

## *Special Topics offered in Spring 2017*

POLS 4030-01

Dr. Kassem

**Topic: Egyptian Politics and the Muslim Brotherhood**

This course offers an in-depth analysis of the nature and dynamics of the political system in Egypt and the role of the Muslim Brotherhood in this arena. The first part of the course will analyze the nature and dynamics of the political system and its institutions. Furthermore, we will look into the creation of the Muslim Brotherhood and their activities as an opposition force under Nasser and Sadat. In addition, the participation of the Muslim Brotherhood in elections under Mubarak will also be addressed. This course is intended to illustrate the nature of the political system in Egypt and the Muslim Brotherhood's participation and role in it as a case study. The Muslim Brotherhood's role as not only a religious, ideological entity but as a major patron in Egyptian politics will also be examined. This aspect will be illustrated most prominently as we examine the electoral activities of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Second Republic and their participation in the parliamentary and presidential elections of 2011 and 2012 respectively. The reason behind their subsequent downfall following the 30th of June 2013 protests and their relationship with the current regime will better help us understand the virtually unchallengeable position of the deep state as an obstacle to political transition.

POLS 5130-01

Dr. Maswood

**Topic: East Asian Political Economy: Economic and Political Transformation**

"This is a course on East Asian economic and political transformation after the Second World War. Most, except Japan, were extremely impoverished and poor but in a few decades emerged as exemplars of economic development and industrialization. The course will look at the reasons behind their success. In the second half of the course, the focus is on political transition and some form of more open and democratic political processes."

POLS 5140-01

Dr. Korany

**Topic: Development and the New International Relations**

International Relations have usually been conceived and analyzed as an activity among great powers and solely coming from the very top. The justification is a deeply-rooted assumption that this is where "significant" IR are located. Consequently, the focus has usually been on the behavior of top institutions such as the royal palaces, presidencies and other chancelleries as well as foreign ministries.

Without neglecting these top decision-making institutions, this course on Development and New International Relations tries to compensate for this biased and skewed view by investigating IR from below, or what we can call People's international relations. Rather than being obsessed primarily with the outcome or final output - the tip of the iceberg, we aim to look at the process itself: how international behavior is actually shaped and made. For instance, how social movements - whether Bread Riots, Wall Street Protest, Anti-Globalization Movement - impact such international behavior. How specifics of development issues or religion and religious movements shape national behavior and beyond, e.g. Paris or Nice attacks and their impact, international refugees issues.....

POLS 5140-02

Dr. Pinfari

**Topic: Terrorism: A Critical Analysis**

In an international climate in which the word "terrorist" is used increasingly often, this seminar will enable you to master a variety of conceptual, analytical and empirical tools for approaching key contemporary debates on terrorism.

This course is loosely inspired by the so-called field of "critical terrorism studies" whose purpose is to confront mainstream or "orthodox" approaches to terrorism, especially as they emerged in the aftermath of 9/11. These approaches are challenged both at an epistemological level, by highlighting the contested and highly subjective nature of the notion of terrorism, and thematically, by focusing on areas of research that have progressively been marginalized in terrorism studies, such as the concept of "state terrorism". The course also rests on the assumption that terrorism must be understood and analyzed from an interdisciplinary perspective, and as such it integrates insights from political science, psychology, law, ethics, history, economics and other disciplines.

Throughout the course we will discuss definitions adopted by major organizations and apply them to various forms of terrorism. We will also critically review a range of arguments on the causes and motivations of terrorists and on the effectiveness of specific counter-terrorist strategies, and provide you with the knowledge and skills needed for critically appraising contemporary events.