Course Outline

This is an advanced graduate seminar on the political economy of the Middle East. It is open to Ph.D. students, and to MA students with a strong background in the study of the Middle East and/or in historical and critical political economy. The readings include case studies of a number of countries in the region, including Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Israel/Palestine, as well as some material considering cases from other parts of the world.

The goal of the course is to introduce and put to work a new approach to the study of political economy, drawing upon recent work in science and technology studies. The approach will be outlined in the first class.

Course Website

Access via NYU Home (http://home.nyu.edu), under the "Academics" tab. I will post on the website class notices, changes to the reading assignments, and links, where available, to electronic copies of readings.

Requirements:

Participants in the seminar are asked to submit a 200-300 word reaction to the week’s readings, for nine out of the eleven classes from week 2 through week 12. You may choose which two weeks not to submit. The reaction papers should be drafted as a contribution to framing each week’s seminar discussion. They should draw out what you see as the most important or problematic aspects of the week’s readings, relate the readings to the issues we are pursing in the course, and pose questions we might discuss.

You will be asked to write a term paper, the topic to be agreed with me and closely related to the themes of the course. Papers should be 8,000 words (about 26 double-spaced pages), longer with prior agreement. Drafts of the papers will be circulated on Dec 1 and discussed by the class on Dec 7 and 12.

Deadlines:

- Sep 25: Email precis of paper topic, after discussion with me
- Oct 23: Email paper outline and annotated bibliography
- Dec 1: Email draft of paper for class discussion
- Dec 18: Paper due; leave in my mailbox at 726 Broadway, 7th floor
Readings

1 September 7 Introduction New approaches to the study of political economy

2 September 14 Kapitalism, markets, and economic knowledge

Timothy Mitchell, *Rule of Experts*, chaps 1-3

Background:
Hernando de Soto, *The Mystery of Capital.*
Andrew Barry and Don Slater, eds, *The Technological Economy*

3 September 21 Postcapitalist politics

Mitchell, *Rule of Experts*, chaps 7-9
J.K. Gibson-Graham, *A Postcapitalist Politics*

Background:
J.K Gibson-Graham, *The End of Capitalism (As We Knew It).*
Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*

Monday, Sep 25: Email precis of paper topic, after discussion with me

4 September 28 Petroknowledge

Mitchell, “Petroknowledge”
Background:
Daniel Yergin, *The Prize*

5 October 5  McJihad: Islam and Petroleum 1

Pascal Menoret, *The Saudi Enigma.*
Alexei Vassiliev, *A History of Saudi Arabia*

Background:
Reinhard Schultze, *A Modern History of the Islamic World*

6 October 12  McJihad: Islam and Petroleum 2

Niki Keddie, *Modern Iran*
Additional readings TBA

7 October 19  Fossil Fuel and Democracy 1

Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence*
Mitchell, *Rule of Experts*, chapters 4, 5, and 6
Larry Lohman, “Democracy or Carbocracy?” The Corner House, Briefing 24, October 2001

Monday, Oct 23:  Email paper outline and annotated bibliography

8 October 26  Fossil Fuel and Democracy 2


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>9 November</td>
<td>Political Economy of Iraq 1</td>
<td>Charles Trip, <em>A History of Iraq</em>. Additional readings TBA</td>
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<td>Background:</td>
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<td>Hanna Batatu, <em>The Old Social Classes and the Revolutionary Movements of Iraq</em></td>
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<td>10 November</td>
<td>Political Economy of Iraq 2</td>
<td>Human Rights Watch, <em>Considerations for the Management of Oil in Iraq</em>.</td>
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<td>Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, Quarterly Reports to</td>
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<td>Congress, <em>January 2006</em></td>
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<td>Platform, <em>Crude Designs: The Rip-Off of Iraq's Oil Wealth</em></td>
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<td><em>General Union of Oil Workers in Basra: Fact Sheet</em>, the <em>Speech by Hassan</em></td>
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<td><em>Jumaa</em>, and the <em>Iraqi Trade Union Statement on IFI Policies</em>.</td>
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<td>Glenn Zorpette, &quot;Save Iraq One Switch at a Time&quot;</td>
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<td>11 November</td>
<td>Israel-Palestine 1</td>
<td>Smith, <em>Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict</em></td>
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<td>12 November</td>
<td>Israel-Palestine 2</td>
<td>Smith, <em>Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict</em></td>
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<td>Friday, Dec 1: Email draft of paper for class discussion</td>
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<td>13 December</td>
<td>Paper Presentations 1</td>
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<td>14 December</td>
<td>Paper Presentations 2 (Tuesday--classes follow Thursday schedule)</td>
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November 23: Thanksgiving Holiday: No class

Friday, Dec 1: Email draft of paper for class discussion

December 7: Paper Presentations 1

December 12: Paper Presentations 2 (Tuesday--classes follow Thursday schedule)

Monday, December 18: Final Papers due -- leave in my mailbox at 726 Broadway, 7th floor