

**Centre for West Asian Studies  
School of International Studies  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
M.A. International Relations-West Asian Studies**

Course title : Political Economy of West Asia and North Africa

Course code: WA407

Course teacher : Prof. Sameena Hameed

Credits : 4

Instruction Method : Lectures, Seminars and tutorials

Evaluation Method : Sessional work and Semester examination

Course Duration : One Semester

Contact hours : 04 per week

The course aims to provide analytical framework for understanding the structural characteristics of economies in the WANA (West Asia and North Africa). It focuses on the interplay of economic and political structures and their trajectory of reforms. The course also seeks to contextualize the contemporary socio-economic experiences in the region in the political framework. It also gives insight into ways the region is connected to global flows.

**Learning Outcome:** Understanding of how state and capital co-constitutes the formation of class and unequal distribution.

1. State and Economy in WANA: Economic history; resource curse theories, sources and distribution of rent, rentierism
2. Food security: WANA in the global food systems; land issues and government subsidies; global food crisis, Arab uprising, Gulf agro-investments
3. Problems of industrialization: Role of state in economic development; crony capitalism; neoliberal reforms; private sectors and informal economies; demographic challenge and expatriates
4. Rise of Gulf Capital: Gulf Business Conglomerates; Gulf capital in the international financial system; politics of aid and Arab development assistance; Gulf investments in WANA

Select Readings

Unit 1

Auty, Richards. (2002). *Sustaining development in mineral economies: the resource curse thesis*. Routledge.

Beblawi, Hazem., & Luciani, Giacomo. (Eds.). (2015). *The rentier state*. Routledge.

Cammatt, Melani, Diwan, Ishac, Richards, Alan, and Waterbury, John (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East*. Hachette UK.

Mahdavy, Hussein., & Cook, M. A. (1970). The patterns and problems of economic development in rentier states: the case of Iran. *Life*, 1000(1), 129-135.

Roger, Owen and Pamuk Şevket. *A history of Middle East economies in the twentieth century*. Harvard University Press, 1998.

Schwarz, Rolf. The political economy of state-formation in the Arab Middle East: Rentier states, economic reform, and democratization. *Review of International Political Economy*, 15(4), 599-621.

Smith, Benjamin, & Waldner, David. (2021). *Rethinking the resource curse*. Cambridge University Press.

Sorenson, David S. (2018). *An introduction to the Modern Middle East: History, religion, political economy, politics*. Routledge.

Wilson, Rodney (2021). Population and growth In *Economic development in Middle East*. Routledge

## Unit 2

Askari, Hossein, Cummings, John Thomas, and Harik, Bassam. (1977). Land reform in the Middle East. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 8(4), 437–451

Hanieh, Adams. (2018). From farm to shelf: Gulf agro-commodity circuits and the Middle East. In *Money, markets, and monarchies: The Gulf Cooperation Council and the political economy of the contemporary Middle East* (The Global Middle East, pp. 112-145). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Lybbert, Travis J., and Heather R. Morgan, 'Lessons from the Arab Spring: Food security and stability in the Middle East and North Africa', in Christopher B. Barrett (ed.), *Food security and sociopolitical stability* (Oxford, 2013; online edn, Oxford Academic, 23 Jan. 2014)

Woertz, Eckart. (2013). *Oil for food: The global food crisis and the Middle East*. OUP Oxford.

## Unit 3

Diwan, Ishac, Malik, Adeel, and Atiyas, Izak. (Eds.). (2019). *Crony capitalism in the Middle East: Business and politics from liberalization to the Arab Spring*. Oxford University Press.

Guazzone, Laura, and Pioppi, Daniela. (2022). *The Arab state and neo-liberal globalization: The restructuring of state power in the Middle East*. Garnet Publishing Ltd.

Issawi, Charles. (1980). De-industrialization and re-industrialization in the Middle East since 1800. *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 12(4), 469–

Mishrif, Ashraf, and Balushi, Yousuf Al, (Eds.). (2018). *Economic diversification in the Gulf region*. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan.

Wilson, Rodney (2021). Role of state. In *Economic development in Middle East*. Routledge

## Unit 4

Dandashly, Assem, and Christos Kourtellis. (2023). The provision of Arab Gulf aid: The emergence of new donors. *International Politics*, 60(2), 406-427

Hanieh, Adam. (2011). *Capitalism and class in the Gulf Arab states* (p. 60). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Hanieh, Adam. (2021). Boundaries of state and capital: Mapping the Gulf Conglomerates in *Money, markets, and monarchies: The Gulf Cooperation Council and the Political Economy of the Contemporary Middle East*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ulrichsen, K. C. (2016). The Internationalisation of Gulf finance. In *The Gulf States in International Political Economy*, 103-129