

# PSCI 490: Globalization and the Middle East

Spring, 2013

Tuesday and Thursday 1:30pm-4:30pm  
BSIA Rm 132

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**Instructor:** Dr. B. Momani

**Class Email:** [uwpsci490@gmail.com](mailto:uwpsci490@gmail.com) for drop-off of essays only

**Office Hours:** Hagey Hall 302, 12-1pm Wednesdays

**Contact Policy:** *Please try to see me in the class or in office hours to talk, let's not use email*

## **Course Description:**

The purpose of this **six week intensive course** is to examine the phenomena of globalization in the Middle East. We will study **2 books** that examine the political, social, cultural, and religious complexities sweeping across the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region. While the region has often been examined through security lenses in post 9/11 context, political, social, and cultural liberalization in the Middle East can be increasingly overlooked.

## **Course Objectives:**

By the end of this course students shall have a better understanding of:

- Contemporary events that are unfolding in the modern Arab World;
- The cultural and societal roots of the 'Arab Spring';
- Political, social, and religious complexities of the Arab World;
- To encourage debate and critical reflection on the current events in the Arab World

**Pre-Requisites:** Level at least 4A

## Notices:

### Academic Integrity:

**Academic Integrity:** In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, [Student Discipline http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71).

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [Student Petitions http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70).

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, [Student Appeals http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72](http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72).

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):** [Academic Integrity http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic\\_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):** [Academic Integrity http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/)

### Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

**Note for students with disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic

accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

### **Course Text (Required):**

- 1) Marc Lynch, *The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East*. Public Affairs, 2012.
- 2) Shereen El Feki, *Sex and the Citadel: Intimate Life in a Changing Arab World*. Doubleday Canada, 2013.

### **Course Guidelines:**

It is expected that you have read the course readings prior to the week's lectures. Note that lectures will not repeat the readings, but rather complement them. If you have questions regarding the readings, please address them during my office hours. If you miss a class, it is recommended that you borrow notes from a fellow student. Do not email for any absences.

### **Course Evaluation:**

#### Due Date

1 Oral Presentation	20%	Sign Up Sheet in Class
Participation in Class Discussion	20%	
2 Reaction Papers	2 x 30% = 60%	Due Fridays by 10pm, at <a href="mailto:uwpsci490@gmail.com">uwpsci490@gmail.com</a> .
	<b>First Reaction Paper Due:</b>	Friday May 24
	<b>Second Reaction Paper Due:</b>	Friday June 21

### Oral Presentations

Each student is required to review one of the assigned chapters in alternate weeks. Each presentation should be approximately 20 minutes. The presentation must be well researched, structured, and contribute to the knowledge of the class and generate interesting discussion afterwards (another 10 minutes or so). The sign up sheet will be available in class (please do not email me your requests). The purpose of the presentation is to critically examine the readings. Assume the class has read the articles, but what is the big picture of the readings? What are we to learn from the readings? What is missing? What is the political dimension that is perhaps ignored or overlooked? Who are the political stakeholders, locally, regional, and international?

## Participation

This grade is based on attendance, participation in-class question and answer sessions, paying attention to your colleagues who are presenting, and general classroom manner.

Note: participation grades cannot be made-up due to missed classes, regardless of the reason (Illness, interviews, etc). If you are not there, then you did not participate. That said, after the first class, one missed class will be a 'freebie'. Please do not email me your reasons for simple absences. You will be rewarded for both physical attendance of the class and intellectual "attendance" in the class.

## Reaction Papers

You will produce two reaction papers - each to be three pages, single-spaced and worth 20% of your final grade - on the three books. This may take the form of commentary, questions, agreements, disagreements, and points of discussion. Please note that reaction papers are not about providing a summary of the books. They are to help you recognize your own interests in and questions about the course material and to help direct class discussions toward issues that are of interest to the class or questions that need to be more fully explored in class. Try not to make your comments too specific, be sure to try to link your ideas to the broader themes being addressed. These reaction papers are not research papers - there is no need to consult any sources beyond the required readings assigned.

Reaction papers are due on **Fridays May 24 and June 21** by email at [uwpsci490@gmail.com](mailto:uwpsci490@gmail.com) and are based on each of the books. In other words, you are to turn in three reaction papers in total. Your mark will be zero if you do not turn in your paper on time. No exceptions, so please do not ask.

## ***Course Outline and Assigned Readings:***

### **Week 1:**

**May 7<sup>th</sup>:** Course outline, goals, and expectations.

Globalization and the Middle East: What is globalization? Myths, realities, challenges

**May 9<sup>th</sup>:** The Arab Uprising

**Readings:** Lynch, Introduction.

### **Week 2:**

**May 14<sup>th</sup>:** Building Toward Revolution

**Readings:** Lynch, Chapters 1-3.

**May 16<sup>th</sup>:** The Empire Strikes Back- a counter revolution  
**Guest Speaker:** 2pm Marc Lynch over Skype  
**Readings:** Lynch, Chapters 4-6.

**Week 3:**

**May 21<sup>st</sup>:** Geopolitical implications of the Arab Spring  
**Guest Speaker:** H.E. Babali, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to Canada  
**Readings:** Lynch, Chapters 7-8

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>:** The Arab Spring uncontained  
**Readings:** Lynch Conclusion

**Week 4:**

**May 28<sup>th</sup>:** Film: *Yacoubian Building* (2006) [Film](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3CMV6Q8Oe4)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3CMV6Q8Oe4>  
**Readings:** El Feki, Introduction

**May 30<sup>th</sup>:** Culture and the Arab Spring  
**Readings:** El Feki, Chapters 1

**Week 5:**

**June 4<sup>th</sup>:** Intimate Life in the Arab World  
**Readings:** El Feki, Chapters 2-3

**June 6<sup>th</sup>:** Women in the Middle East  
**Readings:** El Feki Chapters 4-5

**Week 6:**

**June 11<sup>th</sup>:** Daring to be Different  
**Readings:** El Feki Chapters 6-7

**June 13<sup>th</sup>:** \*NO CLASS\*

**Week 7 Conclusions:**

**June 20<sup>th</sup>:** The Future of the Middle East  
**Readings:** Dr. Shreen El Feki, via Skype.