

Displacement, Borders and the State in the Middle East (Seminar)
Sample Syllabus
Lama Mourad

This seminar focuses on the relationship between displacement and state transformation in the contemporary Middle East. It draws on both on historical and contemporary cases to show how population movements have both contested and (re)shaped the boundaries of the contemporary Middle East. It will look at the ways in which state-transformation can set off a process of displacement, which constrains and coerces populations in ways which can culminate in forced migration. It also looks at how migration can (re)shape the relation between citizens and the state, as well as society more broadly. We will relate current developments in the Middle East to what is known in the field about displacement and the state in other regions and historical periods.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are no prerequisites for this course.

You are expected to attend all class sessions and participate actively in class discussions. This requires that you complete the readings listed for every week, and have made an effort to reflect on them. Guiding questions and themes are provided under each week's theme but by no means should you feel limited to these questions when preparing your critical reflections (see Assignments section below) or in class discussion.

If you cannot avoid missing a class session, you are expected to let me know in a timely manner, and to provide a reasonable explanation (doctor's note). You are expected to catch up on the readings and other material missed that week and to consult with other students regarding the discussion.

All written assignments must be submitted as Word or PDF documents. Submitting an unreadable file format will result in late penalties. Term papers must strictly adhere to the following guidelines: 12 point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced, page numbers at the bottom of the page, the title of the paper appearing at the top of the first page, and your name and student number in the top left header of each page. No title page. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in a 5% penalty on each paper. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation matter. Term papers will not be accepted via email.

ASSIGNMENTS

The course grade is composed of five elements:

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Deadline
Presentation	20%	Scheduled
Critical Reflections	20% (10% each)	Rolling Basis
Research Paper	45%	Week 10
Participation	15%	Ongoing

Weekly Critical Reflections:

You will write 2 critical reflections, maximum of 1,000 words each, on the readings throughout the term. These written responses are not meant to be research papers, nor summaries of the readings, but your own reactions, reflections, and questions regarding the themes and arguments of the readings. You should cite other sources minimally, if at all. You must submit these to the class portal 24 hours before class, and be ready to discuss them during our sessions. This will begin as of Week 2.

Research Paper:

You will write a 3,500 words research paper addressing a question related to the core themes of the course. You will develop a proposed outline, due on Week 4, that I will provide feedback on (it will not be evaluated).

Presentation & Discussion Lead:

You will select one week where you have prepared a critical reflection, and you will present your thoughts and analysis to the class (maximum of 15 mins) and present issues for discussion. You (and potentially another colleague) will facilitate discussion during this week.

Participation:

Each session will begin with a brief lecture, followed by class discussions and questions framed by the critical reflections prepared for that day. Participation is not only strongly encouraged, but required. You will be evaluated based on your active participation in class discussion and engagement with the critical reflections of your colleagues. Participation marks will be determined by cumulative performance throughout the course.

COURSE RULES & UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Extensions and Make-ups: No extensions or make-ups will be granted unless students have acceptable reasons that are adequately documented – for example, a medical emergency supported by an official medical certificate. Extensions and permission to write make-up midterms will only be granted in extenuating and unavoidable circumstances outlined to the instructors in writing or via email prior to the due date in question. Extensions will not be granted in any case after the submission deadline or mid-term. Appropriate documentation must be submitted within one week of the missed course requirement. Multiple assignments or midterms from other courses scheduled for the same date – or other work commitments – do not constitute acceptable reasons for extensions, so please plan accordingly.

Late Penalties: Assignments are to be handed in at the beginning of class on the date that they are due. Late assignments will be penalized 3% per day, weekends included. All late work must be submitted to the main desk of the Political Science Department (3rd floor of Sidney Smith). Students must make sure late submissions are signed and dated by Department staff. Barring extensions, work submitted more than 10 days after assignment deadlines will not be accepted.

Course Grades: If you have concerns regarding an assignment mark you must present a detailed written explanation (maximum 1 page single spaced) of why you feel the grade is unjustified. Do not send an email immediately upon receiving your grade. Take some time and think of how to make your case. Grade appeals must be submitted no less than two days after the return of an assignment and no later than two weeks after the return of an assignment.

Office Hours and Communication: Office hours will take place immediately preceding the lecture or by appointment. We will endeavour to respond to emails within 24 hours, weekends not included. Please do not expect an immediate reply to emails sent on the weekends or after 7pm. Email is for short clarification questions only. If you have concerns or questions that cannot be answered in a short response please see me during office hours.

Plagiarism: All sources used in essays must be properly cited. Failure to acknowledge sources constitutes plagiarism – a serious academic offense. For details, see the University’s policy at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University’s use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Blackboard and E-mail: All students should ensure that they have access to the Blackboard website, as reading materials & announcements will be posted electronically.

Accessibility Needs: I, as well as the University, are committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom, or materials, you may contact me directly or contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible

COURSE & READING SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

This class will serve as an introduction for the course, where we will present the syllabus and discuss the expectations. We will also be viewing a film as an introduction to the themes of the course. You may include reflections on the film within your reading reflections.

In class: watch the documentary “Haunted” (2014; 117 mins) filmed on location between Syria and Lebanon in 2012. Through stories of loss, the film interrogates the real and metaphorical meaning of a house. You can include discussion of this documentary in your weekly reflections, but must include reading material for the week chosen as well.

Week 2: Displacement and State-Making

The opening lecture will look at the relationship between displacement and the state, considering episodes of state transformation in various historical and geographical contexts. Core ideas around state-formation and displacement as processes will be introduced and situated within the context of the Middle East.

Torpey, J. (1998), Coming and Going: On the State Monopolization of the Legitimate “Means of Movement”. *Sociological Theory*, 16: 239–259.

Brubaker, R. (1995). Aftermaths of Empire and the Unmixing of Peoples: Historical and Comparative Perspectives, *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 18 (2): pp.180-218.

Zolberg, A.R. (1983). The formation of new states as a refugee-generating process, *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 467 (1), pp.24–38.

Robson, L. (2017), *States of Separation: Transfer, Partition, and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. University of California Press: 1-34 [Introduction & Origins].

Fargues, P. (2013) International Migration and the Nation State in Arab Countries. *Middle East Law and Governance* 5 (1–2): 5–35.

Week 3: Forced Migration

This week focuses on the ways in which forced migration has affected populations and states in the Middle East. We will have an overview of the different waves of forced migrants that have shaped the region, the effect of these migration on these populations, as well as the ways in which state and non-state actors have responded.

Chatty, D. (2010). “Introduction” & “Chapter 1”, *Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hoffmann, S. (2011). The humanitarian regime of sovereignty: INGOs and Iraqi migration to Syria. *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, 28(1).

Kagan, M. (2012). The UN “surrogate state” and the foundation of refugee policy in the Middle East. *University of California Davis Journal of International Law and Policy*, 18, 307–342.

Allan, D. (2014). “Introduction,” in *Refugees of the revolution: experiences of Palestinian exile*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.

Week 4: The political economy of displacement

This week focuses on the ways in which migration and questions of political economy are intertwined, both at a global level as well as within the Middle Eastern region. We will introduce the different ways in which these can be interconnected, including but not limited to instances of labor migration. This week introduces concepts that are critical to the following weeks, where we will delve more deeply into different forms of labour migration and the politics of development in the Middle East.

Cammett, M. C., Diwan, I., Richards, A., & Richards, A. (2015). *A political economy of the Middle East* (Fourth edition). Boulder, CO: Westview Press, pp. 500-514

Chalcraft, J. T. (2008). “Introduction,” “Chapter 2: We Were Like Ghosts, Unseen,” in *The invisible cage: Syrian migrant workers in Lebanon*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, pp. 1-23, 53-91

Turner, L. (2015). “Explaining the (Non-)Encampment of Syrian Refugees: Security, Class and the Labour Market in Lebanon and Jordan.” *Mediterranean Politics*, 20(3), 386–404.

Week 5: Migration & The Politics of Development

This week interrogates the relationship between migration and development, both from the top-down (state-level) and the bottom-up (from migrants themselves). It interrogates both what and for whom “development” is meant. Finally, it looks at the contemporary use of so-called

win-win-win strategies by interrogating proposed “solutions” to the current Syrian refugee influx in the region.

Hollifield, J. (2004). The Emerging Migration State. *International Migration Review* 38: 885–912.

Henry, C. M., & Springborg, R. (2010). “Political Capacities and Local Capital,” in *Globalization and the Politics of Development in the Middle East* (Vol. 1). Cambridge University Press, pp. 67-112.

Yassin, N., Stel., N, and Rassi, R. 2016. “Organized Chaos: Informal Institution Building among Palestinian Refugees in the Maashouk Gathering in South Lebanon,” *Journal of Refugee Studies*, Volume 29, Issue 3, pp. 341–362,

Pearlman, W. “Emigration and Power: A Study of Sects in Lebanon, 1860-2010.” *Politics & Society*, 41, no. 1 (March 2013), pp. 102-133.

Betts, A. and Collier, P. (2015). “Help Refugees □ Help Themselves: Let Displaced Syrians Join the Labor Market,” *Foreign Affairs*, November, available at
<<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/levant/2015-10-20/help-refugees-help-themselves>>

Yaghmanian, B. (2017, April 20). “How Not to Fix the Refugee Crisis – A Response to ‘Refuge’,” *News Deeply*, available at
<<https://www.newsdeeply.com/refugees/community/2017/04/20/how-not-to-fix-the-refugee-crisis-a-response-to-refuge>>

Mourad, L. (2016, December 19). “From Conflict-insensitive to Conflict-driven Aid: Responding to the Syrian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon,” *Midde East Institute*, available at
<<http://www.mei.edu/content/map/conflict-insensitive-conflict-driven-aid>>.

Week 6: Migration & The Politics of Care in the Middle East

Our first look at specific forms of labour migration, this week introduces the phenomenon of the transnationalization of care work and its growth and spread in the Middle East. We look at specific case studies both in the Gulf states - where this pattern began - and more recent destinations, such as Lebanon and Jordan.

Williams, F. (2010). “Migration and Care: Themes, Concepts, and Challenges”, *Social Policy & Society*, 9(3): 385-396

Gardner, A. M. (2011) Gulf Migration and the Family. *Journal of Arabian Studies*, 1: 3–25.

Pande, A. (2014). “Forging Intimate and Work Ties: Migrant Domestic Workers Resist in Lebanon,” in B. Fernandez, M. de Regt, Gregory Currie (eds.), *Migrant Domestic Workers in the Middle East: The Home and the World*. New York: Palgrave MacMillan.

Silvey, R. (2006). Consuming the transnational family: Indonesian migrant domestic workers to Saudi Arabia. *Global networks*, 6(1), 23-40.

Week 7: Migration & Oil Politics

This week looks specifically at migrant labour in the Gulf region, the largest recipient of migrant work in the Middle East, and interrogates its effect on migrants themselves, on receiving states, as well as on the domestic politics of the host states.

Halliday, F. (1984). "Labor Migration in the Arab World". Middle East Research and Information Project Report (14).

Thiollet, M. (2011) "Migration as Diplomacy: Labor Migrants, Refugees, and Arab Regional Politics in the Oil-Rich Countries." *International Labor and Working-Class History* 79: 103–121.

Gardner, Andrew M. 2010. Introduction: Structural Violence and Transnational Migration in the Gulf States in *City of Strangers: Gulf Migration and the Indian Community in Bahrain*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2010.

Week 8: Gender & Displacement

This week places a particular emphasis on the gendered effects of migration in the Middle East, both in the process of emigration as well as immigration. Migration is a profoundly disruptive process and its effect on gender norms and practices is never given: it has both the potential to fundamentally shift and transform gender norms, while also reinscribing traditional gendered patterns of labour.

Khater, A. F. (2001). "Chapter 2: Factory Girls," "Chapter 3: Emigration," in *Inventing home: emigration, gender, and the middle class in Lebanon, 1870-1920*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 19-70

Silvey, R. (2007). "Mobilizing Piety: Gendered Morality and Indonesian-Saudi Transnational Migration," *Mobilities* 2(2): 219-229.

Peteet, J. (1991). "Gender and Culture in Exile," "Activism and Domesticity," in *Gender in crisis: women and the Palestinian resistance movement*. New York : Columbia University Press, c1991, pp.19-37, pp.175-203.

Week 9: Diasporas and Emigration Politics

This week looks at the relationship of states to their citizens abroad, as well as to the formation and power of diasporic communities. We will look at different ways of defining communities of expatriates, and their utility for our understanding of politics in the Middle East both historically and in more contemporary cases.

Brand, L. (2006). "States and their citizens abroad," in *Citizens Abroad: Emigration and the State in the Middle East and North Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-23.

Khater, A. F. (2001). "Chapter 4: The Mahjar," in *Inventing home: emigration, gender, and the middle class in Lebanon, 1870-1920*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 19-70

Levitt, P. (1998). "Social Remittances: Migration Driven Local-Level Forms of Cultural Diffusion." *International Migration Review* 32 (4): 926–948.

Tsourapas, G. (2017) "The Politics of "Exit": Emigration & Subject-Making Processes in Modern Egypt." *Journal of Middle East & North African Migration Studies* 4, pp. 29–49.

Peteet, J. (2007). "Problematizing a Palestinian Diaspora." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 39.

Week 10: Mobility & Citizenship

This week brings us back to thinking more holistically about the ways in which migration has been formative to the state and nation in the Middle East. It asks: In what ways have the boundaries of citizenship been shaped by questions of migration? What are the limits of these boundaries? How can they be challenged?

Brand, L. (2010) "National Narratives and Migration: Discursive Strategies of Inclusion and Exclusion in Jordan and Lebanon." *International Migration Review* 44: 78–110.

Sater, J. (2014) "Citizenship and Migration in Arab Gulf Monarchies." *Citizenship Studies* 18: 292–302.

Pearlman, W. (2014). "Competing for Lebanon's Diaspora: Transnationalism and Domestic Struggles in a Weak State." *International Migration Review*, 48, no. 1 (Spring), pp. 34-75.

Babar, Z. (2014). "The Cost of Belonging: Citizenship Construction in the State of Qatar", *The Middle East Journal*, Volume 68 No. 3.

Fargues, P. (2011). "Immigration without inclusion: non-nationals in nation-building in the Gulf States." *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal*, 20(3-4), 273-292.

Week 11: Wrap-Up