



Climate Change the Middle East and Post-Oil

Lecturer: [Prof. Dan Rabinowitz](#)

3 hour lectures once a week, 3 credits, Undergraduate

General

This course examines the impact climate change already has on the region; the consequences that might ensue as global warming advances further in the future; and the potential of the region to turn from being part of the problem to making part of the solution.

The course aims to:

1. Familiarize participants with state of the art climate models for the region generally and for particular countries in it;
2. Introduce participants to the notion of climate inequality, and to the link between climate change and inequality between states in the region and within them
3. Expose participants to the relationship between climate change and semi-forced migration, both within countries and across national borders, and to the implications such dynamics could have for (in)security and geo-political (in)stability.
4. Acquaint participants with the extraordinary potential of the Middle East for solar energy, with special emphasis on the six oil-rich countries of the Persian Gulf.
5. Introduce participants to the notion of Peak Oil and, through it, to the notion that major oil producers in the region could become leaders of the global energy transition and the eclipse of fossil fuels in favor of renewables.

Part 1 (week 1-2) briefly introduces the evolution climate modelling, emphasizes recent advances in scaling down global models to regional, state and local levels, then surveys predictive models for key states in the region. Part 2 (weeks 3-5) introduces climate inequality as a generic concept, then analyses how climate change might exacerbate three types of gaps across the region: divergent levels of CO2 emissions; different levels of exposure and vulnerability to global warming; and variance in the commitment to climate action. Part 3 (weeks 6-8) looks at the relationship between climate change, the pressure on agriculture in various segments of the Middle East, migration and security, offers a critique of securitization and suggests planned internal migration as a strategy. Part 4 (weeks 9-11) introduces the notion of Peak-oil, highlights the immense potential of the Middle East for solar power, and sketches a putative strategy that could position the six oil-rich kingdoms by the Persian Gulf in the forefront of the global transformation from fossil fuels to renewables. Week 12 integrates and summarizes the course.

Grade Components

- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Class presentation of reading materials: 20%. Each week one, a team of students will present a review of the items featured in the weekly reading list. Presentations (15-20 minutes), should be shared by all team members and must include (a) brief summary of the main arguments; (b) reasoned suggestions for at least 2 additional items beyond the items reviewed that correspond and add to them; And (c) suggest arising questions and areas of inquiry. Presentation should culminate with a stimulating and relatable question for class discussion, moderated by the presenters.
- Mid-term paper: 30%
- Final exam: 30%

Course Program

Note: items indicated by an asterix are required reading.

Link to dropbox containing (most) items in the reading list as PDF files:
Rabinowitz Climate Change and the Middle East Course Materials

Week 1: Day _____ Date 2021 (Time to Time): *Introduction; scaled down climate models; regional predictions*

Week 2: Day _____ Date 2021 (Time to Time): *Country specific climate predictions*

Week 3: Day _____ Date 2021 (Time to Time): *The 3 Types of Climate Inequality: theory and concepts.*

Week 4: Day _____ Date 2021 (Time to Time): *Climate Inequality 2: Inequalities between states in the region*

Week 5: Day _____ Date 2021 (Time to Time): *Climate Inequality 3: Inequalities within states in the region*

Week 6 Date 2021 (Time to Time): *Climate change and the Flight of Agriculture in the Middle East*

Week 7 Date 2021 (Time to Time): *Climate of Instability 1: migration, climate refugees and (in)security.*

Week 8 Date 2021 (Time to Time): *Climate of instability 2: securitization and voluntary planned migration*

Week 9 Date 2021 (Time to Time): *The other threat: Peak-Oil and the projected demise of the GCC*

Week 10 Date 2021 (Time to Time): *Solar future: renewable potential in the Middle East*

Week 11 Date 2021 (Time to Time): *200 men could save the planet?*

Week 12 Date 2021 (Time to Time): *Final session*

Week 13 (Date TBA): Final Exam