The course introduces students to a number of economic topics relevant to understanding current events in the Middle East. It provides some practice in applying economic concepts to understanding history and current events.

We will cover five broad topics:
1. Economic History
2. Economic Demography
3. Economics of Religion
4. Economics, Violence and Civil Wars
5. Palestinian Economy
6. Iraqi Economy

Readings: Unfortunately, there is no textbook which fully meets the needs of a modern course. Readings are an integral part of the course and will be accessible for the most part through the library digital reserves, reserves.ucsd.edu.

Assignments, Exams and Evaluation: A ten-page paper is due Tuesday, March 11. A first draft can be submitted for comment by Tuesday, February 26. Authors of the best first drafts are eligible to give class presentations for extra credit. You are encouraged to carry out the assignment in pairs, in which case the paper should be twelve pages long.

A midterm (Thursday, February 7) is optional and will be included in evaluation only if it raises your grade. The final exam (Thursday, March 20) is compulsory. The final grade will be calculated as the maximum of a) the average grades of assignment, midterm and final, or b) the average grades of assignment and final.

How to study? Review the lecture notes (preferably with a knowledgeable friend). Check the readings. Come ask questions in office hours.

The “Buckley” waiver makes it much easier for us to return your written work, by allowing us to put it in a public place rather than having you meet with the TA. Please read the attached waiver, sign it, and return it to a TA if you’re comfortable with it.


Readings - Required readings are underlined. Other readings are recommended.
I. Economic History

A. Biblical History through Islamic Empire
   Chapter 1 - The Modern Middle East in the World Context
   Chapter 2 - The Middle East in the World Economy, A Long Range Historical View (pp. 33-44)

B. What Went Wrong?
Issawi, Chapter 2 - The Middle East in the World Economy, A Long Range Historical View (44-55)
   Chapter 3 - Technology, Energy and Civilization: Some Historical Observations (59-74)

C. Economic History from 1800 to the Present
Issawi, Chapter 5 - Egypt, Iran and Turkey, 1800-1970
   Chapter 6 - Egypt: Economic Evolution Since 1800

D. Oil
Issawi, Chapter 11 - The 1973 Oil Crisis and After (209-225)

E. Property
Issawi, Chapter 10 - The Adaption of Islam to Contemporary Economic Realities

F. Economic Policy and State Intervention
   Chapter 2 - The Framework of the Study, (37-43)
   Chapter 3 - Economic Growth and Structural Change, (62-7)
   Chapter 7 - The Emergence of the Public Sector (173-204)
   Chapter 8 - Contradictions of State-Led Growth (205-221)
   Chapter 9 - The Checkered Course of Economic Reform (222-250)
2. Demographics and Education
Richards and Waterbury, Chapter 4 - The Impact of Rapid Population Growth (77-102)
Weil, David N., Economic Growth (2005) - Chapter #4: Demographics.

A. Global Demographic Transition & Malthus

B. Why Do Birth Rates Fall? Becker I.

C. Becker II, Economic Implications of Fertility Decline

**Midterm about here**

3. Economics of Religion

4. Economics, Violence and Civil Wars
chapter 9: “High on Heroin: Drugs and the Taliban Economy”

5. Palestine
TBA

6. Iraq
TBA

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STUDENT CONSENT FOR RELEASE OF STUDENT INFORMATION
(Buckley Waiver)

I hereby authorize the UCSD Economics Department to return my graded examinations and problem sets by placing them in a location accessible to all students in the course. I understand that the return of my examinations and problem sets as described above may result in disclosure of personally identifiable information that is not public information as defined in UCSD PPM 160-2, and I hereby consent to the disclosure of such information.

Quarter W08 Course: Econ 165 - Middle East Economics Date: ______

Instructor: Eli Berman

Student ID# ________________

Print Name____________________

Signature____________________