

**Government and Politics of the Middle East  
GOVT 332**

**Final Exam Study Sheet  
IMPORTANT NOTE**

All your answers should reflect a broad understanding of the region and the literature on the region (as far as we have covered it). This is the time to synthesize the knowledge you have acquired and demonstrate that you are able to cite authors, articles, books, and arguments. A good answer will be well thought out and would synthesize the knowledge you've acquired. This is not just about definition and repetition. It is about analysis.

Below, I list the articles that you should draw your answers from (including class notes), then I list the possible Short Answer and Essay questions you might get on the exam.

**(c5) Politics, the State, and Authoritarian Rule (2 Sessions)**

1. **Jill Crystal**, "Authoritarianism and Its Adversaries in the Arab World."
2. Current Revolt Against Authoritarian Rule Readings

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. [Short Answer] Discuss and analyze the four themes Crystal addresses in her review. Cite authors and arguments.
2. [Short Answer] What are some of the salient causes for the Arab Uprisings? (you may use country-specific cases)

**(c6) Social Dynamics: Family and Women, Community, Ethnicity and Class**

1. **Lisa Taraki**, Chapter 11, "The Role of Women," in Deborah J. Gerner and Jillian Schwedler, eds., *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2004).
2. **Judith Tucker**, ed., *Arab Women: Old Boundaries, New Frontiers*, Ch. X, "The Arab Family in History," pp. 195-207. [CW]

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. [Short Answer] What are "The Four Aspects of the Arab family as "Other"?"
2. [Short Answer] Differences between Women from Upper and Lower Class Families Regarding Marriage

**(c7) The Political Economy of Development and Oil: Social Impact**

2. **Mary Ann Tétreault**, Chapter 8, "The Political Economy of Middle Eastern Oil," in Deborah J. Gerner and Jillian Schwedler, eds., *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2004), pp. 258-End.
3. **Alan Richards and John Waterbury**, Chapter 7, "The Emergence of the Public Sector," Chapter 8, "Contradictions of State-Led Growth," in *A Political Economy of the Middle East* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1996). [CW]
4. **Michael Ross**, "Does Oil Hinder Democracy," in *World Politics* 53. 3 April, 2001. [CW]

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. [Short Answer] The Rentier State: What are the Characteristics and Consequences? What is the significance of the "rentier state" paradigm? Why is it important to understand it? (Ross and Lecture)
2. [Short Answer] What is State-Led Growth and what are the contradictions involved in State-Led Growth (Richards and Waterbury and Lecture)
3. [Essay] Discuss the challenges and consequences of post-colonial development in the Middle East? Be very specific in fleshing out the challenges, the way they were dealt with, and the consequences (intended and unintended). Provide examples from the readings and class discussions. Richards and Waterbury should be cited in your answer. You may also use other examples from the class discussion or other texts.

**(c8) The Israel-Palestine Conflict**

1. **Simona Sharoni and Mohammed Abu-Nimer**, “The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” in Deborah J. Gerner and Jillian Schwedler, eds., *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2004).

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS as EXTRA CREDIT**

1. [Short Answer] What is the basis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Is it a conflict over land? Religion? What are the conflicting claims to the land of Israel/Palestine? Why is this local conflict so global in nature?
2. [Short Answer] Why are Palestinian refugees considered a demographic threat if they return to Palestine/Israel?

**(c9) Religion and Politics: The Rise and Use of Political Islam and Islamist Parties**

1. **John Esposito, Mohammed A. Muqtedar Khan, and Jillian Schwedler**, Chapter 12 “Religion and Politics in the Middle East,” in Deborah J. Gerner and Jillian Schwedler, eds., *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2004).
2. **Philip Khoury**, “Islamic Revivalism and the crises of the Secular State in the Arab World,” in Ibrahim Ibrahim, ed., *Arab Resources*. [CW]

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

3. [Short Answer] What is political Islam or Islamic Fundamentalism? Problematize the terms. Are there different types of Islamic movements? Using examples from actual Islamic movements to answer the question is recommended.
4. [Essay] What are the root causes of the rise of Political Islam? Provide a political and a historical overview that reveals your understanding of broader developments in the region within which Political Islam was revived. (this should not simply be a summary of any one of the articles you’ve read). Provide examples from the readings and class discussions, including from one of the articles under “Islamic Movements” on the Syllabus (under C9)

**(c10) Terrorism and the Industry of Terrorism: The Arab/Muslim World in Context**

1. **Fred Halliday**, “Terrorism in Historical Perspective,” in *Open Democracy*, April 22, 2004. [CW]
2. **Selections from Dominant Discourse: Government and Media quotes on the following link.** [CW]
3. **Juan Cole**, Blog Entry: “Foreign Occupation Has Produced Radical Muslim Terrorism,” *Informed Comment*, Blog by Juan Cole, March 7, 2005. [Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.]
4. **Robert A. Pape**, “It’s the Occupation, Stupid,” *Foreign Policy*, October 18, 2010. [PDF]
5. **Glenn Greenwald**, “Terrorism: The Most Meaningless Word,” *Salon*, February 19, 2010. [PDF]
6. **John Esposito**, “America’s Response to Terrorism: How to Fight Rather than Feed the Beast,” *Huffington Post*, January 5, 2010. [Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.]

**POSSIBLE QUESTIONS**

1. [Short Answer] What is the definition of “Terrorism?” How has the definition evolved? Why is there a conflict over if the definition is quite straightforward? What is at stake here?
2. [Short Answer] What seems to be statistically the major cause of terrorism (however defined)? Why?
3. [Short Answer] What are the answers of proponents and critics to the 5 basic questions outlined in class (on terrorism)?

NOTE: THERE WILL BE TWO MORE QUESTIONS BASED ON THE DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, GUEST LECTURES. THESE APPEAR BELOW NOW:

**On Media Talk**

Can we safely say that the uprisings in the Arab world are social media revolutionary actions?

**On Maghreb Talk**

Why is the term "Arab Spring" a problematic label in referring to the uprisings in the Maghreb?