

Special Topics – Spring 2019

Dr. Kassem

POLS 4030

Topic: Seminar: Media Depictions of Contemporary Egyptian Politics

This course offers an in-depth analysis of the nature and dynamics of modern Egyptian politics. In order to familiarize students with post-1952 Egypt, assessments of Egyptian politics will be made through movie depictions of each regime. Once the trends and general imprints of each era are established, this course will then focus on the major issues and themes confronting and shaping as a republic and eventually leading to Egypt's post 2011 political arena. Such themes will include but are not limited to the following: The fall of Mubarak regime, the rise of the second republic, and the subsequent parliamentary and presidential elections. This second part of this course will analyze the patterns civil participation, the role of the military, as well as the role of Muslim Brotherhood and their fall from power after the 30th of June.

Dr. Korany

POLS 5140

Topic: Development and The New International Relations: A critical Analysis.

With the increasing predominance of globalization and "new" international actors, could IR in the 2nd decade of the 21st century be a mere replica and continuation of earlier times? For instance, with the rise of a multitude of non-state actors – from Da’ash to human rights organizations- and the impact of new media or new issues, the question that comes to mind is how good is a state-centric “eternal truth” in decoding the present global (dis)order. Even if we accept the centrality of the state in certain countries, are all present-day states really “Like-units” as the most influential statement of IR tells us? What kind of similarity between Switzerland and Yemen are we talking about? Could it be that the simplicity of the predominant conventional wisdom be so dangerous as to seduce and mislead us? To avoid this risk, are we not advised to confront conventional assumptions and propositions with the *empirical* world of the 21st century? For instance, can we really understand the present international environment without giving prominent place to issues such as development/ mis-development; religion/religious organizations; fragile/failed states?