COURSE OVERVIEW
This seminar explores the politics of social welfare in the Middle East. Contests over who belongs to the national political community – or contests over the meaning and substance of citizenship – are at the core of ongoing struggles throughout the world. If citizenship refers to who has rights and obligations and what these rights and obligations entail within a political entity, then access to social services is at the center of contests over citizenship and national identity.

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is an appropriate regional focus to explore these issues for several reasons: First, national identity is contested in many countries in the region, in part because of legacies of French and British colonialism and Ottoman rule. Second, the post-independence state has aimed to play a dominant role in economic, political and social life in most Middle Eastern countries, setting itself up as the main provider for the population but, at the same time, becoming vulnerable when it could no longer provide the same level and types of services. Third, with few or decreasing public welfare functions, non-state and often political and religious groups are important providers of social services.

The following themes are central to the course:

• What is a welfare regime? Are social rights a constituent component of citizenship?
• How do welfare regimes vary across the MENA and what explains their differences? Have citizens actually received more generous benefits in countries where post-independence regimes adopted more populist rhetoric?
• What is the role of the state in providing social welfare? What do should civil society organizations play in providing social services and what role should they play? What kinds of relationships can emerge between state and civil society institutions in social service provision?
• How do the politics of social welfare provision vary in deeply divided societies?
• What are the gender dimensions of diverse welfare regimes in the Middle East?

The course is divided into three parts. The first section examines the historical emergence of welfare regimes in the Middle East and the diverse types of post-independence “social contracts” in the region. The second part of the course explores welfare regimes in different clusters of Middle Eastern countries, including democracies and quasi-democracies, the Gulf oil monarchies, non-oil monarchies, and single-party republics. These case studies aim to answer basic questions about what the state and non-state organizations provide and probe the implications of welfare provision by civil society organizations for the construction of shared experiences of citizenship. The third part of the course focuses on specific issues in the region, including the dynamics of welfare regimes in ethnically and religiously “fractionalized” societies and debates about the political ramifications of Islamic charity, particularly in the post 9/11 period.
COURSE POLICIES
This is a senior seminar. Students are expected to read and synthesize all materials in advance of each meeting. Attendance is mandatory. Please note the following requirements and expectations of seminar participants:

1) Participation in Seminar: In order to engage in the course material and questions seriously, the seminar requires active and thoughtful participation of all students. This means that you must:
   a) Read all material regularly;
   b) Think about the material prior to the course; and
   c) Attend and participate in all classes.
Active participation will not only help you to succeed in the course but will also enhance the learning experiences of all seminar participants (including mine). Regular contributions to discussions are vital to the life of the seminar.

2) Be engaged: Interrogate the readings, follow current events, read widely, think expansively, engage in dialogue with other seminar participants in and outside of the classroom, and seek me out during office hours.

3) No Late Work: Late papers will lose ½ grade per day. The only exceptions will be made for serious medical or family problems with documentation. No exceptions; the rule of law will be upheld in this course!

4) No Tolerance for Violations of the Brown Academic Code: All cases of offenses against the Code will be submitted to the university administration. For information on what constitutes plagiarism or other offenses, how to avoid them, and how to cite your sources, please consult the Brown University Academic Code of Conduct and Tents of Community Behavior: [http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/documents/principles.pdf](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/documents/principles.pdf).

5) Absentee Policy: Students are allowed one absence during the course of the semester. For each additional absence students must write a four-page (1000 words) summary of the readings for the missed class. In this summary paper you must discuss the main themes and debates in the assigned readings assigned. This paper is due at the beginning of the next class. If you do not submit this summary paper at the beginning of the next class or it is of poor quality, you will lose a half grade on your final course grade.

6) Laptop/Wireless Policy: Laptops and other wireless devices may be used for note-taking and course-related purposes only. Out of respect for others and to ensure that you derive the maximum benefits from the course, they are not permitted for other uses.
REQUIREMENTS
Writing and other requirements for the course include the following:

1) Two Short Essays: The essay questions require you to synthesize and critically engage with the course readings. Assignments are posted on the course website one week prior to the due date. The paper should be no more than 5-7 double-spaced pages.
   Essay #1: Assignment released on Feb. 23 and due no later than noon on March 1.
   Essay #2: Assignment released on March 29 and due no later than noon April 5.

2) Group presentation: During the second part of the seminar, small groups of students will present background information on the evolution of welfare regimes in specific countries. Each group will prepare a powerpoint presentation to which will be distributed by noon of the seminar meeting and used in class. All data sources must be fully documented and, ideally, posted on the course website. Group assignments will be determined after the second week of the semester.

3) Final project: The final, individual project is the major project for the seminar and can take the form of a research paper, film or other medium. Precise topics and type of final product must be discussed and approved in advance with the professor. A preliminary outline and bibliography should be uploaded to the course website by noon on Monday, April 23. Final projects must be uploaded to the course website no later than 5pm on May 11.

GRADING
Grades are assigned on the following basis:

- Seminar attendance and active participation (25%)
- Presentation in seminar (15%)
- Two short essays (30%)
- Final project (30%)

COURSE MATERIALS
Books
The following books are available for purchase at the Brown Bookstore and at the Course Reserves Desk at the Rockefeller Library:

Articles and reports are available electronically through the course website.
TOPICS AND SEMINAR MEETING SCHEDULE

I. The Historical Origins and Classification of Welfare Regimes in the Middle East

Thursday, January 26: Introduction: What are “welfare regimes” and why should we study them in the Middle East & North Africa (MENA)?
- No readings

Thursday, February 2: The Historical Foundations of Welfare in the Middle East

Thursday, February 9: The State and the Social Contract in the Post-Colonial Middle East

II. Varieties of the “Social Contract” in the Middle East and North Africa

Thursday, February 16: The Construction (and Deconstruction?) of the Welfare State and the AKP in Turkey
- Optional: Justice and Development Party (AKP) Platform, Turkey.
Thursday, February 23: Welfare and Clerical-Military Control in Iran
First short essay assignment distributed
- The following short articles are from Middle East Report no. 250, vol. 39, no. 1(Spring 2009) – “The Islamic Revolution at 30”:

Thursday, March 1: The Gulf Oil Monarchies
First short essay due
- Read summaries only of the following Human Rights Watch reports:
  - “Walls at Every Turn - Abuse of Migrant Domestic Workers through Kuwait's Sponsorship System”
  - “Slow Reform - Protection of Migrant Domestic Workers in Asia and the Middle East”
  - “As if I am not Human: Abuses Against Asian Human Rights Workers in Saudi Arabia”

Thursday, March 8: The Non-Oil Monarchies: Jordan and Morocco

Tuesday, March 22: No class meeting

Thursday, March 29: Spring break, no seminar meeting.
Second short essay assignment distributed.

Thursday, April 5: Health Under Occupation: The Case of Palestine

Thursday, April 12: Welfare in Divided Societies: The Case of Lebanon
Second short essay due
- Nizar Hamzeh. “Hizballah: Islamic Charity in Lebanon.” In Alterman and von Hippel, eds. Understanding Islamic Charities, ch. 8 (pp. 127-146).
- Film: Chantal Berman, “Amel Association, 30 Years of Action (Parts 1 & 2).” Available at: http://www.youtube.com/user/amelassociation#p/a/u/1/n3eLyXxY8m0 and http://www.youtube.com/user/amelassociation#p/a/u/0/a9clb_qMFFu.
Part III:

Thursday, April 19: Non-State Welfare: The Politics of Islamic Charities

Monday, April 23: Final project proposal due

Thursday, April 26: Welfare Regimes, Human Insecurity, and the Arab Uprisings

III. Conclusion

Date TBD: Comparative Analysis of MENA Welfare Regimes
- No assigned readings
- Review readings and country presentations

Friday, May 11: Final project due