It will also discuss the various areas of economic reform including financial reform, trade liberalisation, openness to foreign investment, and privatization efforts. Inter and intra-regional efforts such as the Euro-Mediterranean Agreements and the Arab Free Trade Area aimed at promoting trade and capital flows will also be analysed. The lecture will evaluate to what extent these reforms have placed MENA economies on a new growth trajectory.

Discussion Questions

- How can one explain the variation in the pace and the depth of economic reform across Middle Eastern countries?
- How did external/oil rents affect the speed, the depth and reversal of the process of economic reform?
- Has reform in the region resulted in the retreat of the state in the economic domain?

Readings


Hoekman, B. (1995), The World Trade Organization, the European union and the Arab World: Trade policy, Priorities and Pitfalls. In


Competition: Trade Opportunities and Challenges for Arab Countries, USA: University of Michigan Press.


Seminar 6
The political economy of oil in MENA
(Adeel Malik)

This lecture will assess the recent macroeconomic stabilization policies and structural reforms undertaken in MENA in response to economic shocks and fiscal crisis using country case studies. It will also discuss the various areas of economic reform including financial reform, trade liberalisation, openness to foreign investment, and privatization efforts. Inter and intra-regional efforts such as the Euro-Mediterranean Agreements and the Arab Free Trade Area aimed at promoting trade and capital flows will also be analysed. The lecture will evaluate to what extent these reforms have placed MENA economies on a new growth trajectory.

Discussion Questions

• How does oil shape the economics and politics of MENA countries?
• How did external/oil rents affect the speed, the depth and reversal of the process of economic reform?
• Has reform in the region resulted in the retreat of the state in the economic domain?

Readings

(also see recent responses by Michael Herb and Stephen Haber).
Seminar 7
State-Business Relationship in the Middle East
(Bassam Fattouh)

This lecture will analyse the historical evolution of business-state relationship in the Gulf and how the concentration of the oil wealth in the hands of the rulers has changed the power balance between rulers and merchants. This lecture will use case studies from Kuwait, Dubai and Qatar to draw comparisons and highlight differences among the different development trajectories. The lecture will also analyse the main formal and informal channels between the private and the public sector and how these channels shape these countries’ development strategy. The lecture will also analyse the historical evolution of state-business relationship in non-oil rich countries (Morocco, Lebanon and Syria) to draw some comparisons with the oil-rich Gulf countries and evaluate the extent to which existing frameworks such as network analysis and crony capitalism can explain business-state relationship in the Middle East.

Discussion Questions:
• How has the ruler-merchant relationship developed over time and how has the concentration of oil wealth in the hands of rulers changed the balance of power?
• What are the main formal and informal channels through which the public and private sector interact and what are their strengths and weaknesses?
• To what extent can network analysis/crony capitalism depict the anatomy of business-government relationship in non-oil rich countries?


Hvidt, M. (2006). Governance in Dubai: The emergence of political and economic ties between the public and the private sector. Centre for Contemporary Middle East Studies University of Southern Denmark.


Seminar 8
Labour Markets and Migration in MENA
(Bassam Fattouh)

This lecture will analyse the main features of labour markets in MENA and the role that the rapid expansion of the public sector has played in shaping labour market outcomes in the region. The lecture will analyse the various axes of labour market segmentation along private-public, national-foreign, male-female, and formal and informal lines. The role of women in the labour market and the feminization of the public sector will be explored. The GCC’s governments’ attempts to nationalise their labour force and the economic and social impacts of nationalisation policies will be critically analysed. The lecture will also analyse the main trends in intra-regional migration (forced and non-forced migration) and international migration and the linkages amongst the MENA economies through labour flows and channels of transmission of oil-market related shocks.

Discussion Questions:

- How has public sector employment shaped labour markets in the region?
- What are the main factors that limit greater participation of GCC nationals in the private labour force?
- To what extent can culture and religion explain the limited participation of women in the labour force?

Readings


Kapiszewski, A (2001), Nationals and Expatriates. Population and Labour Dilemmas of the
Gulf Cooperation Council States. Reading, UK.


Moghadam, V.M. (1998), Women, Work and Economic Reform in the Middle East and North

Roy, D.A. (1989) 'Egyptian emigrant labour: domestic consequences', Middle Eastern Studies,
vol. 25. no. 3.

Developments and Policy Implications”, in S. Isfahanai (ed.), Labour and Human Capital in the
Middle East (London: Ithaca Press)

Private Issues in the Egyptian Wage Structure”, Economic Research Forum for the Arab
Countries, Iran and Turkey EGYPT LABOR MARKET PROJECT, Downloadable from:

Shaban, R. Assas and S. Al-Qudsi (1995), “Employment Experience in the Middle East and

Shah, N.M. and S. al-Qudsi (1989) 'The changing characteristics of migrant workers in

World Bank (2004), “Unlocking the Employment Potential in the Middle East and North

World Bank (2008), “The Road Not Travelled: Education Reform in the Middle East and