INTL 423/523
Development and the Muslim World

Professor: Angela Joya, ajoya@uoregon.edu
Class Meeting Time and Location: Mon/Wed 2:00-3:50
Office Hours: Mon/Wed: 4:00-5:00 and by appointment (347 PLC)

Course Description:

This course critically examines processes of development in the most contested part of the Muslim World, i.e. the Middle East and North Africa. In the first section, we examine the problems of defining the ‘Muslim World’ and assessing the role that Islam plays in the region’s social, economic and political development. It should be noted that no two Muslim countries are the same. Therefore, emphasis will be placed on the problem of ‘essentializing’ the Muslim world at the expense of appreciating the specific histories, struggles, cultures and languages that constitute the various countries that make up the countries that fall within what is identified broadly as the Muslim world. Section two surveys the impact of colonialism, imperialism and modern state formation on the development the Middle East and North Africa in the modern period. In section three, we examine specific cases of national development by looking at state building, nationalism, the role of Political Islam, the creation of Islamic institutions, and the various economic development models adopted in different Muslim countries. Finally, section four examines specific areas of development such as unemployment and poverty, child labour, food insecurity, poverty and women’s rights.

A critical examination of these themes will be organized around a number of broad questions: How has development been defined and why does it remain contested? What are the alternatives and what do these mean for a new development project? What is the role of geopolitics in shaping developments in the Muslim World? How can the Muslim world reconcile the goals of social justice and meaningful human development while embracing a capitalist system?

The course concludes with an examination of the complexities that define different Muslim countries and the commonalities they increasingly share in the context of globalization. We will also examine the alternative models of development and assess their relevance in dealing with the social problems that affect the daily lives of citizens in Muslim countries.

By the end of this course students will:

- Develop a historical understanding of how various societies in the Muslim world have emerged as a result of historical processes such as colonialism, imperialism and nationalism.
- Become familiar with theoretical explanations of countries in the Muslim World have not replicated the western model of ‘development’
- Be able to identify a number of socioeconomic problems that the case study countries grapple with such as poverty, unemployment, women’s rights, food security.
- Acquire knowledge of alternative models of development espoused in the countries under study and the tools of such development such as Islamic Finance.
➢ Develop written skills by examining the developmental models in a specific ‘Muslim’ country through their assignment of a Country Case Study.

Class Organization:

Students will meet twice weekly on Monday and Wednesday from 2:00-3:50. In the first part of class, you will have a 30-minute lecture that will introduce you to the reading materials of the week. The remainder of the class will be conducted as a seminar with the expectation that all of you do the required readings and fully participate in class discussions. This second part will take the form of group and class discussions. You are encouraged to read a newspaper from the case study countries and share relevant news items pertaining to the topic of the class with others.

Assessment

I. Class Participation: 20%

II. Country Case Study: 40% (Mid-Term Report: 10%, Due April 29th, 2015); (Essay: 30%, Due June 3rd, 2015).

III. One Group Presentation and written portfolio to be submitted: 20%

IV. Mid-Term Exam: 20% (Mid-Term Exam Period)

Useful Online Media Sources

Here is a list of media sources for the Muslim World that you can visit to find out about current events:
Tehran Times (Iran)
Al-Ahram Weekly (Egypt)
The Gulf News (GCC)
MERIP Reports (Middle East and North Africa)
Zaman Online (Turkey)
Middle East News Internet Press Directory (A resource that includes print, audio and video resources from throughout the Middle East)
Middle East Resources (compiled by the Middle East section of the American Anthropological Association)

Reading:

- All the reading materials (book chapters, journal articles, international reports) will be made available on BlackBoard or you will be provided the links to them. A number of books that are frequently used will be ordered at the Duck store for purchase.
- Where relevant and to learn why themes such as poverty, women and girls’ rights, food security have been identified as challenges by the United Nations, we will be referring to the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml
- We will be referring to the UN Human Development Report (2013) for various countries under study here so be sure to familiarize yourself with the report. The
Course Outline

I. Introduction: Development Theory and the Islamic World

Week 1: Conceptualizing Development and Underdevelopment in the Muslim World

Recommended:

Week 2: Explaining ‘Underdevelopment’ in the Muslim World

Recommended:

II. Colonialism, Imperialism and the emergence of Modern States in the Muslim World:
   (State building, nationalism, Political Islam, Economic Liberalization, crisis of the state)

Week 3. The Middle East and North Africa

April 8: Guest Lecture: Prof. Joel Beinin, Stanford University

**Recommended:**

**Week 4.1. Tunisia: From French Colonialism to Poster Child for Free Market**
  [http://www.international.ucla.edu/cnes/podcast/121290](http://www.international.ucla.edu/cnes/podcast/121290)

**Recommended:**

**Week 4.2. Syrian Arab Republic**

**Recommended:**
- Angela Joya, ‘Syria’s Transition: From Centralization of the State to Market Economy’, *Research in Political Economy*, 2007 (available on: [https://uoregon.academia.edu/AngelaJoya](https://uoregon.academia.edu/AngelaJoya))

**Week 5.1. Egypt: British Colonialism, Nationalism and Independence**

**Recommended:**
Week 5. 2. Algeria: French Colonialism, Independence and Islamism

Recommended:

Week 6. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): The Making of Regional Economic Powers
  o Adam Hanieh, *Capitalism and Class in the Gulf Arab States*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2011, (ch. 2 why Islamic Finance is so appealing to the GCC).

Recommended:

Week 7.1 Nationalism and State Building in Turkey

Recommended:
Week 7.2 Iran: From Monarchy to Islamic Revolution

Recommended:
  o Evaleila Pesaran, Iran’s Struggle for Economic Independence: Reform and Counter-Reform in Post-Revolutionary Era, Routledge, 2011(chs. 3-4).

III. Areas of Developments

Week 8.1. Land Reform and Rural Problems (Food Insecurity)

Recommended:

Week 8.2. Unemployment and Poverty

Week 9.1. Women’s Rights (May 22)

**Recommended:**

**Week 9.2 The Environment: Documentaries on Tunisia**
- Sam McNeil, *A Siege of Salt and Sand*, 2014 discussion: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxwnQfVXtLE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxwnQfVXtLE) (Sam McNeil)
- Habib Ayeb, *Gabes Labess*, (Documentary, 2014)

**V. Conclusion (May 29, June 3)**

**Week 10.1. Globalization, Islam and Identity**

**Recommended:**

**Week 10.2. The War on Terror, Globalization and Human Development in the Muslim World**
- Lockman, ch. 7 (After Orientalism).

**Recommended:**
- Arab Human Development Reports, 2002-2009