

State and “Stateness” in the Modern Middle East

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 15:00-16:00

Course Description

The seminar will begin with a discussion of the concept of “Stateness.” We will then move on to the era of reform in the Middle East of the 19th century when Western ideas of nationalism and the nation state penetrated the local discourse. It will also discuss the creation of the new states in the region in the wake of World War I and the decisive influence of the Western powers, Britain and France, in the delineation of the borders of these new states. The course will then discuss a variety of cases of states in which different types of sub-national and supra-national identities have affected the capacity of these states to evolve into stable entities over the long term. The course will conclude with a discussion of the “Arab Spring” as a consequence of the profound socio-economic crisis that has overtaken many Arab states and the proliferation of non-state actors like ISIS who have risen to challenge the existing state order.

Assessment

Participation 20%

Midterm Exam 15%

Final Exam 15%

Term Paper 50%

Required length of final seminar papers: 6,000-7,000 words

Required length of final referat papers: 3,000-3,500 words

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three unexcused absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements

Phones must be turned-off and stored while in class.