This course explores economic structures, institutions and policy challenges in the countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Through guided readings and seminar discussions, students will apply key concepts of economic policy analysis to contemporary problems and opportunities facing the region. Readings and research paper will focus on thematic policy issues relating to a wide range of topics within the MENA countries demography, human resources, poverty, macroeconomic adjustment and regional integration. For the purposes of this course, the MENA region comprises the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey.

Objectives of the Course:

- To conceptualise the structural characteristics and features of the MENA region economies and to offer a consistent framework for the study of these economies.
- To explore and discuss critically specific policy approaches to identified economic problems relating to human resources (population, employment, gender gaps and migration), macroeconomic adjustment, poverty, and inequality.
- To enhance critical understanding of economic problems and development strategies in the MENA region and discuss policy options in regional and international contexts.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand the socio-economic features and structural characteristics of the MENA economies, and attempt to classify the MENA economies according to their different structural characteristics (oil and non-oil economies, labour surplus and labour deficit economies, etc)
- Analyse the specificity of the ‘demographic transition’ process in the Middle East in general and examine forces behind persistent high fertility rates, in particular.
- Examine the structure of labor markets, education and female employment. Analyse the causes and possible remedies for gender gaps and low female labour force participation.
- Analyse trends in poverty, inequality and income distribution and examine determinants of wage differentials in several economies in the region.
Discuss and apply key concepts of economic policy analysis to contemporary problems and opportunities in areas relating to macroeconomic adjustment and structural reform of economic systems in the region.

Develop an in depth appreciation of the position of the MENA countries in the wider context of the international economy.

Coursework & Assessment

25%  **Weekly reaction papers:** Students are required to write a total of at least five of the eleven assigned weekly reaction papers on a specific seminar topic/question (350-500 words each). If you turned six the best five will be picked. Electronic and hard copies must be turned in no later than 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday afternoon. They can be delivered to Casey in the Middle East Studies department between 11-1pm or emailed directly (please CC Casey).

25%  **Research Paper:** One longer paper (3000-4000 words) is due on **Wednesday November 23rd** on a relevant subject drawing upon class readings, lectures, and seminar discussions as well as relevant outside materials. You should submit suggested title, outline & references of the term paper by October 23rd to get advise on how to proceed.

30%  **Final Examination:** A final take-home examination will be cumulative and ask students to connect particular seminar topics in essay form.

10%  **Attendance and Participation:** Students are expected to come to class prepared and to participate critically in each weekly seminar. Posting well-thought of comments/questions on web ct discussion board and responding to other postings will constitute an additional avenue of participation.

10%  **Presentation:** Students must make one ten-minute presentation addressing a given seminar question. A student presentation consists of a lead discussant cogently drawing from a careful and critical reading of the referenced material on specific seminar topics. Success is normally judged by ability to generate round-table debate and discussion within the group. Please refer to the list of seminar topics provided separately for this course.

**COURSE OUTLINE & TOPICS:**

Lecture 1:  **Introduction and Organization of the Course**

Lecture 2&3 :  **Overview of the Region and Problems of Development.**
These introductory lectures present an overview of conceptual frameworks relevant for the study of the MENA economies. They also present classifications of countries and the identification of basic economic structures and problems of different country groupings in the region. Finally, they present an overview of conceptual frameworks relevant for the study of the MENA economies.

Lecture 4:  **Growth and Structural Change in Oil Based Economies; Theoretical Issues.**
This lecture discusses Dutch Disease theories, the political economy approach and the usefulness of the concept of rentier state in discussing problems of growth and structural change in oil based economies.

Lecture 5:  **Problems of Industrialization in the Middle East**
The lecture covers the problems of industrialization in the region in relation to high absorption oil economies, with reference to Iran and Egypt.

Lecture 6:  **Population: Challenges To Development and Youth Bulge**
This lecture addresses population problems and challenges confronting different countries in the Middle East. It examines the nature and stages of their demographic transition and examines
divergent population policies pursued and their significance in explaining fertility trends and population growth in the region. It also focuses on the continued explosive growth of youth amongst MENA populations (youth bulge) and the needed policy response to this challenge.

**Lecture 7: Labor Markets: Structure and Performance**
This lecture examines the relevance of theories of labour market segmentation in understanding the role of the state in affecting the structure and performance of labour markets in the region.

**Lecture 8: Labor Markets: Participation of Women**
These sessions concentrates on aspects of labour markets related to gender gaps and female employment. Possible causes for low levels of education and female labor force participation in the MENA region are discussed, and the consequences for international competitiveness and economic adjustment are examined.

**Lecture 9: Poverty: Food Subsidies**
This lecture introduces conceptual issues underlying measurement of poverty in selected MENA countries. It also examines the various approaches to poverty alleviation programs adopted in the region, with special emphasis on the role of consumer and food subsidies which constitute the largest component of such programs.

**Lecture 10: Inequality: Wage Differentials**
This session also examines factors contributing to wage inequality and the determinants of wage differentials in selected countries and explores the link between poverty and inequality in income distribution in the MENA region.

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

**Lecture 11: Solutions: Washington Consensus Economic Reform**
These lectures discuss the recent macroeconomic policies and structural reforms undertaken in a selected number of Middle Eastern countries (particularly Egypt and Turkey) in response to economic shocks and increasing indebtedness.

**Lecture 12: Solutions: Post Washington Consensus & Globalisation**
This lecture examines the opportunities and threats of globalisation for MENA countries. It examines the lessons of globalisation in other countries and examines prospects for regional integration proposed by the Euro-Mediterranean Initiative.

**Lecture 13: Arab spring and Implications to MENA**

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**Optional Background Material on Development Economics and Labor Market Theory**
Available in the copycenter.

1. **Guidelines to Essays and Papers** How to write Good Assignment


**Useful Texts available in the library on reserves:**


**Common Data Sources:**

World Bank, *World Development Report*, annually (contains useful development data for various regions including MENA); an electronic database of the World Bank’s indicators is found in *World Development Indicators (WDI)*, CD-ROM, updated annually, Washington D.C.

ERF (1998), *Economic Trends in the MENA Region*, (annual), The Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey, Cairo: ERF (electronic version also available on the net, see ERF site below).

OPEC, *Annual Statistical Bulletin*, annual report with much data on oil; an electronic version of this major oil database is found in *Asb* (diskette available from the library’s periodical room).

**Some Useful Web sites on Middle East:**

1. [http://www.erf.org.eg](http://www.erf.org.eg) (The site for Economic Research Forum for the Arab Countries, Iran and Turkey, Cairo: ERF; see especially Working Papers and Economic Trends)

2. [http://www.meeaweb.org/](http://www.meeaweb.org/) (Middle East Economic Association, MEEA, based in North America, contains some electronic papers; also useful for conferences, etc)

3. [http://www.mesa.arizona.edu](http://www.mesa.arizona.edu) (Middle East Studies Association of North America, MESA; this is more interdisciplinary)

4. [http://www.ssc.upenn.edu/~mewin/links.html](http://www.ssc.upenn.edu/~mewin/links.html) (on water issues)

5. [http://cnn.com/WORLD/meast](http://cnn.com/WORLD/meast) (CNN site for current affairs on the Middle East and North Africa)

6. [http://www.bp.com/worldenergy](http://www.bp.com/worldenergy) (The BP site for useful downloadable data on various aspects of world energy (production, consumption, prices, etc).
MARKING CRITERIA FOR TERM PAPER AND FINAL EXAM

**Presentation: Clarity of Exposition and Correct Use of Sources (20% of the grade)**

**A:** Ideas are well-expressed. Answer structured clearly, with a good introduction and logical progression. Grammar and spelling are accurate. Sources are wide, relevant and thoroughly analysed. Correct use of in-text references and a comprehensive bibliography is attached.

**D:** Poorly structured, documented and communicated; Answer confused and lacks a coherent and logical framework. Several grammatical and spelling mistakes are present. Sources either not consulted or irrelevant to the research question. Referencing is absent or unsystematic, and no bibliography attached.

**Analytical Content: Methodology, Use of Theory and Supporting Evidence (60% of the grade)**

**A:** Analytically sophisticated with a wide and deep knowledge of literature and a superior marshalling of evidence. Question is addressed comprehensively and imaginatively. Student was attentive to the research question throughout the essay. Theories well handled and correctly applied to question on hand. Sufficient conceptual and empirical evidence is given in support of the key arguments (summary tables/charts can be used). Conclusions and policy implications are analytically sound, stated clearly, and are well grounded in theory and substantiated by adequate evidence.

**D:** Little analytical technique or depth; evident omissions or misunderstandings; Failed attempt to address the question. Arguments lack supporting evidence. Argument shows no theoretical awareness or inappropriate choice and handling of theory. Conclusions and policy implications are unsubstantiated / invalid; based on anecdotes and sweeping generalisations.

**Originality of Argument: Evidence of Critical Thinking (20% of the grade)**

**A:** Original ideas and/or synthesis of arguments presented in readings are offered. Critical analysis is applied.

**D:** Generally deficient in effort and/or argument. Answer merely repeats or summarizes readings and lecture and lacks critical thought.

**Note:** The above criteria are tentative. They reflect the approach of the instructor and are not official school guidelines. They are merely indicative of some essential ingredients of good graduate writing.
Required Readings

* Essential Readings, the rest are highly recommended

1. Overview of the Region and Problems of Development.


2. Growth and Structural Change in Oil Based Economies; Theoretical Issues.


3. Problems of Industrialization in the Middle East


4. Population: Challenges To Development and Youth Bulge


5. Labor Markets: Structure and Performance


6. Labor Markets: Participation of Women


7. Poverty: Food Subsidies


8. Inequality: Wage Differentials


10. Solutions: Post Washington Consensus & Globalisation

