

REC 6420

Regional Governance and Political Economy in the Middle East

Lecturer: SAKURAI, Hideko

Winter 2014

This course mainly focuses on the politics and economy in the Middle East. There is, however, no simple explanation of the political-economy in the region, because the factors such as socio-cultural, historical and external have also shaped the landscape of the political economy. In the modern history in the Middle East, it is no exaggeration to say that the regional governance has been always under the influence of the external powers or even in their hands. Therefore, the objectives of this course are to understand the major issues of political economy in the Middle East without prejudice and misunderstandings, and to learn the interdisciplinary methodology to understand the difficulties and dilemma which those countries are commonly facing.

Class outline: Lecture topics

- (1) Introduction: Class outline and scheme to analyze the issues of political economy in the M.E.
- (2) Historical background of the Arab spring
- (3) Political and economic background of the Arab spring
- (4) Discussion on the topics (2) & (3)
- (5) The Middle East in the Media
- (6) Media control and discussion on the topics (5)&(6)
- (7) Policies of "Divide & Rule" and "Double Standard"
- (8) Israel, Palestine, and the other Middle Eastern countries
- (9) Islamic movements in the Middle East in the 20th and 21st century
- (10) Discussion on the topics (7)-(9)
- (11) From Iranian revolution to the present
- (12) Nuclear issue in the Middle East
- (13) Neo-liberal economic policies
- (14) Economy of "War on Terrorism"
- (15) Discussion on the topics (11)-(14)
- (16) World's oil demand, external economic interest and the interference in the region
- (17) Oil-dependent economy and a change to diversification
- (18) The trend of Islamic Financial Market
- (19) Its impact on the global financial market
- (20) Review and discussion

Assessment

Regular attendance and active participation in class 30%

Term Paper 70%

References

Ansary, Tamim, *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic eyes*, Public Affairs, 2009.

Binder, Leonard. *Rebuilding Devastated Economies in the Middle East*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Chomsky, Noam, *Power Systems: Conversations on Global Democratic Uprisings and the New Challenges to U.S. Empire*, Metropolitan Books, 2013.

Citino, Nathan J. *From Arab Nationalism to OPEC*. Indiana University Press, 2002.

Dabashi, Hamid, *The Arab Spring: The end of post-colonialism*, Zed books, 2012.

Dobler, Constanze, *The Impact of Formal and Informal Institutions on Economic Growth: A case study on the MENA region*, Lang, 2011.

Euben, Roxanne L. *Enemy in the Mirror: Islamic Fundamentalism and the limits of Modern Rationalism*, Princeton University Press, 1999.

Henry, Clement M and Robert Springborg, *Globalization and the Politics of Development in the Middle East*, Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Klein, Naomi, *The Shock Doctrine: The rise of disaster capitalism*, Picador, 2007.

Richard, Alan and John Waterbury, *Political Economy of the Middle East*, Westview, 2007.