

## *Special Topic during Winter 2020*

### **POLS 4030 Special Topic Law Course**

**Dr. Nesreen Badawi**

#### **Topic: Egyptian Institutions**

This course will focus on state institutions in Egypt and their engagement with Egyptian society. There will be a special focus on religious and legal institutions, since those are fairly accessible but often less understood and they also fall within the expertise of the instructors. In looking at Egyptian legal institutions, the course examines the role played by those institutions in shaping and reiterating existing social structures. At the same time, the course's examination of religious institutions in Egypt offers an insight into the relationship between those institutions and legal institutions and at the same time presents a general overview of the development of Islamic law from its classical formulations to the present structure.

This course, designed for advanced undergraduates and MA-level students, will involve approximately 3 joint sessions held by video conference before. These 90-minute sessions will involve short lectures by each instructor and class discussion. They will be designed to introduce students to the basic matter of the course and give back an introduction to Islamic law; Islamic law today; Egyptian political history; the Egyptian legal system.

While the course will be co-taught, each institution will separately offer credit to its own students. The GW instructor will grade GW students and the AUC instructor will grade AUC students. There may be some difference in the readings and assignments between the two groups of students because of this structure.

On the GW side, writing requirements will differ slightly for graduate and undergraduate students. The program will be open to MA and PhD students in relevant degree programs (such as Middle Eastern Studies, International Affairs, and political science) from the GW side. Undergraduate students may also take the course if they have sufficient academic background as determined by the instructor.