

G53.3501
Comparative Politics Seminar: Political Economy of the Middle East

Fall 2006

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D R A F T

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 pursuing 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, 7 th 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

Mitchell, "The Properties of Markets," forthcoming in *Performing Economics: How Markets are Constructed*, edited by Donald MacKenzie et al.

Mitchell, "The Work of Economics: How a Discipline Makes its World," *European Journal of Sociology*, 2005.

Michel Callon, "Some elements of a sociology of translation:" In John Law, *Power, Action and Belief: a New Sociology of Knowledge?* (1986), pp.196-223.

Michel Callon, "Why virtualism paves the way to political impotence. A reply to Daniel Miller's critique of The Laws of the Markets," *Economic Sociology: The European Electronic Newsletter*, 6 (2), pp.3-20.

Background:

Hernando de Soto, *The Mystery of Capital*.

Erica Field, "Entitled to Work: Urban Property Rights and Labor Supply in Peru."

Michel Callon, *The Laws of the Markets*.

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*

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Two Histories of Capital," and "Reason and Historicism," in *Provincializing Europe*, 47-71 and 237-255.

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

4 September 28 Petroknowledge

Ferdinand Banks, "Beautiful and Not So Beautiful Minds: An Introductory Essay on Economic Theory and the Supply of Oil" *OPEC Review* 2004

Mitchell, "Petroknowledge"

Jim Ferguson, "Seeing Like and Oil Company Space, Security, and Global Capital in Neoliberal Africa," *American Anthropologist*, 107, pp. 377–382.

Gary Bowden, "The Social Construction of Validity in Estimates of US Crude Oil Reserves," *Social Studies of Science* (1985)

Background:

Daniel Yergin, *The Prize*

Robert M. Solow, "The Economics of Resources or the Resources of Economics," *American Economic Review* 64 no. 2 (May 1974): 1-14

5 October 5 McJihad: Islam and Petroleum 1

Mitchell, "McJihad: Islam in the US Global Order"

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

Ervand Abrahamian, "The 1953 Coup in Iran," *Science and Society*, 65 no 2 (Summer 2001), 185-215

Niki Keddie, *Modern Iran*

Additional readings TBA

7 October 19 Fossil Fuel and Democracy 1

Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence*

Huber, Rueschemeyer, and Stephens, "The Impact of Economic Development on Democracy", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 7/3 (1993)

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

Michael Ross, "Does Oil Hinder Democracy?" *World Politics* (Vol. 53, No. 3, Apr., 2001).

Hussein Mahdavy, "The Patterns and Problems of Economic Development in Rentier States: The Case of Iran," in M. A. Cook, ed., *Studies in the Economic History of the Middle East* (1970).

Hazem Beblawi, "The Rentier State in the Arab World," in Hazem Beblawi and Giacomo Luciani, eds., *The Rentier State* (New York: 1987).

Giacomo Luciani, "Allocation vs. Production States: A Theoretical Framework," in Beblawi and Luciani, eds., *The Rentier State*.

Terry Lynn Karl, *The Paradox of Plenty: Oil Booms and Petro-States* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997), chaps 1, 3 and 9.

Andrew Rosser, "Why Did Indonesia Overcome The Resource Curse?" [IDS Working Paper 222](#), March 2004.

9 November 2 Political Economy of Iraq 1

Charles Trip, *A History of Iraq*.
Additional readings TBA

Background:
Hanna Batatu, *The Old Social Classes and the Revolutionary Movements of Iraq*

10 November 9 Political Economy of Iraq 2

Human Rights Watch, [Considerations for the Management of Oil in Iraq](#).
Antony Cordesman, [Iraq's Evolving Insurgency](#).
Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction, Quarterly Reports to Congress, [January 2006](#);
Platform, [Crude Designs: The Rip-Off of Iraq's Oil Wealth](#)
[General Union of Oil Workers in Basra: Fact Sheet](#), the [Speech by Hassan Jumaa](#), and the [Iraqi Trade Union Statement on IFI Policies](#).
Glenn Zorpette, "Save Iraq One Switch at a Time"

11 November 16 Israel-Palestine 1

Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*
Additional readings TBA

November 23 Thanksgiving Holiday: No class

12 November 30 Israel-Palestine 2

Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*
Additional readings TBA

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

13 December 7 Paper Presentations 1

14 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