

INT350-212/PS391-212
SYLLABUS
Gender and Politics in the Islamic World
Summer 2022
June14,2022-July 13, 2022

To access the course visit <https://www.uky.edu/canvas/> and login to Canvas with your **LINK BLUE** username and password.

Primary Instructor: Tasnia Symoom

UK e-mail address: tasnia.symoom@uky.edu. This is the best way to contact me. Make sure to use your UK email address when emailing me. Alternatively, you can use the Send Email option in Canvas. This tool automatically puts the course number in the subject line. This will help facilitate a quicker response time.

Virtual Office Hours: The fastest way to contact me is through email. I will respond within 1 business day. If you want one-to-one appointments in the Canvas, please send an email and we can set up a virtual meeting time.

Course Description:

This course is designed to understand the interconnection between gender and politics in the Islamic world within its cultural settings. We will examine the ways in which gender shapes the political issues in this particular society and its political institutions. In this course, we will pay special attention to various forms of gender discrimination and how different features of political institutions can play a role to overcome it. We also will analyze the causes of gender-related discrimination and violence in the Islam majority countries and how their political actors should respond to it.

Student Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, the student should be able to:

- Understand the meaning of underdevelopment in the context of gender politics in Islamic countries.
- Summarize theories of gendered politics.
- Define important, but often ambiguous concepts such as Islamic world, democratic and authoritarian regimes, and ethnicity and relate it to gendered politics.
- Construct causal explanations for events such political mobilization.
- Understand the role and nature of two key challenges to development: identity politics and violence.
- Develop analytical skill to explore the problems associated with Islamic countries using comparative research method.

Required Text:

The syllabus lists the essential readings for the course, and it is not expected to change much. However, any changes will be notified in Canvas. You will also be notified about written assignment and grading.

Course Requirement:

Reading and Weekly Memos (40%)

Students are expected to read everything assigned in the course schedule of the syllabus. Students will write weekly memos (a total 4 weekly memos, each containing 10% of total grade) that will address a topic assigned in the previous class. In other words, the memo question is based on previous week's readings. I will post the memo questions by each Friday.

Due by 8 pm on Tuesdays. Due dates are provided below:

Weekly Memo 1: **Due June 21**

Overview/global gendered politics in the Islamic world

Weekly Memo 2: **Due June 28**

Gender and politics in different regimes in Islamic countries

Weekly Memo 3: **Due July 5**

Gender and political institutions in Islamic countries

Weekly Memo 4: **Due July 12**

Violence against women (VAW) policies in Islamic countries

Community Engagement Project (40%)

This project connects course concepts to real-world advocacy and policy work on gender and politics in Islamic societies. Students will partner (individually or in small groups) with a community organization, advocacy network, or research initiative addressing issues such as women's political participation, violence against women, or immigrant and refugee rights. The project involves applied research—such as a short policy brief, interview summary, or awareness campaign—and culminates in a written report and presentation.

Goal: To translate theoretical understanding of gender and power into practical civic engagement that promotes inclusion and justice.

Deliverables: A written report (5-6 pages) and a 5-minute presentation or recorded summary.

Due: *Final Day of Class – Week 4 (Sunday, July 10, 11:59 PM).*

Full guidelines and grading rubric are available on Canvas.

Country Profile (20%)

Each student will write an Islamic country profile related to its gender and politics. **Due on July 13, 2022.** The paper should be between 8-10 pages, double-spaced. Additional material, including

maps, figures, and illustrations, may count towards the overall page limit but should be cleared by your instructor before the submission. A list of works cited should be included in the reference section, which does not count towards the page limit. Papers should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and size 12 Times New Roman font. A separate title page is not needed. The only heading needed is your name, aligned to the right. No other heading information need be given.

Note: *The final paper will be evaluated for plagiarism. Make sure to read the section on academic integrity below.*

It is important that you start thinking about this project as early as possible. UK library website for political science (link below) is a useful tool that can guide you in the research process. <http://libguides.uky.edu/polisci>

Grading Scale

A 90-100

B 80-89.9

C 70-79.9

D 60-69.9

E 59 or below

Students can review their scores in Canvas.

Canvas:

This is an online course and utilizes Canvas for both the lecture and recitation sessions. For course information, you are expected to check Canvas regularly. There will be frequent announcements made by the instructor through Canvas. Below, you'll find information on course policy and technology requirements for accessing and using Canvas. It is students' responsibility to obtain these requirements.

Course Policy:

Students are expected to regularly log in to the course and to maintain a decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor. Virtual communication and discussion "in cyberspace" occur in a social environment where normal rules of social interaction apply.

Excused Absence Policy:

Follow [University Senate Rule 5.2.4.2](#) regarding the excused causes for missed assignments and quizzes. The detailed information is provided in the link below.

<https://www.uky.edu/ombud/excused-absences>

Technology

Students must have access to Canvas. UK Online website (<http://www.uky.edu/ukonline/>) offers additional information and resources that can promote a successful "online course" learning experience. They may also be reached at 859-257-8272. Here are additional resources:

1. Check this site for more information about Canvas: <http://www.uky.edu/ukonline/canvas-0>
2. Go to this site to check the minimum hardware, software and browser requirements:
<https://guides.instructure.com/m/4214/1/41056-which-browsers-does-canvas-support>
3. Distance Learning Library Services: As a Distance Learning student you have access to the Distance Learning Library services at <http://www.uky.edu/ukonline/distance-learning-library>. This service can provide you access to UK's circulating collections and can deliver to you manuscripts or books from libraries in UK or outside. The DL Librarian Carla Cantagallo can be reached at 859-218-1240 or by mail at carla@uky.edu. For an interlibrary loan visit: <http://libraries.uky.edu/ILL>

Getting Started: Log into your Canvas account

- ☐ Access the course syllabus: The course syllabus can be viewed by clicking the "Syllabus" in the course page. Make sure to take note on the deadlines.
- ☐ You should check that the e-mail address listed for you is your current e-mail address. If it is not your regular email address, then change it to your current address (except for HOTMAIL accounts which sometimes aren't compatible with Canvas) and click submit. This is the address that I will use to communicate with you.1
- ☐ This is a 3 credit hour course taught exclusively through the web. All course materials are on-line and it is YOUR responsibility to access material in a timely manner. This is a difficult course and it is imperative that you stay up-to-date with the lecture material. Do not procrastinate and leave material to the last minute. Take some time to familiarize yourself with navigating through the course contents. As you work through the course materials you should take notes the same way you would for a "regular" lecture course.
- ☐ Please be aware that some files that you will be downloading are fairly large and may take a while (several minutes) to download especially if you are accessing the course material using a modem or a slow broadband connection.
- ☐ Given that all course material is delivered through the Internet, occasional problems may arise with accessing course material. If you have problems accessing course material, or if web links appear to be not functioning, please contact IT or your instructor to get the problem rectified as quickly as possible.

PLEASE NOTE: Your instructor is trained in political science – not computer science. Please use the resources above if you are having any technological problems.

Academic Integrity

As stated in the university policy, students shall not plagiarize, cheat, or falsify or misuse academic records. Students are expected to adhere to University policy on cheating and plagiarism in all courses. The minimum penalty for a first offense is a zero on the assignment on which the offense

occurred. If the offense is considered severe or the student has other academic offenses on their record, more serious penalties, up to suspension from the university may be imposed.

Plagiarism and cheating are serious breaches of academic conduct. Each student is advised to become familiar with the various forms of academic dishonesty as explained in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Complete information can be found at the following website: <http://www.uky.edu/Ombud>. A plea of ignorance is not acceptable as a defense against the charge of academic dishonesty. It is important that you review this information as all ideas borrowed from others need to be properly credited.

Part II of Student Rights and Responsibilities (available online <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>) states that all academic work, written or otherwise, submitted by students to their instructors or other academic supervisors, is expected to be the result of their own thought, research, or self-expression. In cases where students feel unsure about the question of plagiarism involving their own work, they are obliged to consult their instructors on the matter before submission.

When students submit work purporting to be their own, but which borrows ideas, wordings or concepts from another source without citation or appropriate acknowledgement, the students are guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism includes reproducing someone else's work, whether it be a published article, chapter of a book, a paper from a friend or some file, or something similar. Plagiarism also includes the practice of employing or allowing another person to alter or revise the work which a student submits as his/her own, whoever that other person may be.

Students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone. When a student's research assignment involves outside sources of information, the student must carefully acknowledge exactly what, where and how he/she employed them. If someone else's words are used, the student must put quotation marks around the passage in question and add an appropriate indication of its origin. Making simple changes while leaving the organization, content, and phraseology intact, is plagiarism. However, nothing in these Rules shall apply to those ideas that are so generally and freely circulated as to be a part of the public domain (Section 6.3.1).

Academic Accommodations

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (DRC). The DRC coordinates campus disability services for students. It is located on the corner of Rose Street and Huguelet Drive in the Multidisciplinary Science Building, Suite 407. You can reach them via phone at 257-2754 and via email at drc@uky.edu. Their web address is <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter>.

(I reserve the right to make amendments in the syllabus as necessary)

Course Plan:**June 14: Overview/global gendered politics in the Islamic world**

Ross, Michael. 2008. Oil, Islam and Politics. *The American Political Science Review* 102(1): 107-123

Blaydes, Lisa and Linzer, Drew A. 2008. The political Economy of Women's support for Fundamentalist Islam. *World Politics* 60(4): 576-609.

Moniruzzaman, M. and Farzana, K. Fahmina 2019. Religion, Society, and Gendered-Politics in Central Asia: A Comparative Analysis,. *Intellectual Discourse*, special issue: 745-766.

Gadzhimuradova, Gyulnara I. and Rabat, Lujain, 2020. The Role of Women in the Political Life of Arab-Muslim Countries: Examples from Tunisia and Lebanon. *Politics and Religion*.

Clark, Janine A. 2006. The Conditions of Islamist Moderation: Unpacking Cross-Ideological Cooperation in Jordan. *Int. J. Middle East Studies* 38: 539-560

PradoLu, S. F. Del 2013. Women's Electoral Participation in Muslim Majority and Non-Muslim Majority Countries. *Journal of International Women's Studies* 14(3).

Lussier, Danielle N. and Fish, M. Steven 2016. Men, Muslims and Attitudes toward Gender Inequality. *Politics and Religion* 9: 29-60.

Fox, Ashley. M, Alzwawi, S. Abdelkarim and Refki, Dina 2016. Islamism, Secularism, and the Woman Question in the Aftermath of the Arab Spring: Evidence from the Arab Barometer. *Politics and Governance* 4 (4): 40-57.

Gorman, Brandon 2019: Global Norms vs. Global Actors: International Politics, Muslim Identity, and Support for Shari'a. *Sociological Forum* 34(1).

June 21: Gender and politics in different regimes in Islamic countries

Donno, Daniela and Russett, Bruce 2004. Islam, Authoritarianism and Female Empowerment: What are the Linkages?. *World Politics* 56(4): 582-607.

Passche, Till F. and Gunter, Michael M. 2016. Revisiting Western Strategies against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. *Middle East Journal* 70(1): 9-29.

Rogowska, Blanka 2018. Did Egyptian Women Win or Lose by Overthrowing the Regime of Hosni Mubarak?. *International Studies* 21(1): 113-126.

Shaheed, Farida 2010: Contested Identities: Gendered Politics, Gendered Religion in Pakistan. *Third World Quarterly* 31(6): 851-867.

Hoodfar, Homa and Sadr, Shadi 2010. Islamic Politics and Women's Quest for Gender Equality in Iran.

Erel, Umut and Acik, Necla 2020. Enacting Intersectional Multilayered Citizenship: Kurdish Women's Politics. *Gender, Place & Culture* 27 (4): 479-501.

Rahman, Farhana 2018. Narratives of Agency: Women, Islam and the Politics of Economic Participation in Afghanistan. *Journal of International Women's Studies* 19(3).

June 28: Gender and political institutions in Islamic countries

Sahin-Mencutek, Zeynep 2016. Strong in the Movement, Strong in the Party: Women's Representation in the Kurdish Party of Turkey. *Political Studies* 64 (2): 470-487.

Ara, Fardaus and Northcote, Jeremy 2020. Women's Participation in Bangladesh Politics, The Gender Wall and Quotas. *South Asia Research* 40(2): 266-281.

Hillman, Ben 2017. Increasing Women's Parliamentary Representation in Asia and the Pacific: The Indonesian Experience.

Bulut, Alper T. 2021. What Drives Women's Substantive Representation in Muslim-Majority Countries? Lessons from Turkey. *Political Research Quarterly* 74 (4): 913-926.

Johnson, C. Evangeline 2019. Why Rural Malian women want to be candidates for local office: Changes in social and Political life and the arrival of a gender quota. *Journal of Modern African Studies* 57(3): 393-413.

Lu, Sophia F. D. 2020. The Electoral Quota – A Form of Gender Quota to increase Women's Participation in Parliament: A Quantitative Study from a Survey in the Middle East. *Journal of International Women's Studies* 21 (6). 394-407.

July 5: Violence against women (VAW) in Islamic countries

Arfaoui, Khedija and Moghdam, Valentine M. 2016. Violence against Women and Tunisian feminism: Advocacy, Policy and Politics in an Arab Context. *Current Sociology Monograph* 64 (4) 637-653.

Voller, Yaniv 2014. Countering Violence against Women in Iraqi Kurdistan: State-Building and Transnational Advocacy. *International Journal Middle East Studies* 46: 351-372.

Krook, M. Lena and Sanin, J. Restrepo 2019. The Cost of Doing Politics? Analyzing Violence and Harassment against Female Politicians. *Perspectives on Politics*.

Zakar, R., Zakar, M., Kramer, A, 2011. Spousal Violence against Women in the Context of Marital Inequality: Perspectives of Pakistani Religious Leaders. 5(2): 371-384.

Heijthuyzen, Marine 2018. Sexual Violence and its Resistance in Post-Revolutionary Egypt: at the Intersection between Authoritarianism and Patriarchy. Special Issue Gender and Development 21.

Kandiyoti, Deniz 2016. Locating the Politics of Gender: Patriarchy, Neo-Liberal Governance and Violence in Turkey. Research and Policy on Turkey 1(2): 103-118.