Instructor: Professor Elizabeth Nugent  
Email: elizabeth.nugent@yale.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursday 1-3pm, sign up on Calendly here  
Class Meetings: Session A, June 7-July 9, 2021, Tuesday and Thursdays 10-11:30am EST

Course Description

This course provides an overview of politics of the contemporary Middle East through the lens of the 2010-2011 ‘Arab Spring’ uprisings. We interrogate the main debates surrounding the democratic deficit in the region to understand whether recent developments mark change or continuity. We explore the ways in which a variety of factors -- including foreign intervention, oil, and religion, among others -- has contributed to persistent authoritarianism in the Middle East. We will consider a number of different aspects of domestic politics, including redistribution, gender politics, political mobilization, and public opinion. The course materials combine on academic and popular writing, documentaries, and pre-recorded lectures in a podcast form with synchronous seminar discussions.

Course Policies

Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected in all seminars. You will be deducted 2 points from your participation grade (total 20 points) for each unexcused absence. Please communicate absences ahead of class when possible.

E-mail Policy

If you have a quick (i.e. non-substantive) question, email is the best way to contact me. While I typically respond to emails quickly, please allow 48 hours for a response. If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, follow up with a reminder. This article is recommended reading about how to draft an effective email: Laura Portwood-Stacer, “How to Email Your Professor (without being annoying AF).”

If you email me or your teaching fellow the night before a deadline with a last minute request, please do not expect a response. It is important that you look at the assignments early to ensure we can answer any questions you may have in a timeframe that is useful to you. Longer questions -- for example, those dealing with your performance in the course or substantive questions about the course material -- are better asked in person. I will hold regular office hours TBD throughout the summer session, and appointments can also be made on an individual basis.

Policies on Incomplete Grades and Late Assignments
For every day a written assignment is late, you will lose 2 points out of the total points available. Familiarize yourself with Yale University's policy on incomplete grades.

Academic Integrity

Familiarize yourself with Yale University's policy on academic integrity. In short, don't turn in the same paper for two classes, don't plagiarize someone else's work, and don't cheat on the in-class exam or other assignments. When in doubt, come talk to me. To ensure that you do not accidentally violate Yale's academic honesty policies, please review Yale University’s Definitions of Plagiarism, Cheating, and Documentation of Sources.

Commitment to Diversity

Your experience in this class is very important to me. If you have already established accommodations with the Resource Office on Disabilities, please communicate those to me as early as possible so we can discuss your needs in this course. If you have not yet established services through ROD, but have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations (conditions include but are not limited to: mental health, attention-related, learning, vision, hearing, physical or health impacts), please contact ROD. ROD offers resources and coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities and/or temporary health conditions. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, me, and the ROD.

Commitment to an Inclusive Learning Environment

Yale University adheres to the philosophy that all community members should enjoy an environment free of any harassment, sexual misconduct, discrimination, or violence. If you encounter sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability please contact the Title IX Coordinator, Stephanie Spangler, or any of the University Title IX Coordinators. You may also report an incident to me. I am required to notify the Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident, though you may choose to request confidentiality from the University.

Teaching Fellow

Dana Stuster will serve as the teaching fellow for the course. You can contact him at dana.stuster@yale.edu.
Course Format, Requirements, and Grading

The course is split evenly between materials required to listen, view, and read on your own, and weekly seminars. We will meet for a total of 3 hours, in two 90 minute sessions, twice per week.

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- **20 points** of your grade will be determined by attendance and participation
  
The class will be taught as a seminar and revolves around class discussion. The quality of a seminar hinges on the quality of class discussion. Regular attendance and participation are important for understanding the material and for getting the most out of this course. Students are expected to come to class having completed all assigned listening, viewing, and reading, and be prepared to talk about them in depth. This may require you to prepare notes in order to remember important aspects of the readings.

- **40 points** of your grade will be determined by weekly reading quizzes
  
  Each reading quiz will consist of 8 questions touching on the material covered in class and in assigned listening, viewing, and reading over the previous week. You will have one half hour to complete the quiz between 9am and 2pm on Fridays. The quiz is open note but do not use the internet or speak to anyone else about the content.

- **40 points** of your grade will be determined by two reading responses
  
  Each reading response will count for 20 points. The response should be 5-7 pages double-spaced, using 12 point font, and should address all material (listening, viewing, reading) from one week of the syllabus. The response should quickly summarize the material and then move into analysis. Each paper should make an argument about how these materials help us to understand divergent outcomes in the Arab Spring, and where the materials fall short. The choice of which week’s material you will analyze is up to you. However, one is due at the midterm (weeks 1, 2, or 3), and a second is due at the final (weeks 4 or 5).

Book to Purchase

Please purchase *The Middle East* edited by Ellen Lust (15th edition, Sage, 2019). The book is available in electronic and paper form through Yale Bookstore and online retailers. All other readings are available online and linked through Canvas.
Week 1. Overview of the Course and the Arab Spring

1. **Introduction**

   **Listen**
   Lecture #1

   **Read**
   Chapter 1 of Lust, “The Making of the Modern Middle East” (pages 3-62).

2. **Overview of the Arab Spring**

   **Listen**
   Lecture #2
   Lecture #3

   **Read**
   Jason Brownlee, Tarek E. Masoud, and Andrew Reynolds, *The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform*.
   - Required: Chapter 3: “Breakdowns and Crackdowns”
   - Recommended: Chapter 4: “Post-Breakdown Trajectories”

   **Watch**
   “Karama Has No Walls” (26 minutes); Yemen

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Quiz #1 posted at 9am June 11, due by 2pm June 11
Week 2. Political Regimes and Institutions

3. **Regime Types**

**Listen**
Lecture #4

**Read**
Chapter 3 of Lust, “States and Institutions” (133-168).


4. **Political Institutions: Elections, Courts, and Coercion**

**Watch**
“Tunisia, Year Zero” (52 minutes)

**Read**


*Quiz #2* posted at 9am June 18, due by 2pm June 18
Week 3. Participation in Non-Democracies and Religion & Politics

5. Participation in Non-Democracies

Listen
Lecture #5

Read

6. Religion

Listen
Lecture #6

Watch
“The Judge” (1 hr 22 mins); Palestine

Read
Chapter 4 of Lust, “Religion, Society, and Politics in the Middle East” (169-200).

First Reading Response Due June 24
Quiz #3 posted at 9am June 25, due by 2pm June 25
Week 4. Gender and Political Economy in the Middle East

7. Gender

Listen
Lecture #8

Read
Chapter 6 of Lust, “Social Change in the Middle East” (233-268).


Watch two short videos:
“Tunisia: Keeping the Promise.” Available [here](#) (5 minutes)

“Egypt: Life’s Sentence.” Available [here](#) (5 minutes)

8. Political Economy

Listen
Lecture #6

Read
Chapter 7 of Lust, “The Political Economy of Development in the Middle East” (269-306).


Quiz #4 posted at 9am July 2, due by 2pm July 2
Week 5. Foreign Influence and Conclusion

9. Foreign Influence on Domestic Politics

Listen
Lecture #9

Read
Chapter 8 of Lust, “International Relations” (307-338).


Watch
For Sama (1 hr 40 minutes)

10. Explaining Divergent Outcomes in the Arab Spring

Listen
Lecture #10

Read


Second Reading Response Due July 8
Quiz #5: posted at TBD, due by TBD