

**Syllabus: The Arab Awakening and Emerging Issues in the Middle East: The  
Camden Conference Seminar  
Gray Cox in collaboration with Lucy Creevey (lecturer emeritus)**

M, Th -- 9:35 in the Putnam Room in Turretts

NOTE: There will also be additional meetings for viewing media  
and for attending a conference.

This is a reading course tied to participation in the annual foreign affairs conference in Camden (Feb 22-24.) Over the past several years, College of the Atlantic has developed a relationship with the conference that enables our students to engage the various events over the full three days. Every year highlights a particular theme, with a new set of focused panel discussions, national and international speakers, and readings. The 2013 Camden Conference will focus on the current status and future prospects of the Arab Awakening across the Middle East and its likely impacts upon U.S. policies and U.S. roles in the region. Topics will include: Political Developments and Public Order in Arab nations directly affected by the current ferment, Rise of Islamic Factions in Governing Roles as a result of recent elections, Effects among Palestinians and Impacts upon the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Regional Leverages and Rivalries, Prospects for Political Change in Iran and the state of U.S.-Iranian Relations especially in relation to tensions arising from the Iranian Nuclear Program, and Policies the United States should adopt in response to the Arab Awakening.

The course will be a reading intensive and discussion based seminar that will include works from both the conference reading list as well as supplemental works that focus especially on Egypt and Iran. The goals of the class are: 1.) to prepare students to attend and play an active role in the kinds of policy analysis, discussions and debates typified by this conference (attendance is a requirement of the class) and 2.) to develop skills for doing research projects and analysis in comparative government and international relations. Evaluation will be based on class and conference participation, short written assignments, and written and oral presentations. Students interested in the Middle East, international relations, global politics, diplomacy, US foreign policy, nonviolent social change movements, civil war and military strategy are especially encouraged to enroll. Students who have previously taken a Camden Conference course can also receive credit for this course and are encouraged to consider enrolling.

Level: Intermediate. Prerequisites: none. Lab fee: \$100 (includes conference registration and lodging). Class limit: 12. \*HS\*

Texts for the course will include Robin Wright's *ROCK THE CASBAH* and Kenneth Pollack's *THE ARAB AWAKENING* as well as selected articles made available by xerox or through the portal, web based materials, and selections from the books on the reading list for the Camden Conference.

Assignments will include:

1. Class participation, readings and homework (e. g. prepare short questions or select specific passages for class discussion). Note that this is very much a discussion based course and class participation is essential -- including participation in the Camden Conference itself.

2. Short report on an artist, activist, or group that is part of the counter-jihad or the "Arab Awakening" -- including a one page background sheet and some kind of audio-visual documentation like a youtube video or film clip (or possibly a Skype interview).

3. Critical Book Review and Discussion -- each student will be responsible for reading and providing a critical book review for one of the books recommended for the conference. This will include preparing a one to two page profile and a ten to fifteen minute in class presentation of the point of view, background assumptions, argument and/or narrative, and strengths and weaknesses of the text as well as a survey of key comments made by reviewers of the text. Each presenter should select a substantial but manageable portion of the text to make available for the whole class to read and prepare a list of discussion questions or points of departure (e. g. key passages, charts, etc.).

4. Reports on the conference proceedings to Lucy in week 9 -- in small groups (usually pairs) students will prepare summary reports on conference sessions including key arguments and points of view presented as well as assessments of them. The format for reporting will be 5 minutes of careful, succinct presentation followed by 10 minutes of open discussion.

5. At the end of the term, each student will write an Op Ed column (or blog piece) of 600 to 900 words on a topic relevant to the themes discussed in the readings and at the conference. Drafts will be shared in class on Monday of week 10 and a final draft is due on Thursday of week 10. Preliminary sketches for the Op Ed should be drafted by Monday of week 7 as part of the preparation for the Conference.

For students who choose to receive a letter grade for the course, the weighting of assignments will be: 25% class participation, readings and homework; 10% short artist/activist report; 25% critical book review and discussion; 20% conference report; 20% Op Ed.

Gray's office hours will be Monday and Thursday 1-4 and by appointment or coincidence ;- ) on the second floor of Davis and he can be reached at #460-1163 or gray@coa.edu

#### SCHEDULE:

NOTE: There will be additional class sessions to be scheduled that will allow for collective viewing of some films, youtube videos and other media and presentations of the short reports on artists/activists/groups. These will probably be once a week for the first 5 weeks. The first session will be the viewing of a film, LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, on a group practicing non-violence in Palestine.

Week

**Part I -- Introduction and a first Overview**

- 1/7           Monday  
Syllabus review  
Introductions
- 1/10           Thursday  
ROCK THE CASBAH (RC) pp. 1-89  
THE ARAB AWAKENING (AA) pp. 1-9 & 311-318  
Recommended: **Arab Awakening : Birth of New Political Paradigm** - Special  
Lecture by **Wadah Khanfar** (Former Director General - AL Jazeera),  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3w8NXdgCWqM>  
Al Jazeera 6 Part Series: The Arab Awakening, Episode 4 "the Death of Fear" --  
the story of the overthrow of Ben Ali's regime in Tunisia and the start of the "Arab  
Awakening"  
<https://itunes.apple.com/podcast/the-arab-awakening/id469348587>
- 1/14           Monday  
RC pp. 90-188  
AA, ch. 5 Michael Doran, "The Revolution Will Be Tweeted"
- 1/17           Thursday  
RC pp. 189-270  
Special Homework DUE – Draft Ideas for a Critical Book Review and handout  
selection for ROCK THE CASBAH

**Part II -- Two Case Studies -- Egypt and Iran (sessions with Lucy)**

- 1/21           Monday  
Egypt (session with Lucy)  
Egypt.pdf -- Chatham House Briefing Paper on the Political Economy of  
Egypt by Jane Kinninmont
- 1/24           Thursday  
Egypt (session with Lucy)  
Heirs of Nasser-1.pdf -- Discussion of Nasser's rise and fall by Michael  
Doran  
Sayyid Qtub, SOCIAL JUSTICE IN ISLAM, pp. 19-35 & 51-54 (and some  
extra material supplied by Gray)
- 1/28           Monday  
Egypt (session with Lucy)  
The Rise of Islamists.pdf -- Discussion of Muslim Brotherhood and its  
moderate elements

AA, Ch. 4, Shadi Hamid, "Islamists and the Brotherhood" and ch. 12  
 "Egypt: The Prize"  
 fall of the Pharaoh.pdf -- Will Egypt Realign as a Democracy (but written  
 in 2011)

Recommended: Al Jazeera Featured Documentary, THE ARAB  
 AWAKENING: SEEDS OF A REVOLUTION  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSZ7Ln5KzRU>

1/31 Thursday  
 Iran (session with Lucy)  
 Political Research Quarterly-2012--IRAN.pdf -- Support for Democracy in  
 Iran by Tezcur, Azadarmaki, Bahar and Nayebi  
 Selection from THE AYATOLLAH BEGS TO DIFFER.

2/4 Monday  
 Iran (session with Lucy)  
 Postel Interview-1.pdf -- Discussion of pro Democracy Elements in Iran  
 (but written in 2010 - the Revolutionary Guard is much stronger now in 2012)  
 Green Women Iran.pdf -- Discussion of Changing Role of Women in Iran

### **Part III -- Critical Book Reviews and Discussion**

2/7 Thursday  
 Marc Lynch, THE ARAB UPRISING: THE UNFINISHED REVOLUTIONS OF  
 THE NEW MIDDLE EAST -- Rachel Wells  
 Noah Feldman, THE RISE AND FALL OF THE ISLAMIC STATE -- Jane Nurse  
 AA tba

2/11 Monday  
 Tariq Ramadan, ISLAM AND THE ARAB AWAKENING -- Christina Tellez  
 Marwan Muasher, THE ARAB CENTER: THE PROMISE OF MODERATION --  
 Kyle Shank  
 Recommended videos: Tariq Ramadan, "What I Believe"  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLdmXawtL-Q>  
 Tariq Ramadan, "Trying to Understand the Arab Awakening"  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Do49b0Xe3s>  
 AA tba

2/14 Thursday  
 Gregory F. Gause, THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE PERSIAN  
 GULF -- Lara Montesanto Shirley  
 Seyed Hossein Mousavian, THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR CRISIS: A MEMOIR -- Graham  
 Halleck  
 Kenneth Pollack, THE PERSIAN PUZZLE: THE CONFLICT BETWEEN IRAN  
 AND AMERICA -- Taggart Wass  
 AA ch. 29, Suzanne Maloney, "Iran: The Bogeyman"

2/18            Monday  
                   Wael Ghonim, REVOLUTION 2.0 – Mikey Santivasci  
                   Anne Elizabeth Mayer, ISLAM AND HUMAN RIGHTS: TRADITION AND  
 POLITICS – Brittany Cooper  
                   AA tba

2/21    Thursday  
                   David W. Lesch, SYRIA: THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF ASSAD – Nada  
 Zidan  
                   Fouad Ajami, THE SYRIAN REBELLION – Marissa Gilmour  
**DUE: Preliminary Op Ed Draft**

#### **Part IV -- CONFERENCE and Follow Up**

2/22-24        Leave Friday from Whale Skull at 5:00 for Camden and return Sunday  
 afternoon at 3:30

2/25 & 28      **NOTE: NO CLASSES WEEK EIGHT**

3/4            Monday  
                   Conference Presentation prep and review

3/7            Thursday  
                   Conference Presentation to Lucy

3/11           Monday  
                   review of Op Ed drafts

3/14           Thursday  
                   Op Ed DUE  
                   Closing

## APPENDIX I:

Questions for thinking about each country in the region:

What was the form taken by European control in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century and how did it shape the state that emerged?

What is the political face of Islam in each country?

What are civil liberties for women minorities, ethnic and racial groups and religious minorities?

How does the government work at present?

How is the “Arab Awakening” playing out in the country?

What are the biggest issues and interests in foreign policy for each?

## APPENDIX II: Conference Program

<http://www.camdenconference.org/2013-conference/2013-conference-program/>

## 26th ANNUAL CAMDEN CONFERENCE

### *THE MIDDLE EAST – WHAT NEXT? February 22-24, 2013*

The provisional Program, including order of speakers and topics addressed, appears below, and is subject to change as it becomes further developed. For information on Conference Speakers, please click [here](#).

#### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**8:00 PM Welcome and Dedication** Bland Banwell, President, Camden Conference

**Keynote Address - Robin Wright** Journalist, Foreign Policy Analyst, Author of three recent books on the Arab Awakening, Political Islam, and Iran.

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

**8:30AM-4:30PM**

**Marwan Muasher, Broad aspects of the Arab Awakening** Former Jordanian Ambassador to Israel and the U.S.; Deputy Prime Minister; Forthcoming book on the Arab Awakening

**Marc Lynch, Egypt and Political Islam** Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs—George Washington University Director

of Institute for Middle East Studies

**Joshua Landis, Syria and Regional Spillover/Conflicts** Director, Center for Middle East Studies and Associate Professor at University of Oklahoma

**Q & A**

**Greg Gause, Saudi Arabia, Sunni/Shia Issues, and Regional Geo-Strategic Clashes** Professor and Chairman of Political Science Department, University of Vermont

**Shai Feldman, Israel's Situation amid Regional Change and Conflict, especially with Iran** Director, Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University

**Hosein Mousavian, Iran and Related Issues** Former Editor, Iranian Ambassador, and Spokesman for the Iranian Team working on Nuclear Issues. Now at Princeton University

**Q & A**

**SUNDAY, February 24, 9:00AM-12:30PM**

**Barbara Ibrahim, The Human Face of the Arab Awakening, especially Women's Role** Professor of Sociology & Director, Center for Civic Engagement, American University in Cairo

**Ryan Crocker, U.S. Policies, Perspectives, and Prospects in the New Middle East** Distinguished U.S. Foreign Service Officer; Ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, etc.

**Q & A. – Final Panel of all Speakers**

**MODERATOR – Nicholas Burns**, Former Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs as well as U.S. Ambassador to NATO and to Greece, Counsel General in Jerusalem, and State Department Spokesman. Now, Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy and International Politics at the Kennedy School, Harvard University.

APPENDIX III -- RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR THE CONFERENCE