Texas A&M University
Departmental Request for a New Course
Undergraduate + Graduate + Professional
• Submit original form and attach a course syllabus.

1. This request is submitted by the Department of   Bush School

2. Course prefix, number and complete title of course: INTA 611 Authoritarianism & Political Elites in the Arab World

3. Course description (not more than 50 words): The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to the concept of political elite and to try and link it to the authoritarian state in the Arab world, in an attempt to explain the lack of democracy in that part of the world.

4. Prerequisite(s) n/a

5. Is this a variable credit course? ☐ Yes ☑ No If yes, from ________ to ________.

6. Is this a repeatable course? ☐ Yes ☑ No If yes, this course may be taken ________ times. Will the course be repeated within the same semester/term? ☐ Yes ☑ No

7. Has this course been taught as a 289/489/689? ☑ Yes ☐ No If yes, how many times? 1 Indicate the number of students enrolled for each academic period it was taught. Fall 2006 5, Fall 2007 1

8. This course will be:
   a. required for students enrolled in the following degree program(s) (e.g., B.A. in history)
      n/a
   b. an elective for students enrolled in the following degree program(s) (e.g., M.S., Ph.D. in geography)
      n/a

9. If other departments are teaching or are responsible for related subject matter, the course must be coordinated with these departments. Attach approval letters.

10. Prefix Course # Title (excluding punctuation)

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Approval recommended by:

Head of Department Date

Chair, College Review Committee Date

Dean of College Date

Director of Academic Support Services Date

Questions regarding this form should be directed to Sandra Williams at 845-8201.
OAR/AS – 04/07
Bush School of Government and Public Service  
Authoritarianism and Political Elites in the Arab World  
Fall 2008  
Wednesday 3:05-5:55 PM, rm. 1041 Allen  
Instructor: Rola el-Husseini  
Office: Bush 1095  
Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00-6:00 PM  
Email: rhusseini@bushschool.tamu.edu

Purpose and Scope
The purpose of this course is to introduce the students to the concept of political elite and to try to link it to the authoritarian state in the Arab world, in an attempt to explain the lack of democracy in that part of the world. We will start with a survey of elite theory from Mosca and Pareto to modern elite theory with Higley, Burton and Etzioni-Halevy. We will see how elite studies were applied to the Middle East in the late 1970s and early 1980s using modernization theory and how no studies on political elite in the Arab World where conducted for more than 20 years. The resurgence of elite studies is due to several reasons (the most important being change at the top) that we will explore in detail in the different case studies. Case studies include the oil producing countries (Algeria, Saudi Arabia), the monarchies legitimizing their rule with reference to Islam (Morocco and Jordan) the big populist republics (such as Syria and Egypt) and finally the small players of the Arab World, the 'liberal' republics (Lebanon and Tunisia).

Course Requirements:
To ensure preparation, students will be divided into 2 groups. Each group will be asked to write a report on the required readings twice a month. These readings are to be emailed to the instructor two days before the class by 5:00 PM. The reading reports and class presentations will be graded and the grade counts as class participation.

MIDTERM
The midterm exam will be a take home exam. The student will be asked to write 5-7 pages on a topic of his/her choice related to the readings. The assignment can also take the form of a book review if the student so chooses.

RESEARCH PAPER
To complete the requirements for this seminar, the student is asked to write a research paper. The research paper can be based on the class presentations and will therefore focus on one or more questions/ issues raised in this syllabus. The paper has to be 15-20 pages. Once he/she has decided on a topic for the paper, the student can ask the instructor for a list of readings to start of his/her research.

Grading Criteria
Reading reports: 20%  
Mid-term exam: 30%  
Quality of Final Paper: 50%

Textbooks
Volker Perthes (ed.) Arab Elites: Negotiating the Politics of Change, Lynn Rienner, 2004

Marsha Prinstein Posusney & Michele Penner Angrist (eds.) Authoritarianism In The Middle East: Regimes And Resistance, Lynne Rienner, 2005
Week I- Introduction and Orientation:
   a-  scope of the course
   b-  Defining the political elite

Week II- Definitions, Elite Theory and Transition
   a-  Modern theories in elite studies
   b-  Regime change and linked theories: democratization, transition.

- more on transition

Week III- Elite studies on the MENA region
   a-  Elite studies in the 1970's
   b-  The demise of elite studies in the 80's and 90's: the reasons
   c-  Resurgence of elite studies in the 21st century: why the interest?

- Volker Perthes, "Politics and Elite Change in the Arab World: An Introduction" in V. Perthes (ed.) Arab Elites: Negotiating the Politics of Change, Lynn Rienner, 2004
- Eva Bellin, "Coercive Institutions and Coercive Leaders" in Authoritarianism in The Middle East: Regimes And Resistance, Lynne Rienner, 2005
- M. P. Posusney, "Introduction: The Middle East's Democracy Deficit in Comparative Perspective" in Authoritarianism in The Middle East: Regimes And Resistance, Lynne Rienner, 2005

The Oil Producing Countries

Week IV- Algeria and the Civil War

Week V- Saudi Arabia: Succession crisis
- Ehsan M. Ahrari, "Political Succession in Saudi Arabia: Systemic Stability and Security Implications", Comparative Strategy, Jan-Mar99, Vol. 18 Issue 1,
The Traditional Monarchies

Week VI- Morocco under King Mohammed VI

Week VII- Jordan under King Abdallah
- Malik Mufti, "Elite Bargains and the Onset of Political Liberalization in Jordan”. Comparative Political Studies, Feb99, Vol. 32 Issue 1, p100, 30p
- Ryan, Curtis and Schwedler, Jillian “Return to Democratization or New Hybrid Regime?: The 2003 Elections in Jordan.” Middle East Policy, Summer2004, Vol. 11 Issue 2,
-Curtis Ryan, “Political Liberalization and Monarchical Succession in Jordan”, Israel Affairs, Spring 2003, Vol. 9 Issue 3

The Populist Republics

Week VIII- Egypt: What comes after Mubarak?
-Ariel Ivenier, “Democratization in the Middle East: the case of Egypt” Perspectives, 19/2003
- Vickie Langhor “Too Much Civil Society, Too Little Politics? Egypt and Other Liberalizing Arab Regimes” in Authoritarianism in The Middle East: Regimes And Resistance, Lynne Rienner, 2005

Week IX- Syria: Inheriting a Republic

The Small Players

Week X- Lebanon: Pax Syriana
- Rola el-Husseini, "Lebanon: Building Political Dynasties" in V. Perthes (ed.) Arab Elites: Negotiating the Politics of Change, Lynn Rienner, 2004

Week XI- The Tunisia of Ben Ali
- Jerry Sorkin, the Tunisian Model", Middle East Quarterly, Fall 2001
- J. Brownlee, "Political Crisis and Restabilization: Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Tunisia" in Authoritarianism in The Middle East: Regimes And Resistance, Lynne Rienner, 2005

Week XII- Palestine: the Proto-State
- Avi Shlaim, The Iron Wall, 2001 (Chap 12-15)
- ICG Briefing No. 16 After Arafat: Challenges and Prospects
- ICG Report No. 32 Who Governs the West Bank? Palestinian Administration under Israeli Occupation
- ICG Report No. 49 Enter Hamas: The Challenges of Political Integration

Week XIII- Methodologies and Conclusions
a- Methodologies of elite studies: fieldwork and interviewing
b- Where is the new elite in the Arab world to emerge from? Who is part of the emerging elite?
- Rola el-Husseini, "Insights from the Field", Orient, 4/2003
- Volker Perthes, "Elite Change and System Maintenance" in V. Perthes (ed.) Arab Elites: Negotiating the Politics of Change, Lynn Rienner, 2004

-M. P. Angrist, The Outlook for Authoritarians, in *Authoritarianism in The Middle East: Regimes And Resistance*, Lynne Rienner, 2005

Academic Honesty: Students who engage in plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and possible dismissal from the university. Please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M Student Rules, especially the section on Scholastic Dishonesty.

Americans with Disability Act (ADA): The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Room 126, Koldus Building (Phone 845-1637).
MEMO

TO: Charles F. Hermann, Director, MPIA Program
FROM: Patricia A. Hurley, Professor and Head
RE: New course proposals for the Bush School
DATE: April 23, 2008

Thank you for your memo of April 23, 2008 addressing my concern about the intended student audience for the proposed classes. The solution you propose – to include a blanket statement in the graduate catalog – is a good one.

I have received comments from several international relations faculty members in the Department of Political Science on the proposed International Organizations seminar. Both these faculty members are experts on this topic and it is highly likely that we will propose a Ph.D. level course on the topic in the future. Both agree that the syllabus for the proposed Bush course on this subject overlaps some topics that would be covered in a POLS course, but they also agree that the approach detailed on the Bush syllabus is very policy oriented. Our own course on this matter would focus far more intensely on theoretical issues and assign more original research and other analytical material. But the blanket statement for the catalog that the course is intended for individuals preparing for professional (rather than academic) careers addresses this explicitly.

Under these conditions, the Department of Political Science has no objection to the proposed BUSH courses in:

US Law and Homeland Security
International Organizations
Authoritarianism and Political Elites in the Arab World.

cc: Samuel Kirkpatrick, Executive Associate Dean, Bush School
Larry Oliver, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts
Harvey Tucker, Associate Head, POLS
James Rogers, Director of Graduate Studies, POLS