MEDITERRANEAN POLITICS
Mediterranean Studies

Course contact hours: 45
Recommended credits: 6 ECTS – 3 US

OBJECTIVES

This course explores issues of development, the state, and democracy within the Mediterranean region with special attention to Southern Europe, North Africa, and Turkey (from a comparative perspective). In this exploration we will pay attention to issues of Modernity and its significance and connection to development, the state, and democracy. The religion-politics duality is of essence throughout the semester. A cultural component (films, related to Mediterranean political issues) will also form part of this course.

REQUIREMENTS

Fluent in English
No background knowledge is required for this course.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Become familiar with Mediterranean political issues.
- Conceptualize modernity, development, democracy, the state, and globalisation.
- Identify and differentiate different types of secularism, and understand their economic, political, and societal repercussions.
- Familiarize (and apply) the comparative method.
- Identify (and differentiate) the dependent and independent variables of an argument.
- Be adept at elaborating written arguments making use of an essay format.
- Be adept at elaborating oral arguments grounded on analytical frameworks and making use of empirical reality to sustain (and verify) arguments.

CONTENTS

Week	Contents	Exercises*
1	Introduction and Mediterranean Context	Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
2	The Case of Israel	In-class guided questions #1 & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
3	Guest Lecture#1	Guest Lecture and In-class Guide Questions#2
4	The case of Turkey	In-class essay on Guest Lecture#1 intervention & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
5	Quiz#1	In-class Guide Questions#3 & Quiz#1
6	In-class film	In-class film and post-quiz #1 review
7	Arab Democratization?	In-class essay on film & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
8	Muslim-Secular State?	In-class Guide Questions#4 & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
9	Quiz#2	In-class Guide Questions#5 & Quiz#2
10	Guest Lecture#2	Guest Lecture#2 & post-Quiz#2 review
11	French Laïcité?	In-class essay on Guest Lecture#2 intervention & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion video to introduce discussion
12	The Balkans & the Nation-State	In-class Guide Questions#6 & Discussion guided by instructor; brief video to introduce discussion
13	In-class Guide Questions	In-class Guide Questions#7
14	Quiz#3	Quiz#3 & post-Quiz#3

* Subject to change.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course is HEAVILY based on assigned readings and class discussion. There is going to be very little lecture from my part. Students will be responsible for completing the reading assignments for each day of class, participate in class by answering questions posed by the instructor, by raising questions or comments regarding the course's readings, and/or reacting to questions/comments raised by other classmates. In general, students are responsible for ALL the information sources used in this course. Regarding attendance, the instructor will call the same one at the beginning of each class meeting. You are expected to be in class and responsible for everything discussed in class.

Student's evaluation is based on: daily class attendance/participation, three quizzes, three essays, and seven in-class exercises. Below I include a general description of each of the mentioned student's evaluations for this course. Nevertheless, I shall provide a more detailed explanatory document for each of these evaluations as the semester progresses.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In-class Guide Questions' Exercises: 15%
Essays: 30%
Quizzes: 45%
Attendance/Participation: 10%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required reading:

An-Na ' im, Abdullahi Ahmed (2008). Ch. 1 "Introduction: Why Muslims Need a Secular State," {pp. 1-44} in Islam and the Secular State: Negotiating the Future of Shari 'a. Harvard University Press.

Barras, Amélia (2013). "Sacred Laïcité and the Politics of Religious Resurgence in France: Wither Religious Pluralism?," pp. 276-293, in Mediterranean Politics, volume 18, issue 2 (July).

Guy Ben-Porat (2013). "Are We There Yet? Religion, Secularization and Liberal Democracy in Israel," Mediterranean Politics, volume 18, issue 2 (July), pp. 242-258.

Larry Diamond (January 2010). "Why Are There No Arab Democracies?," pp. 93-104, in Journal of Democracy Volume 21, Number 1.

Jeffery Haynes (2013). "The 'Arab Uprising', Islamists and Democratization," Mediterranean Politics, volume 18, issue 2 (July), pp. 170-188.

Jeffery Haynes & Guy Ben-Porat (2013). "Religion, Secularization and Democracy in the Mediterranean Region: Problems and Prospects," Mediterranean Politics, volume 18, issue 2 (July), pp. 153-169.

E. Fuat Keyman and Ziya Onis (2007). "Articulating Citizenship and Identity: The Kurdish Question," {pp. 291-318} in Turkish Politics in a Changing World: Global Dynamics and Domestic Transformations. Istanbul Bilgi University Press.

Mazower, Mark (2000). "Introduction: Names," {pp. xxv-xliii} and Ch. 4, "Bulding the Nation-State," {pp. 113-143} in The Balkans: A Short History. New York: The Modern Library.

Recommended reading:

Abulafia, David (2003). "Introduction: What is the Mediterranean?" and "A globalized Mediterranean: 1900-200" in The Mediterranean in History, pp. 11-31 & 283-312.

Amin, Samir (2010). Eurocentrism: Modernity, Religion, and Democracy. A Critique of Eurocentrism and Culturalism. Monthly Review Press.

Barany, Zoltan (October 2011). "Comparing the Arab Revolts: The Role of the Military," in Journal of Democracy.

Behr, Timo(2012). "Talking about the Revolution: Narratives on the Origin and Future of the Arab Spring," EUROMESCO, February.

Brumberg, Daniel (October 2002). "Democratization in the Arab World? The Trap of Liberalized". Journal of Democracy.
Cofman Wittes, Tamara (July 2008). "Islamist Parties and Democracy: Three Kinds of Movements," in Journal of Democracy.

Diamond, Jared (1997). Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies. Norton and Company.

Diamond, Larry (January 2010). "Why Are There No Arab Democracies?," in Journal of Democracy.

Keyman, E. Fuat and Ziya Onis (2007). Turkish Politics in a Changing World: Global Dynamics and Domestic Transformations. Istanbul Bilgi University Press.

KÖSEBALABAN, Hasan (2011) "Turkey and the New Middle East: Between Liberalism and
Realism", PERCEPTIONS, Autumn, Volume XVI, Number 3, pp. 93-114.

Le Goff, Jacques (2007). The Birth of Europe. "The Autumn of the Middles Ages or the Spring of a New Age?", pp. 154-201.

Marx, Karl (1977). "On the Jewish Question," Karl Marx: Selected Readings. Oxford University Press.

Nasr, Vali (April 2005), "The Rise of "Muslim Democracy"," in Journal of Democracy.

Öniş, Ziya (2009) "Conservative Globalism at the Crossroads: The Justice and Development Party and the Thorny Path to Democratic Consolidation in Turkey," Mediterranean Politics, Vol. 14, Iss. 1.

powell, john a. (2012). Racing to Justice. Indiana University Press.

Rifkin, Jeremy (2010). The Empathic Civilization. Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc.

Rousseau, Jean-Jacques (1997). "Civil Religion," The Social Contract and Discourses. Everyman.

Sen, Amartya (1999). Development as Freedom. New York: Anchor Books.

Unger, Roberto Mangabeira (1998). Democracy Realized: A Progressive Alternative. Verso.

Wendt, Alexander (1999), Social Theory in International Politics. Cambridge University Press.

Wendt, Alexander (2006) "'Social Theory' as Cartesian Science: An Auto-Critique from a Quantum Perspective." In Constructivism and International Relation', edited by Stefano Guzzini and Anna Leander. London: Routledge.

Alexander Wendt (2015). "Preface to a quantum social science", in Quantum mind and social science: unifying physical and social ontology, pp. 1-37. Cambridge University Press.