

**Syllabus**  
**ECON 358/658**  
**Economics of World Regions: The Arab World**

**Professor: John Willoughby**  
**Roper 106**

**Office Hours: Monday and Thursday, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm**

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**Textbook:** Alan Richards and John Waterbury, *A Political Economy of the Middle East*, third edition (Boulder, CO: Westview Press).

**Assignments:**

There will be five assignments for this course.

- A short essay using macroeconomic data to evaluate the recent economic trajectory of a country of the Arab World. **Due January 26.** (15% of your grade)
- A longer essay (chosen from four possible questions) on a political-economic topic of particular importance to the Arab World. **Due March 5.** (20% of your grade)
- A fifteen to twenty page research paper on a topic to be approved by the professor. **Topic submitted and approved by February 26. Complete first draft due on April 16. Final Paper due on April 27.** (35% of your grade)
- A final examination on **May 4.** (20% of your grade)
- Regular class attendance and participation. I will take attendance every day. If you miss more than 2 classes then your participation grade will be downgraded to a B. If you miss more than 4 classes, then your participation grade will be downgraded to a C. And so on. (10% of your grade)

**Class Schedule:**

Week 1: January 12 and 15:

Defining the Arab World and the Middle East.

A Brief Tutorial on Reading Macroeconomic Data and Measuring Economic Development

Readings: Handouts given out on January 12.

Week 2: January 22:

Conceptualizing Political Economic Change in the Arab World

Readings: Richards and Waterbury: Chapters 1 - 3.

Week 3: January 26 and 29:

Human Resources: Population and Education

Readings: Richards and Waterbury: Chapters 4 – 5.

Week 4: February 2 and 5:  
Oil. Trade and Development

Readings:  
Richards and Waterbury, Chapter 15.  
Rodney Wilson, *Economic Development in the Middle East*, Chapters 7 and 8

Week 5: February 9 and 12:  
The State and Economic Development: Results and Prospects

Readings: Richards and Waterbury: Chapters 7 – 9.

Week 6: February 16 and 19:  
Gender and Economics in the Arab World: Part I

Readings:  
John Willoughby, “Segmented Feminization and the Decline of Neo-Patriarchy in GCC Countries”, American University Working Paper.  
Jennifer Olmsted, Reexamining the Fertility Puzzle in the Middle East and North Africa” in *Women and Globalization in the Arab Middle East: Gender, Economy and Society*, edited by Eleanor Doumato and Marsha Pripstein-Posusney, pp. 73-92, Lynne Rienner, Boulder, CO, 2003.

Week 7: February 23 and 27:  
Gender and Economics in the Arab World: Part II

Readings:  
Zafiris Tzannatos, Iqbal Kaur, “Women in the MENA Labor Market: An Eclectic Survey”, in *Women and Globalization in the Arab Middle East: Gender, Economy and Society*, edited by Eleanor Doumato and Marsha Pripstein-Posusney, Lynne Rienner, Boulder, CO, 2003.

Ragui Assaad. “Gender and Employment: Egypt in Comparative Perspective, in *Women and Globalization in the Arab Middle East: Gender, Economy and Society*, edited by Eleanor Doumato and Marsha Pripstein-Posusney, Lynne Rienner, Boulder, CO, 2003.

Mary Ann Tetreault, “Kuwait: Sex, Violence, and the Politics of Economic Restructuring, in *Women and Globalization in the Arab Middle East: Gender, Economy and Society*, edited by Eleanor Doumato and Marsha Pripstein-Posusney, Lynne Rienner, Boulder, CO, 2003.

Eleanor Abdella Doumato, "Education in Saudi Arabia: Gender, Jobs and the Price of Religion," in *Women and Globalization in the Arab Middle East: Gender, Economy and Society*, edited by Eleanor Doumato and Marsha Pripstein-Posusney, Lynne Rienner, Boulder, CO, 2003.

Week 8: March 2 and 5:

Economic and Social Development of the Gulf States: Part I

Readings: Fox et. al., *Globalization and the Gulf*, Chapters 9 – 11. .

Spring Break

Week 9: March 16 and 19:

Economic and Social Development of the Gulf States: Part II

Readings: Fox et. al., *Globalization and the Gulf*, Chapters 12 – 14.

Week 10: March 23 and 26:

An Arab Economist Reacts to Globalization and Neo-Liberalism

Readings: Galal Amin, *Whatever Happened to Egyptians?*

Week 11: March 30 and April 2:

The Political Economy of the Palestine-Israel Conflict: Part I

Shlomo Swirski, "Is There an Israeli business Peace Disincentive?", Tel Aviv: Adva Center.

Claus Astrup and Sebastien Dessus, "Exporting Goods or Exporting Labor?: Long-term Implications for the Palestinian Economy," *Review of Middle East Economics and Finance*, (April 2005).

Week 12: April 6 and 9:

The Political Economy of the Palestine-Israel Conflict: Part II

Sebnem Akkaya, Forbert Fiess, Barłomiej Kaminski, and Gael Raballand, , Economics of 'Policy-Induced' Fragmentation: The Costs of Closures Regime to West Bank and Gaza.

Week 13: April 13 and 16:

The Political Economy of Occupation in Iraq

Mark LeVine, "Chaos, Globalization and the Public Sphere: Political Struggle in Iraq and Palestine," *Middle East Journal*, Summer 2006.

US Congress, Congressional Budget Office, "Paying for Iraq's Reconstruction", 2004.

Joshua Holland, "Boondoggle by Design", Alter-Net, January 2006.

Week 14: April 20 and 23:

Islamic Economics: An Alternative Road to Development?

Wilson, *Economic Development in the Middle East*, Chapter 6.

Richards and Waterbury, Chapter 14

Week 15: April 27:

Concluding Thoughts on the Future of the Arab World

Final Examination: May 4: 2:10 pm - 4:40 pm.