

ECON 325**The Political Economy of Egypt in the 21st Century****Credits:** 3.0**Contact hours:** 45

This is a syllabus based on a popular course in our Cairo program prior to the program's suspension in mid-2013. In reopening our Cairo program, we are both developing new courses and updating successful courses from past semesters. This syllabus is meant to be representative of this course. A fully updated version with new content and materials will not be available until closer to the start of the term in which it will run.

Aims and Objectives of the Course:

This course aims at scrutinizing the political economy of the Egyptian state since the onset of modernization. In doing so, it also addresses selected critical current and possible future development issues in Egypt.

Course Description:

The course explores the complex social, economic and political fabric of Egypt in the beginning of the 21st century. It focuses on the main challenges and potential paths for the Egyptian economy in the post-Mubarak era. An important element is an examination of the opportunities and challenges confronting economic and political reform initiatives, highlighting the role of the informal economy and the global context of the developmental process. The course begins with an overview of the political economy of the Egyptian state from the onset of modernization in 1805 until the present. In doing so, it explores a wide set of themes that include: the nation-state project of Muhammad Ali in the early 19th century, the liberal period in the first half of the 20th century and its impact on the Egyptian economy, the Arab socialist phase under President Gamal Abdel Nasser, the *infitah*, or economic "opening" under President Anwar Sadat, the structural alterations of the socioeconomic setting and the neoliberal reformulation of state-society relations that took place during the Mubarak era, and the further recalibration of these in the years since 2011. There are no particular prerequisites for this course, but previous study of social science in disciplines such as economics or politics or an interest in contemporary Middle East issues is important background for students in this course.

Learning/Teaching methods

A combination of lectures with seminar discussions, including group work and student presentations are at the heart of the methodology of the course. Specific topics and particular cases will be investigated further in discussions initiated (under guidance) by students, individually or in small groups. Whenever applicable, additional media resources, including feature films and documentaries, will also be utilized to enhance the exposure of the students to some of the everyday realities of Egypt. Class attendance and active verbal participation in class discussions are crucial elements of the work and all students are expected to engage in that process. In particular, students are expected to contribute with critical discussions of the reading assignments

and thoughtful consideration of peer comments, and with discussion and critique of ideas and arguments presented, including those of the seminar facilitator.

Learning outcomes for the course

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate their understanding of some of the major development problems and policy issues pertaining to the Egyptian economy
- Explain how politics relates to economy and social change
- Research and analyze some of the socioeconomic and political factors affecting the Egyptian polity

Knowledge

This course is designed to assist students to acquire and demonstrate knowledge about:

- The concept of political economy and its importance in dissecting socioeconomic and political phenomena
- The history of economic development in Egypt and its main challenges/prospects in the post Jan 25 phase
- The informal sector and the role it plays in shaping the politico-economic dynamics in the Egyptian society
- The features of state/society relations in the Egyptian context

Skills

This course is designed to assist students in acquiring/enhancing the following skills:

- The ability to deploy a range of tools and knowledge from different disciplinary fields to the understanding of issues and problems of economic and social development
- The skills needed to acquire and understand data sources, handle data, and grasp basic economic statistics
- Basic skills for identifying and offering tentative explanations for economic trends in Egypt
- Improved study skills and access to a wide range of learning resources in the field

Attitudes

This course is designed to encourage development of the following attitudes:

- Perceiving/situating the cultural dynamics of Egypt using a relativistic approach, taking into account the socioeconomic and political contexts of the country
- Interest in understanding the relationship between domestic and international factors and the role they play in shaping the developmental portrait of Egypt
- Readiness to critically assess and contextualize the status of the Egyptian economy

Recommended Reading

United Nations Development Programme, *Egypt Human Development Report 2005, 2008 and 2010*:

http://hdr.undp.org/xmlsearch/reportSearch?y=*&c=r%3AArab+States&t=*&lang=en&k=&orderby=country

Assessment Overview

Attendance and Participation	20%	Continuous
Presentation & Handout	25%	TBD
Mid-term Exam	25%	TBD
Final Research Paper	30%	Due Final Week

Assessment Tasks

Attendance and Participation:

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled classes. In this course you are permitted one (1) unexcused absence (absence not caused by illness). If you have more than one unexcused absence, your total grade for the course will be lowered by 3% for each additional unexcused absence. In other words, two unexcused absences will lower your final grade by 3%, three unexcused absences by 6%, etc. You are expected to make up for any missed work during your absence. All students are expected to have read thoughtfully the assigned readings and should come to class prepared to participate and make substantive contribution to the class discussions. The Attendance & Participation grade will depend on both the quality and the quantity of student's comments and questions and shall account for 20% of the total grade.

Presentation and Handout:

All students are expected to give a 15-minute presentation and submit a 1000 word essay relating to the subject-matter of their presentations sometime during the semester, in accordance with where the topic of their presentation is situated in the syllabus. Students will select their presentation topics and the presentations will start from Week 3 and run throughout the semester. Every week students will make presentations and so forth. Students will assess and grade the presentations of their peers. The presentation and the handout both account for 25% of the total grade.

Midterm Exam:

Students will be given the choice to select from a variety of short-essay questions that deal with the various themes covered in class. This will be an open-book session and students will be able to use their notes and references. The midterm essay accounts for 25% of the total grade.

Final Research Paper:

The abstract gives the student the opportunity to have feedback on the structure of the intended research prior to the final submission. Students are free to select the topic that they prefer from the syllabus. These abstracts **will not be graded**. The final research paper must be at least 3,000 words and it accounts for 30% of the total grade.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic(s) to be covered	Learning Outcome(s) Addressed	Preparation/ Readings	Assignments / Work Due
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1	Introduction: the Study of Political Economy	Scope of the course; general questions in the study of political economy	Farah, Nadia. <u>Egypt's Political Economy: Power Relations in Development</u> . American University in Cairo Press, 2009, Introduction. Film: Egypt From Christianity to Nasser (40 min)	
2	Modernization and the Muhammad Ali Project	The conceptualization of the Modernization project; Muhammad Ali's industrial scheme, state-society relations in 19 th Century Egypt	Lutfi Al Sayyid, Afaf. <u>A History of Egypt</u> . 2007, Chapter 4, pp. 65-78 Owen, Roger. <u>The Middle East in World Economy</u> . I.B. Tauris, 2002, Chapter 2 pp. 57-76 Fahmy Menza, Mohamed. <u>Patronage Politics in Egypt: The National Democratic Party and Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo</u> . Routledge, 2012, Chapter 2.	Readings
3	The Liberal Period (1922-1952) and the connotations relating to the Egyptian economy	The inception of the Egyptian nation-state and the foundation of the national economy vis-à-vis British domination; Talaat Harb's experience; the rise of local bourgeoisie	Owen, Roger. <u>The Middle East in World Economy</u> . I.B. Tauris, 2002, Chapter 9, pp. 216-240 Farah, Nadia. <u>Egypt's Political Economy: Power Relations in Development</u> . American University in Cairo Press, 2009, Chapter 2, pp. 65-71 Tignor, Robert. "Bank Misr and Foreign Capitalism". <i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i> , 1977, Vol. 8, No. 2 Film: Farouk (50 min)	Readings/ Presentations
4	The 1952 phase: Nasserite Arab Socialism	The post-colonial Nasser project of Arab Socialism; land reform, nationalization and state-led development.	Lutfi Al Sayyid, Afaf. <u>A History of Egypt</u> . 2007, Chapter 6. Farah, Nadia. <u>Egypt's Political Economy: Power Relations in Development</u> . American University in Cairo Press, 2009, Chapter 1, pp. 30-37 Cooper, Mark. "Egyptian State Capitalism in Crisis: Economic Policies and Political Interests, 1967-1971". <i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i> . Vol. 10, No. 4 (Nov., 1979). Film: Four Women of Egypt, Part 1	Readings/ Presentations

5	Sadat: <i>infatih</i> and the structural alterations in the socioeconomic fabric	Social mobility, state withdrawal and the sociocultural dynamics of <i>Infatih</i> policies	<p>Farah, Nadia. <u>Egypt's Political Economy: Power Relations in Development</u>. American University in Cairo Press, 2009, Chapter 1, pp. 37-41</p> <p>Aulas, Marie-Christine. "Sadat's Egypt: A Balance Sheet". <i>MERIP Reports</i> No. 107, Egypt in the New Middle East (Jul.-Aug., 1982), pp. 6-18+30-31</p> <p>Shechter, Relli. "The Cultural Economy of Development in Egypt: Economic Nationalism, Hidden Economy and the Emergence of Mass Consumer Society during Sadat's <i>Infatih</i>". <i>Middle Eastern Studies</i>, 44:4, July 2008, 571-583.</p> <p>Film: Four Women of Egypt, Part 2</p>	Readings/ Presentations
6	Mubarak: stagnation, economic reform and neoliberal reformulation of the role of the state	Economic liberalization; the 'soft' state and institutional capacities for economic transformation; role of domestic and international actors in the reform process	<p>Hinnebusch, Raymond. "The Politics of Economic Reform in Egypt". <i>Third World Quarterly</i>, Vol. 14, No. 1 (1993), pp. 159-171.</p> <p>Farah, Nadia. <u>Egypt's Political Economy: Power Relations in Development</u>. American University in Cairo Press, 2009, Chapter 1, pp. 41-52.</p> <p>Amin, Galal. <u>Egypt in The Era of Hosni Mubarak: 1981-2011</u>. American University in Cairo Press, 2011, Introduction and Chapter 1.</p>	Readings/ Presentations
7	Midterm Recap/in-class Essay			Midterm essay
8	Jan 25: Bread, Freedom & Social Justice? Challenges and potential paths for the Egyptian economy in the post-Mubarak phase	The Arab Spring and the limitations of neoliberalism; human freedom as a catalyst for development; sectoral developments/limitations and the overall socioeconomic	<p>Joya, Angela. "The Egyptian revolution: crisis of neoliberalism and the potential for democratic politics". <i>Review of African Political Economy</i>, 38:129 (2011) pp. 367-386</p> <p>Bond, Patrick. "Economic attacks against Arab democracy". June 1 2011. Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Palestine http://www.scribd.com/doc/57109934/Western-economic-attacks-</p>	Readings/ Presentations

		and political features of Egypt in the wake of the Arab Spring	<p>against-Arab democracy?secret_password&autodown=pdf</p> <p>Chauffour, Jean-Pierre. "Freedom, Entitlement, and the Path to Development," World Bank - Economic Premise, The World Bank, issue 59, pages 1-5, June 2011. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPREMNET/Resources/EP59.pdf</p> <p>Film: A New Beginning For Egypt's Economy-In Focus (45 min)</p>	
9	The politico-economic role of the Military	Civil-military relations; US military aid; the exaggerated/ underestimated role of the military and its economic importance	<p>Alexander, Anne. "Brothers-in-arms? The Egyptian military, the Ikhwan and the revolutions of 1952 and 2011". <i>The Journal of North African Studies</i>. Vol. 16, Iss. 4, 2011. pp. 533-554</p> <p>Axelrod, Matthew. "Aid as Leverage? Understanding the U.S.-Egypt Military Relationship". A Research Paper Presented to the University of Pennsylvania in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Master of Arts. 2011. http://s93298.gridserver.com/pages/pdf/other/Axelrod.pdf</p> <p>Abul-Magd, Zeinab. "The Army and The Economy in Egypt". <i>Jadaliyya</i>. Dec 23 2011. http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/3732/the-army-and-the-economy-in-egypt</p>	Readings/ Presentations
10	Political Islam and its agenda of economic reform	The socioeconomic basis of the Islamist project; the role of ISI's and the implemented/prospective economic policies of the MB and other Islamists	<p>Fahmy Menza, Mohamed. <u>Patronage Politics in Egypt: The National Democratic Party and Muslim Brotherhood in Cairo</u>. Routledge, 2012, Chapter 4.</p> <p>Saif, Ibrahim and Abu Rumman, Muhammad. "The Economic Agenda of Islamist Parties". <i>The Carnegie Papers</i>. Carnegie Middle East Center. May 2012. Pp. 1-5, 9-13 and 22-23.</p> <p>Hansen, Suzy. "The Economic Vision of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood Millionaires". April 19, 2012. http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2012-04-19/the-economic-vision-of-egypts-muslim-brotherhood-millionaires</p>	Readings/ Presentations Abstract Due

11	The youth bulge and the prospects of attaining human development	Concept of human development vis-à-vis economic growth, good governance and political development in the post-Arab Spring phase; youth as a challenge and an opportunity.	Arab Human Development Report 2016, TBD Activity: Field Visit TBD	Readings/ Presentations
12	State-society relations and the emergence of new relevant social forces in the beginning of the 21st century	The informal sector/economy; privatization of the public sphere and the features of social mobility	Amin, Galal. <u>Whatever Happened to The Egyptians</u> . 2002. Chapter 1, pp. 7-31 Dorman, W. J. in Diane Singerman (ed.) <u>Cairo Contested: Governance, Urban Space and Global Modernity</u> . 2009. Chapter 6. pp. 269-291. El Mahdy Aliaa and Rashed, Ali in Ragui Assaad (ed.) <u>Egypt Labor Market Survey Revisited</u> . 2009. Chapter 3, pp. 87-115.	Readings/ Presentations
13	Failure of the Globalization Model?	Westernization, the role of globalized social networks, the Arab Spring and the failure of the globalization model, economic prospects vis-à-vis the globalized world economy	Amin, Galal. <u>Whatever Happened to The Egyptians</u> . 2002. Chapter 3, pp. 45-55 Abdul Ilah Albayaty, Hana Al Bayaty and Ian Douglas. "Failure of the Globalization Model: The Arab Spring of Democracy". Global Research, January 17, 2011. http://www.globalresearch.ca/PrintArticle.php?articleId=22828 Lehman, Jean-Pierre, "Will The Arab Spring Free The Orphans of Globalization?" Global Compact International Year Book 2011, The Evian Group, IMD http://www.imd.org/research/centers/eviangroup/upload/Lehmann_GCYB_2011_Arab_Spring.pdf Hakimian, Hassan (2011) 'The Economic Prospects of the 'Arab Spring': A Bumpy Road Ahead.' CDPR Development Viewpoint (63). pp. 1-	Readings/ Presentations

			<p>2. http://eprints.soas.ac.uk/12032/1/Development_ViewPoint_63_%28Hassan_Hakimi_an%29.pdf</p> <p>Film: Fighting Fires, Why the IMF lends (5 min)</p> <p>Can Egypt Regain its Economic Strength? (10 min)</p>	
14	The role of the Civil Society in attaining development and influencing democratic transition	Assessing status and realities of NGOs in Egypt; the scarcity of grassroots organizations; challenges in empowering civil society; the prospects of civil society post Arab Spring; reform intervention strategies for youth and civil society, new social movements	<p>Abdelrahman, Maha. 'The Politics of Uncivil Society in Egypt' in <i>Review of African Political Economy</i>, 2002, Vol. 29, No. 91, pp. 21-36</p> <p>Ben Nefissa, Sarah. 'Introduction: NGOs and Governance in The Arab World: A Question of Democracy' in Ben Nefissa, Sarah et. al. (ed). <u>NGOs And Governance in The Arab World</u>, American University in Cairo Press, 2005, pp. 1-19</p> <p>Kandiyoti, Deniz "Promise and Peril: Women and the 'Arab Spring'". Open Democracy. http://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/deniz-kandiyoti/promise-and-peril-women-and-%E2%80%99arab-spring%E2%80%99</p> <p>El Naggat, Mohamed "Human Rights Organisations and the Egyptian Revolution", <i>IDS Bulletin</i> Volume 43 Number 1 January 2012</p> <p>Activity: Guest Speaker or site visit TBD</p>	Readings/ Presentations Final paper due
15	Discussion: the future in light of the recent past		Review of semester and handing back of papers	
16	Reflection Week Activity			