



Course Syllabus
Department of Economics
ECON 343 Economy of the Middle East
Spring 2019

Instructor: Heiko Schuss
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Office/Phone:
Office Hours: Tuesday, 14:00-16:00

Course days and hours: Tuesday, 17:10-20:00

Location: B 201

Course Credit: 4

Prerequisites: Non

Course Description:

This course covers an introduction to the economies of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Students will learn about the methods of regional economics and about the economic history, the economic institutions, the resources and the economic culture which are characteristic for the individual MENA countries and for groups of these countries. One focus of the course will be the theory of the Rentier State. The knowledge about how these different factors influence each other enables students to understand the economic development in the region and what to take into consideration when making business in or with MENA partners.

Resources:

Wilson, Rodney: Economic Development in the Middle East, 2nd ed., Abingdon, Oxon 2013.

Noland, Marcus; Pack, Howard: Arab Economies in a Changing World, Peterson Institute Press, 2007.

Proposed additional readings will given to the students during the semester.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will:

- be introduced to some basic developments of the economic history of the Middle East,
- be introduced to the different institutional settings of the Middle East,
- get to know the economic resources of the Middle East,
- be able to analyse in case studies individual MENA countries,
- be able to analyse structural reform and economic liberalization programmes with respect to MENA countries
- participate in group projects, oral presentations and debates.

Teaching Methodology:

Learners will be provided with as much opportunities of hands-on practice as possible with the aim of striking a balance between learner-centeredness and sufficient guidance. Various forms of interaction (i.e. pair work and group work) will also be encouraged to cater for learners with different learning styles. Additionally, individuals will be expected to produce both in-class writings and homework assignments in addition to

the reading tasks, which will encourage them to reflect and think critically. Technology will also be incorporated into the classroom procedures in order to create a better learning environment.

Grade Distribution: *Final grades are based on the following*

<u>Evaluation Criteria</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Midterm	25%
Project and Presentation	20%
Final Exam	40%
Homework	10%
Active Attendance	5%
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	Total: 100

Project:

Students will make an economic case study about a country of the Middle East and North Africa of their choice. In week two of the course, students will form groups of two students and choose a country for the case study. For this country they will analyze the natural resources, the economic institutions and their historical background, and the economic culture of the country. As a result they will evaluate the economic chances and risks of this country. Students will present these results in week 15 or earlier of the course.

Course Policies:

- For the AGU Make-up policy, please refer to the website <https://goo.gl/HbPM2y> section 26.
- Please, no eating in class
- English should be used at all times to communicate with one another during instruction hours.
- Please, respect the allotted times provided for breaks.
- Cell phones must be turned off and put away during class. Personal computers are only to be used during in-class lab times and only for class assignments. Unless it is part of the lecture time activity assigned by the instructor, do not use the computer. When using the computer do not surf on the web or write personal emails, etc. Consequences include but are not limited to loss of participation points, extra assignments, and/or being asked to leave the classroom.
- Please, bring the required materials, including textbooks and notebooks.
- Please be prepared, having read, written and studied the assigned lessons, articles, or passages;
- Please be ready to write assignments in class that will be graded; and most importantly work cooperatively with other students.

Attendance Policy:

- Be in the class on time (being late for class is an extreme annoyance to the entire class).
- Class attendance is strongly recommended and will count toward your participation grade. Regular class time will include informal assessment activities for which points will be assigned. Participation in these activities will help you prepare for exams and homework and also provide me with feedback on your progress.
- Minimum attendance is 70%.

- For a detailed description of AGU attendance policy, please refer to the website at <https://goo.gl/HbPM2y> section 25.

Email Policy:

When contacting the instructor or the course assistant, please use the Canvas email feature. Only use my heiko.schuss@agu.edu.tr if Canvas is not accessible (server down, etc). Include in the subject line the class. If this information is not included, your email may not be answered. Any announcements or warnings will be send to your AGU e-mail. Therefore it is the responsibility of every student to read his/her AGU e-mails and CANVAS emails regularly. AGU webmail can be accessed through <https://mail.agu.edu.tr>

Cheating & Plagiarism:

You are responsible for knowing the University policies on cheating and plagiarism. Not giving credit to a person for their intellectual work and passing it off as your own is stealing.

Specifically:

- 1) Copying or allowing someone to copy your work on an exam, homework, or in class assignment is cheating.
- 2) Cutting and pasting material from the web or any other electronic source is plagiarism.
- 3) Copying and turning in the same assignment as someone else, from this class or from another class, is cheating. Unless explicitly told otherwise, you can discuss and problem- solve on homework together but the final product has to be your own – not just your own handwriting but your own way of explaining and organizing your ideas.
- 4) Making superficial changes (minor additions, deletions, word changes, tense changes, etc) to material obtained from another person, the web, a book, magazine, song, etc. and not citing the work, is plagiarism. The idea is the intellectual property, not the specific format in which it appears (e.g., you wouldn't reword Einstein's theory of relativity and imply that relativity was your own idea, would you?)
- 5) If you find material and it is exactly what you are trying to say, or you want to discuss someone's idea, give the person credit and cite it appropriately. Don't overuse citations and quotes: instructors want to know how you think and reason, not how some one else does.

If you have any questions or concerns about whether your behavior could be interpreted as plagiarism, please ask the assistants or me before you submit the work.

For a detailed description of AGU policies, please refer to the website at <https://goo.gl/FjLhzH>

Disclaimer:

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to change. These will be notified by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted, once the course resumes, on Canvas. This syllabus can be altered at any point by the instructor. This may include extra readings that will be provided and discussions, film screenings, site visits and alterations in class/home assignments. Any such changes in this course will be posted immediately on Canvas and course web page. Please check Canvas before each class.

Course Outline:

Week	Date	Topic	Description, Assignments and Readings
1st	Feb 04-08	Introduction: Defining the Region and the Methods used in Regional Economics	Noland/Pack, chap. 1; Wilson, chap.1 and 2.
2nd	Feb 11-15	History - Classical Islamic Period, Colonialism, and Imperialism	The names of texts for studying will be provided within the course.
3rd	Feb 18-22	History – Arab Socialism and Conservative Monarchies	The names of texts for studying will be provided within the course.
4th	Feb 25- March 01	Oil, Gas, Minerals and Development	Wilson, chap. 7.
5th	March 04-08	Institutions and Economic Policy: The Rentier State	The names of texts for studying will be provided within the course.
6th	March 11-15	LFW	Project Preparation
7th	March 18-22	Growth and Structural Change + <i>Mid Term Exam Week</i>	Wilson, chap. 3.
8th	March 25-29	Population Growth and Employment	Wilson, chap. 4; Noland/Pack, chap. 4.
9th	April 01-05	Spring Break	
10th	April 08-12	Capital Markets, Savings, and Investments	Wilson, chap. 5.
11th	April 15-19	International and Intra-regional Trade	Wilson, chap. 8.
12th	April 22-26	Institutions and Economic Policy: Economic Liberalization, Structural Reforms and the Arab Spring	Noland/Pack, chap. 6, 8, 10.
13th	April 29- May 03	Economic Culture(s) of the Middle East and North Africa	Noland/Pack, chap. 7.
14th	May 06-10	Islamic Models of Economic Development	Wilson, chap. 6.
15th	May 13-17	Case Studies from the MENA region	Project Presentations
16th	May 20-30	Final Exams	Final Exams