

**Oberlin College**  
**History Department and MENA Program**  
**Fall 2013**  
**Hist-471**  
**The Arab Spring: Revolution and State in MENA**

**Professor: Zeinab Abul-Magd**

M 2:30-4:20PM

Classroom: King 327

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After almost three years of their eruption, the events of the “Arab Spring” have become more controversial than cheerful and hopeful. They deposed authoritarian regimes and took down old autocrats, but brought about what many scholars today call the “Islamist Winter.” Islamist transnational groups and parties have dominated the political scene across the region and created new autocratic regimes, which only caused protests and turmoil to continue against new authoritarian ruling elites with religious ideologies.

The Arab Spring uprisings belong to a long history of revolutions and mass protests in the modern MENA states. This course investigates dynamics of rebellion and formation of post-revolutionary nation-states in the colonial and post-colonial history of MENA, until the present day. It focuses on states such as Egypt, Syria, Libya, Iran, Tunisia, and the Sudan, and how the recent uprisings in these states could be understood through their past. The course covers crucial themes in Middle Eastern revolutions such as the role of the military, ideologies, peaceful tactics of protests, Islamic movements and parties, economic transformations, use of social networks in youth mobilization, and much more. The course particularly follows the relation between revolution and state formation/change in the modern Middle East. In addition, from a global comparative perspective, it looks at old and new world revolutions and military coups, and attempts to locate Arab Spring within this larger context.

**Assignments:**

- (1) Class attendance and participation (25%)
- (2) Response Paper (3 pages) on readings of any week from week 2 to 6 (10%), hard copy due in beginning of class.
- (3) Midterm Essay (due Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 5pm), 5-6 pages, take home exam to answer a question that will be distributed beforehand (25%)
- (4) Leading class discussion, next half of semester (10%)
- (5) Research paper and presentation: on revolution and state in any MENA country of your choice (18-20 pages) (30%)

**Required Readings:**

Required:

- (1) Anouar Abdel-Malek, *Egypt: Military, Society, the army, regime, the left, and social change under Nasser*
- (2) Raymond Hinnebusch, *Syria: Revolution from Above*
- (3) Vanessa Martin, *Creating an Islamic State: Khomeini and the Making of a New Iran*
- (4) Dirk Vandewalle, *Libya since 1969: Qadhafi's Revolution Revisited* (2008)

Recommended:

- (5) James Gelvin, *The Arab Uprisings: What Everyone Needs to Know* (2012) (General Background read in first week)

Other journal articles available online and book chapters available on Blackboard.

**Important Note:** Course readings are subject of change due to the fluidity of events in the Middle East. Students will be informed about change in readings via e.mail and Blackboard announcements.

**Schedule of Classes**

<b>Week 1 Spt. 9</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	“Arab Spring” or “Islamist Winter”?
<b>Week 2 Sept. 16</b>	<b>Theoretical Definitions: Social Revolutions, Color Revolutions, and Military Coups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Theda Skocpol, “France, Russia, China: A Structural Analysis of Social Revolutions,” <i>Comparative Studies in Society and History</i>, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Apr., 1976), pp. 175-210 (<u>on Blackboard</u>)</li><li>- David Pion-Berlin, “Turkish Civil-Military Relations- A Latin American Comparison,” <i>Turkish Studies</i>, June 2011 (<u>on Blackboard</u>)</li><li>- Color and Flower revolutions <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/26/magazine/who-really-brought-down-milosevic.html">http://www.nytimes.com/2000/11/26/magazine/who-really-brought-down-milosevic.html</a> <a href="http://www.wsws.org/articles/2003/dec2003/geor-d05.shtml">http://www.wsws.org/articles/2003/dec2003/geor-d05.shtml</a> <a href="http://www.nytimes.com/cfr/international/20050301faessay_v84n2_karatnycky.html">http://www.nytimes.com/cfr/international/20050301faessay_v84n2_karatnycky.html</a> <a href="http://www.newsweek.com/2009/03/13/the-breadbasket-becomes-the-basket-case.html">http://www.newsweek.com/2009/03/13/the-breadbasket-becomes-the-basket-case.html</a></li></ul>

<b>Week 3 Sept. 23</b>	<b>Egypt (1): Anti-colonial Revolution or Military Coup?</b>	- Anouar Abdel-Malek, <i>Egypt: Military, Society, the Army, Regime, the left, and social change under Nasser</i> ( <u>On Blackboard</u> )
<b>Week 4 Sept. 30</b>	<b>Egypt (2): The 2011 Revolution, the Military, and the Islamists</b>	Zeinab Abul-Magd:  - “Occupying Tahrir,” <i>SAQ</i> ( <u>On Blackboard</u> ) - “Understanding SCAF,” <a href="http://www.aucegypt.edu/GAPP/CairoReview/Pages/articleDetails.aspx?aid=216">http://www.aucegypt.edu/GAPP/CairoReview/Pages/articleDetails.aspx?aid=216</a> - <a href="http://www.acus.org/users/zeinab-abul-magd/track">http://www.acus.org/users/zeinab-abul-magd/track</a>
<b>Week 5 October 7</b>	<b>Syria (1): The Ba’th Revolutions/Military Coup</b>	Raymond Hinnebusch, <i>Syria: Revolution from Above</i> ( <u>On Blackboard</u> )
<b>Week 6 October 14</b>	<b>Syria (2): An Ongoing Revolution</b>	Internal and International Actors in the Syrian Revolution <a href="http://carnegie-mec.org/specialprojects/?fa=list&amp;id=1218&amp;lang=en">http://carnegie-mec.org/specialprojects/?fa=list&amp;id=1218&amp;lang=en</a> <a href="http://syria.jadaliyya.com/">http://syria.jadaliyya.com/</a>
<b>Week 7 October 21</b>		ENJOY FALL BREAK!
<b>Week 8 October 28</b>	<b>Iran (1): Revolution and Islamic Republic, 1979</b>	Vanessa Martin, <i>Creating an Islamic State: Khomeini and the Making of a New Iran</i> , ch. 5 101-128, ch. 7, pp. 147-173
<b>Week 9 Nov. 4</b>	<b>Iran (2): Green Movement, 2009</b>	- <u>Kazem Alamdari</u> , “The Power Structure of the Islamic Republic of Iran: Transition from Populism to Clientelism, and Militarization of the Government,” <i>Third World Quarterly</i> , Vol. 26, No. 8 (2005), pp. 1285-1301 JSTOR, Stable URL: <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/4017715">http://www.jstor.org/stable/4017715</a>  - On recent conditions (TBA)

<b>Week 10</b> <b>Nov. 11</b>	<b>Sudan:</b> <b>Another Islamic Republic, 1989</b>	- Ibrahim Elnur, <i>Contested Sudan: The Political Economy of War and Reconstruction</i> ( <u>On Blackboard</u> )  - On recent protests (TBA)
<b>Week 11</b> <b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>Tunisia:</b> <b>A Revolution Turned Islamic</b>	- Christopher Alexander, <i>Tunisia: Stability and Reform in the Modern Maghreb</i> ( <u>On Blackboard</u> )  - On recent conditions ( <u>TBA</u> )
<b>Week 12</b> <b>Nov. 25</b>	<b>Libya (1):</b> <b>Qadhafi's Revolution</b>	Dirk Vandewalle, <i>Libya since 1969: Qadhafi's Revolution Revisited</i> ( <u>On Blackboard</u> )
<b>Week 13</b> <b>Dec. 2</b>	<b>Libya (2):</b> <b>An Aided Revolution</b>	February 17 <sup>th</sup> Revolution and recent conditions ( <u>TBA</u> )
<b>Week 14</b> <b>Dec. 9</b>		Conclusion+ final paper presentations