The American University in Cairo
POLS 4030 Seminar: Special Topic: Egyptian Politics and the Muslim Brotherhood
M 5:00- 7:40
Spring 2017

Instructor: Dr. Maye Kassem
Office: 2009 HUSS, 1530
Office Hours:
E-mail: mayekasm@aucegypt.edu

Course Objective

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.

Course Requirement

Apart from lectures, it is expected that students participate in class. This will not only indicate whether students have done their assigned work, but equally important, it will prove useful in allowing participants to sharpen their analytical skills. Therefore attendance is imperative. As per AUC policy, “a student who misses more than the equivalent of three weeks of class meetings during a semester for any reason may be assigned a reduced grade for the course — including the grade of “F” — solely on the basis of inadequate attendance, regardless of excuse... Students are personally responsible for making up any academic tasks and assignments missed due to their absence." **There are no exceptions to this rule.**

Course Format

Students are expected to participate in a two-day simulation of Egyptian politics and represent a character in Egyptian politics of their choosing. A midterm exam will be held in class and students will be expected to answer one essay question from a choice presented in the exam. The same applies to the final exam which will be held during the
exam schedule. A research paper of between 2500 to 3000 words will also be submitted on the last day of class, the topic of the paper can be derived from a topic of your choice.

**Grade Distribution**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Course Grading:**

Please note that the course is based on the following grading system:

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Category (A, A-)</td>
<td>100-90%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B Category (B+, B, B-)</td>
<td>89-80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C Category (C+, C, C-)</td>
<td>79-70%</td>
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<td>D Category</td>
<td>69-60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>F Category</td>
<td>59 and Below</td>
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*POLS 4030 Reading List*

**January 30: Introduction to Class**

**Week 1- February 6, 2017: Creation and Ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood**

- *The Society of Muslim Brothers*, Chapters 1, 2, and 6 by Richard P. Mitchell (1969)
- Egyptian Crosscurrents: The Muslim Brotherhood and Democracy on the Nile by Lorenzo Vidino pages 1-5 (2011)
- The Muslim Brotherhood: Evolution of an Islamist Movement (Chapter 2: The Brotherhoods Early Years pages 20-26) by Carrie Wickham (2013)

**Week 2- February 13, 2017: The Muslim Brotherhood under Nasser and Sadat**

• The Muslim Brotherhood: Evolution of an Islamist Movement (Chapter 2: The Brotherhoods Early Years pages 27-45) by Carrie Wickham (2013)

Week 3- February 20, 2017: The Muslim Brotherhood under Mubarak

• The Muslim Brotherhood: The Organization and Policies of a Global Islamist Movement (Chapter 3: The Muslim Brothers in Egypt pages 43-53) by Ana Soage and Jorge Franganillo (2010)
• M. El-Ghobashy. The Metamorphosis of the Egyptian Muslim Brothers. International Journal of Middle East Studies; (2005)
• The Muslim Brotherhood: Evolution of an Islamist Movement (Chapter 3: The Foray into Electoral Politics pages 46-75) by Carrie Wickham (2013)

Week 4- February 27, 2017: Midterm

Week 5- March 6, 2017: Muslim Brotherhood and the 2011 Revolution

• The Muslim Brotherhood: Evolution of an Islamist Movement (Chapter 7: The Egyptian Uprising pages 154-195) by Carrie Wickham (2013)

*** ABSTRACT FOR PAPER TOPIC TO BE SUBMITTED (1-2 PARAGRAPHS LONG) ***

Week 6- March 13, 2017: Muslim Brotherhood and Elections and State Building

• The Muslim Brotherhood: Evolution of an Islamist Movement (Chapter 9: The Muslim Brotherhood in (Egypt’s) Transition pages 247-288) by Carrie Wickham (2013)
• Egyptian Crosscurrents: The Muslim Brotherhood and Democracy on the Nile by Lorenzo Vidino pages 6-11 (2011)
When Victory Becomes An Option by Nathan Brown (2012)

The Egyptian Elections: Why the Islamists Won by Samuel Tadros (2012)

Named Egypt’s Winner, Islamist Makes History by David Kirkpatrick (2012)

What Morsy Must Do to Avoid Being Egypt’s President in Name Only by Tony Karon (2012)

Week 7- March 20, 2017: Muslim Brotherhood and the 30th of June

The Egyptian Restoration by Sarah Chayes (2013)

Morsi is the Arab World’s Mandela by Tawakkol Karman (2013)

The New Arab Awakening by Anwar Gargash (2013)

Week 8- March 27, 2017: Muslim Brotherhood and the Military

Analysis: With Brotherhood out, Old Order Shapes Egypt’s Future by Tom Perry and Lin Noueihed

Army rule divides Egypt’s once-united worker heroes by Maggie Fick

In Egypt, violence justified by a hope for democracy by John Lloyd and Abdalla F. Hassan

Egypt’s bruised Brotherhood fails to show street power by Maggie Fick and Lin Noueihed

Profile: Egypt’s Tamarod Protest Movement (2013)

Analysis: Why was Tamarod Sucessful? By Mohamed El-Sayed Abdel Gawad (2013)

Brotherhood activism and regime consolidation in Egypt by Steven Brooke

Week 9- April 3, 2017: The Future of the Muslim Brotherhood

The Muslim Brotherhood’s social outreach after the Egyptian coup by Steven Brooke

The Muslim Brotherhood and the Future of Political Islam in Egypt by Ashraf Al Sherif
Week 10- April 24, 2017: Documentary

Week 11- May 8, 2017: Simulation Day 1

Week 12- May 15, 2017: Concluding Remarks (Research Paper Due)

Final Exam TBA

* Please note that additional readings will be assigned throughout the semester

**Essential Deadlines**

March 6, 2017: Deadline to submit a 1-2 page abstract indicating the topic and main argument for research paper

February 17, 2017: Midterm

May 15, 2017: Research Paper Due (beginning of class no late submissions will be accepted)

TBA: Final Exam