COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Comparative Middle East Politics	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Dr. Žilvinas Švedkauskas **Other:**	Institute of International Relations and Political Science, Vilnius University, Vokiečių str. 10, LT-01130, Vilnius

Study cycle	Type of the course unit

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
Face-to-face	Spring semester	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites:	**Co-requisites (if relevant):**

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	145	32	113

Purpose of the course unit
This course offers a survey of contemporary politics in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), employing a comparative lens to understand the region's key institutions and patterns of political behavior. Fundamental questions about MENA politics are addressed, such as: What explains authoritarian resilience in the Middle East? Why do national militaries falter against insurgent groups such as the so-called "Islamic State"? How are resources, political access, and economic opportunities distributed across MENA societies? This course serves as a survey of both classic and cutting-edge work on the politics of the MENA region, broadly defined. Students are expected to develop hands-on knowledge of comparative methods and apply them alongside theories of comparative politics to study MENA political developments and institutions, while raising and critically engaging with original research questions. The course is organized into four thematic parts that bridge methodological foundations with empirical comparative studies. The first section establishes shared foundations for a robust and critical application of comparative methods. The second part unpacks the political regimes dominant in the MENA region by investigating their pillars of stability, internal dynamics, state-society relations, and the reasons behind their collapse. The third part focuses on the political economy of the MENA region, untangling the social contracts and pacts supporting the authoritarian status quo. Finally, the course turns to engage with the international factors and trends that continue to reshape politics in the Middle East and North Africa. After completing the course, students are expected to be well-versed in MENA regional politics, formulate logically sound questions and arguments tied to the foundational literature, and develop new research proposals that adequately employ comparative methods.

Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods

To provide a comprehensive research-based understanding of contemporary politics of the MENA region	Study of course literature, group presentations, discussions	Evaluation of work in seminars, group presentations
To gain a deeper understanding of the theories explaining the political transformations in MENA and to apply this knowledge in formulating arguments, critically engaging with new research propositions in the field and analyzing political events and forecasting future developments	Study of course literature, discussant-ships, current MENA affairs reviews	Evaluation of work in seminars, discussant-ships, current MENA affairs reviews
To become familiar with the methods (especially comparative approaches), challenges, and potential solutions involved in the research of MENA politics	Study of course literature, discussant-ships current MENA affairs reviews	Evaluation of work in seminars, discussant-ships, current MENA affairs reviews
To analyze research questions related to MENA politics by formulating and addressing a research problem, while applying the theoretical and empirical knowledge accumulated throughout the course	Group presentations, final examination in essay form	Evaluation of group presentations, final examination

Content	**Contact hours**							**Individual work: time and assignments**	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	**Contact hours, total**	**Individual work**	**Tasks for individual work**
1. Introduction, Onboarding, and Distribution of Assignments			2				**2**	**4**	Reading and analysis of: • Penner-Angrist, Michele. 2019. "The Making of Middle East Politics," in Michele Penner Angrist (ed.) Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East. 3rd ed. Boulder: Lynne.
2. Doing Comparative Politics • How to compare? • Why compare? • MSSD – MDSD • Small-n, large-n, process tracing			2				**2**	**6**	Reading and analysis of: • Landman, Todd and Edzia Carvalho (42017): *Issues & Methods in Comparative Politics. An Introduction.* London, New York: Routledge, Chap. 2, pp. 29-56. • Sartori, Giovanni (1991): "Comparing and Miscomparing," *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 3(3), pp. 243-257.
3. Small-n Comparisons between Theory and Empirics • What are the advantages and challenges of small-n research? • How do you select your cases? From theories to empirics (and back)			2				**2**	**6**	Reading and analysis of: • Slater, Dan and Daniel Ziblatt (2003): "The Enduring Indispensability of the Controlled Comparison," *Comparative Political Studies* 20(10), pp. 1-27. • Geddes, Barbara (1990): "How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics," *Political Analysis* 2, pp. 131-150.
Unpacking MENA regimes									

4. Sources of Legitimacy • How is political rule in the region justified and perpetuated? • Why can regimes survive despite the lack of democratic legitimation? • Suggested cases for comparison: Jordan, Egypt, Algeria.			2				**2**	**6**	Reading and analysis of: • Schlumberger, Oliver. 2010. "Opening Old Bottles in Search of New Wine. On Nondemocratic Legitimacy in the Middle East," *Middle East Critique* 19(3), pp. 233-250. • Wedeen, Lisa. 1998. "Acting 'As If': Symbolic Politics and Social Control in Syria," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 40(3), pp. 503-523.
5. Electoral and Party Politics • Why are there multi-party elections in the MENA region? • What impact does the exclusion of (Islamist) groups from elections have? • Suggested cases for comparison: Morocco, Kuwait, Tunisia, Yemen.			2				**2**	**5**	Reading and analysis of: • Cavatorta, Francesco and Valeria Resta. 2023. "Elections in the Middle East and North Africa", Cavatorta, Francesco and Valeria Rest, eds. 2023. *Routledge Handbook on Elections in the Middle East and North Africa*, 1-9. New York: Routledge. • Buehler, Matt and Calista Boyd. 2023. "The Functions of Authoritarian Elections: Symbolism, Safety Valves, and Clientelism", Cavatorta, Francesco and Valeria Rest, eds. 2023. *Routledge Handbook on Elections in the Middle East and North Africa*, 13-25. New York: Routledge. • Cavatorta, Francesco and Fabio Merone (2013): "Moderation through exclusion? The journey of the Tunisian Ennahda from fundamentalist to conservative party," *Democratization* 20(5), 857-875.
6. Neopatrimonialism and Monarchies • Does it make a difference whether political regimes are republics or monarchies? • What is neopatrimonialism and (how) does the concept help understand politics in the region? • Suggested cases for comparative analysis: Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Syria.			2				**2**	**5**	Reading and analysis of: • Sfakianakis, John (2004): "Whales of the Nile: Networks, Businessmen and Bureaucrats during the Era of Privatization in Egypt," in: Heydemann, Steven (ed.): *Networks of Privilege in the Middle East. The Politics of Economic Reform Revisited*, New York: Palgrave, pp. 77-99. • Yom, S. L., & Gause III, F. G. (2012). "Resilient royals: How Arab monarchies hang on." *Journal of Democracy*, 23(4), 74-88.

7. Civil Society and Contentious Politics • Is there a civil society in the MENA region, if so, how does it look like? • How can social movements be sustained under authoritarian rule? • Suggested cases for comparative analysis: Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, Algeria.			2				**2**	**5**	Reading and analysis of: • Wiktorowicz, Quintan (2000): "Civil Society as Social Control. State Power in Jordan," *Comparative Politics* 33(1), pp. 43-61. • Sika, Nadine. 2019. "Repression, Cooptation, and Movement Fragmentation in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from the Youth Movement in Egypt," Political Studies, 67(3): pp. 676-692.
8. Repression • Why is a look at state coercion crucial for understanding authoritarian durability in the region? • How has repression changed in the MENA region since 2011? • Suggested cases for comparative analysis: Egypt, Syria, Iran.			2				**2**	**5**	Reading and analysis of: • Josua, Maria and Mirjam Edel. 2021. "The Arab uprisings and the return of Repression," *Mediterranean Politics* 26:5, 586-611. • Michaelsen, Marcus. 2018. "Exit and voice in a digital age: Iran's exiled activists and the authoritarian state," *Globalizations*, 15(2), pp. 248-264.
9. Civil-Military Relations and Coup-Proofing • Why do some national militaries falter against smaller, non-state armed groups? • How do autocratic rulers organize their security apparatus to ensure political survival? • Suggested cases for comparative analysis: Iraq, Bahrain, Syria, and Egypt.			2				**2**	**6**	Reading and analysis of: • Kamrava, Mehran. 2000. "Military professionalization and Civil-Military Relations in the Middle East*." Political Science Quarterly* 115(1): 67-92. • Nepstad, Sharon Erickson (2013): "Mutiny and Nonviolence in the Arab Spring. Exploring Military Defections and Loyalty in Egypt, Bahrain, and Syria," *Journal of Peace Research* 50(3), pp. 337-49.
10. Sectarian Politics and Political Islam			2				**2**	**6**	Reading and analysis of:

• Which role does sectarianism play in the Middle East? • Are identity politics particularly strong in the Middle East and North Africa? • Suggested cases for comparative analysis: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Lebanon.									• Valbjørn, E. Morten. 2023. "Approaching Sectarian Identity Politics and Middle East International Relations in the First Post-Arab Uprisings Decade − A Stocktaking." *Aula Mediterrania* 140: 1-7. • Louër, Laurence. 2014. "The State and Sectarian Identities in the Persian Gulf Monarchies: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in Comparative Perspective," in: Lawrence G. Potter: *Sectarian Politics in the Persian Gulf*. New York (NY): Oxford University Press, pp. 117-142.
11. State Fragility and Collapse • What factors matter for state stability in the MENA region? • Is state collapse contagious? • Suggested cases for comparative analysis: Libya, Yemen, Iraq			2				**2**	**6**	Reading and analysis of: • Milliken, Jennifer and Keith Krause (2002): "State Failure, State Collapse, and State Reconstruction: Concepts, Lessons and Strategies," *Development and Change* 33(5), pp. 753-774. • Schlumberger, Oliver (2016): "'Contagious Crumbling': Stability, Breakdown, and the Diffusion of Arab State Failure," *POMEPS Studies* # 21, pp. 35-42.
Money, markets and politics									
12. Political Economy and the State • Who are the main actors driving economic development in the region? • How do economic adjustment policies in the MENA countries affect their political transitions? • Suggested cases for comparative analysis: Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco.			2				**2**	**5**	Reading and analysis of: • Bogaert, Koenraad. 2013. "Contextualizing the Arab Revolts: The Politics behind Three Decades of Neoliberalism in the Arab World," *Middle East Critique*, 22 (3), pp. 213-234. • Leber, Andrew. "National Transformation Schemes: Saudi Arabia and Vision 2030." *The I.B. Tauris Handbook of Authoritarianism in the Arab World*. Ed. Dana El Kurd London New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2026. 195–214. I B Tauris Handbooks. Bloomsbury Collections. Web. 12 Jul. 2026. <https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/encyclopedia-chapter?docid=b-9780755655380&tocid=b-9780755655380-0005919>.
13. Distributive Politics and Social Pacts			2				**2**	**6**	Reading and analysis of: • Heydemann, Steven. 2020. "Rethinking Social Contracts in the MENA Region: Economic Governance, Contingent

• What are social pacts and social contracts? How relevant are they today? • How have distributive politics been adapted since 2011, why, and to what effects? • Suggested cases for comparative analysis: Egypt, Iran, Morocco, Oman.									Citizenship, and State-Society Relations after the Arab Uprisings," *World Development* 135, 1-10. • Hertog, Steffen. 2016. "Late populism: State distributional regimes and economic conflict after the Arab uprisings," POMEPS Studies: From Mobilization to Counter-Revolution, 12-17. • Vidican Auktor, Georgeta and Markus Loewe. 2022. "Subsidy Reform and the Transformation of Social Contracts: The Cases of Egypt, Iran and Morocco," *Social Sciences* 11(85), 1-22.
Transregional dimensions									
14. Regional Order and International Relations • How can the regional order of the MENA be characterized today? • Who are (new and established; state and non-state) agents in regional politics, and how can changes in their positioning be explained? • How important are regime survival strategies and regime identity for understanding the goals and behavior of state leaders? • Suggested cases for comparative analysis: GCC countries, Turkey, Israel-Palestine, Iran.			2				**2**	**5**	Reading and analysis of: • Darwich, May. 2021. "Alliance politics in the post-2011 Middle East: Advancing theoretical and empirical perspectives," *Mediterranean Politics* (online first): 1-22. • Mens, Jay. 2024. "The 'Age of Normalizations'—An Overdue Post-Mortem," *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, online first, 1– 12.
15. Transnational MENA futures • What transnational actors and policy trends will shape the MENA region in the foreseeable future?			2				**2**	**5**	Reading and analysis of: • Moaswes, Abdulla , and Meriem Naïli. "Authoritarian Entanglements with Settler Colonialism: Exploring Dynamics of Moroccan – Israeli Normalization and the Palestine–Western Sahara Connection." In The I.B. Tauris Handbook of Authoritarianism in the Arab World,

• Suggested cases for comparative analysis: Iran, Israel-Palestine, GCC countries.									edited by Dana El Kurd , 29–42. I B Tauris Handbooks. London New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2026. Accessed July 8, 2026. https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/encyclopedia-chapter?docid=b-9780755655380&tocid=b-9780755655380-chapter2. • Gurol-Haller, Julia. "China's Role in the Middle East: Authoritarian Practices and Their Transregional Diffusion." In The I.B. Tauris Handbook of Authoritarianism in the Arab World, edited by Dana El Kurd, 166–177. I B Tauris Handbooks. London New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2026. Accessed July 8, 2026. https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/encyclopedia-chapter?docid=b-9780755655380&tocid=b-9780755655380-chapter11.
16. Wrap up • What can we learn about the third global wave of autocratization while examining the politics in the MENA region?			2				**2**	**4**	Reading and analysis of: • Švedkauskas, Žilvinas. „Egypt: establishing al-Sisi's constitutional dominance." In *Constitutions under Pressure: How Patient Autocrats Capture the Courts and Disassemble Checks and Balances*, Budrich Academic Press, 2026.
Group presentation								**10**	Preparation for a comparative group presentation on one of the topics identified above.
Discussant-ship or current MENA affairs review								**6**	Preparation for discussing peer presentation or gathering and analyzing material for the current affairs review.
Final written examination in essay form								**12**	At the end of the course, students will have to select one of the suggested topics related to MENA politics, and formulate a clear problem or question to address, and write an essay of at least 2500 words. This essay will be evaluated as final assignment and should demonstrate the knowledge acquired during the course.
Total							**32**	**113**	

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Work in seminars	25	During the semester	Work in seminars is assessed on a scale of 5 to 10. A score of 5 is given for attending all seminars (with no unexcused absences) and making very infrequent contributions, which are mostly based on opinion or news headlines. A score of 10 is given for attending all seminars and frequently making well-reasoned, logical contributions based on the assigned readings. Alternatively, missed seminars can be made up by providing the lecturer with 500-word reaction paper critically engaging with the core readings of the session.
Comparative presentation	25	During the semester	In the first session of the course students will be assigned to groups of 2-3 and will choose a comparative study to present during one of the upcoming sessions. The presentations (up

			to 20 minutes) are expected to critically engage with the core readings and bring in additional insights and empirics from recommended and external sources. All presentations should also raise 3 research questions to be discussed with the group during the seminar. Visual material is recommended and an abstract along with a bibliography should be shared with the instructor for feedback at least 10 days before the presentation. Presentation material including the research questions should be shared with the discussant at least 48 hours before the session. The assessment of this assignment rests on several key criteria. An unsatisfactory score indicates that none of the criteria have been met, while the highest point indicates that all key criteria have been met: • The abstract and the bibliography are submitted in due time. • The presentation demonstrates an ability to critically engage with the core readings and link it with additional sources. • Research questions are analytically connected with the presentation and are suitable for opening a constructive group discussion moderated by the presenting students.
Discussant-ship of the comparative presentation or review of the current MENA political developments	10	During the semester	In the first session of the course students will be assigned individual tasks to either serve as discussants for the group presentations or deliver individual presentations on the current political developments in the MENA region (both up to 10 minutes). For the discussant-ship assignment, students are expected to prepare a 1-page handout critically engaging with the presentation, suggested research questions and the core readings. In addition, the discussant is expected to react and engage with their peers' presentation in class and stimulate a lively group discussion. A satisfactory score (5) is given for submitting the assignment on time, whereas the maximum score (10) is awarded to students who actively engage with the presenters and demonstrate in-depth knowledge of the core readings. For the current MENA affairs review, visual aids are recommended and the students should submit their envisioned focus developments in the form of 1-pager to the instructor in writing at least a week before the presentation. A satisfactory score is given for submitting the assignment on time and delivering the presentation in class, whereas the maximum score (10) is awarded to students who demonstrate the ability to interpret the current regional affairs based on the course readings and showcase agility in adapting the content to include the most relevant and up to date developments for the session.
End of the semester closed book exam in written form	40	May/ June	At the end of the semester, students will have to submit an essay, evaluation of which will be based on a couple of key criteria. An unsatisfactory score indicates that none of the criteria have been met, while the highest score (10) is awarded for fully meeting all criteria: • The essay is free of grammatical and stylistic errors. • The essay addresses one of the indicative topics suggested by the instructor and formulates a clear problem or question to be answered.

			• The knowledge acquired during the course is demonstrated, including the correct use of the comparative method, relevant literature, examples, theoretical arguments, and data. • The essay meets the minimum length requirement of 2500 words.

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
Albrecht, Holger and Oliver Schlumberger	2004	"Waiting for Godot": Regime Change Without Democratization in the Middle East	International Political Science Review 25(4)	—
Bank, André, Thomas Richter and Anna Sunik	2014	"Durable, Yet Different: Monarchies in the Arab Spring"	Journal of Arabian Studies 4(2)	—
Barany, Zoltan	2011	"Comparing the Arab Revolts: The Role of the Military"	Journal of Democracy 22(4)	—
Bogaert, Koenraad	2013	"Contextualizing the Arab Revolts: The Politics behind Three Decades of Neoliberalism in the Arab World"	Middle East Critique 22(3)	—
Buehler, Matt and Calista Boyd	2023	"The Functions of Authoritarian Elections: Symbolism, Safety Valves, and Clientelism" In: Routledge Handbook on Elections in the Middle East and North Africa	—	Routledge
Cavatorta, Francesco and Fabio Merone	2013	"Moderation through exclusion? The journey of the Tunisian Ennahda from fundamentalist to conservative party"	Democratization 20(5)	—
Cavatorta, Francesco and Valeria Resta	2023	"Elections in the Middle East and North Africa" In: Routledge Handbook on Elections in the Middle East and North Africa	—	Routledge
Darwich, May	2021	"Alliance politics in the post-2011 Middle East: Advancing theoretical and empirical perspectives"	Mediterranean Politics (online first)	—
Geddes, Barbara	1990	"How the Cases You Choose Affect the Answers You Get: Selection Bias in Comparative Politics"	Political Analysis 2	—
Gurol-Haller, Julia	2026	"China's Role in the Middle East: Authoritarian Practices and Their Transregional Diffusion" In: The I.B. Tauris Handbook of Authoritarianism in the Arab World	—	Bloomsbury Academic
Hertog, Steffen	2016	"Late populism: State distributional regimes and economic conflict after the Arab uprisings"	POMEPS Studies	—
Heydemann, Steven	2020	"Rethinking Social Contracts in the MENA Region: Economic Governance, Contingent Citizenship, and State-Society Relations after the Arab Uprisings"	World Development 135	—
Josua, Maria and Mirjam Edel	2021	"The Arab uprisings and the return of Repression"	Mediterranean Politics 26(5)	—

Kamrava, Mehran	2000	"Military professionalization and Civil-Military Relations in the Middle East"	Political Science Quarterly 115(1)	—
Landman, Todd and Edzia Carvalho	2017	Issues & Methods in Comparative Politics. An Introduction (Chap. 2)	—	Routledge
Leber, Andrew	2026	"National Transformation Schemes: Saudi Arabia and Vision 2030" In: The I.B. Tauris Handbook of Authoritarianism in the Arab World	—	Bloomsbury Academic
Louër, Laurence	2014	"The State and Sectarian Identities in the Persian Gulf Monarchies: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in Comparative Perspective" In: Sectarian Politics in the Persian Gulf	—	Oxford University Press
Mens, Jay	2024	"The 'Age of Normalizations'—An Overdue Post-Mortem"	Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs (online first)	—
Michaelsen, Marcus	2018	"Exit and voice in a digital age: Iran's exiled activists and the authoritarian state"	Globalizations 15(2)	—
Milliken, Jennifer and Keith Krause	2002	"State Failure, State Collapse, and State Reconstruction: Concepts, Lessons and Strategies"	Development and Change 33(5)	—
Moaswes, Abdulla and Meriem Naïli	2026	"Authoritarian Entanglements with Settler Colonialism: Exploring Dynamics of Moroccan – Israeli Normalization and the Palestine–Western Sahara Connection" In: The I.B. Tauris Handbook of Authoritarianism in the Arab World	—	Bloomsbury Academic
Nepstad, Sharon Erickson	2013	"Mutiny and Nonviolence in the Arab Spring. Exploring Military Defections and Loyalty in Egypt, Bahrain, and Syria"	Journal of Peace Research 50(3)	—
Penner-Angrist, Michele	2019	"The Making of Middle East Politics" In: Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East	3rd ed.	Lynne Rienner
Roll, Stephan	2013	"Managing change: how Egypt's military leadership shaped the transformation"	Mediterranean Politics 21(1)	—
Sartori, Giovanni	1991	"Comparing and Miscomparing"	Journal of Theoretical Politics 3(3)	—
Schlumberger, Oliver	2010	"Opening Old Bottles in Search of New Wine. On Nondemocratic Legitimacy in the Middle East"	Middle East Critique 19(3)	—
Schlumberger, Oliver	2016	"'Contagious Crumbling': Stability, Breakdown, and the Diffusion of Arab State Failure"	POMEPS Studies (21)	—
Sfakianakis, John	2004	"Whales of the Nile: Networks, Businessmen and Bureaucrats during the Era of Privatization in Egypt" In: Networks of Privilege in the Middle East	—	Palgrave
Sika, Nadine	2019	"Repression, Cooptation, and Movement Fragmentation in Authoritarian Regimes: Evidence from the Youth Movement in Egypt"	Political Studies 67(3)	—

Slater, Dan and Daniel Ziblatt	2003	"The Enduring Indispensability of the Controlled Comparison"	Comparative Political Studies 20(10)	—
Švedkauskas, Žilvinas	2026	"Egypt: establishing al-Sisi's constitutional dominance" In: Constitutions under Pressure: How Patient Autocrats Capture the Courts and Disassemble Checks and Balances	—	Budrich Academic Press
Valbjørn, Morten	2023	"Approaching Sectarian Identity Politics and Middle East International Relations in the First Post-Arab Uprisings Decade – A Stocktaking"	Aula Mediterrania 140	—
Vidican Auktor, Georgeta and Markus Loewe	2022	"Subsidy Reform and the Transformation of Social Contracts: The Cases of Egypt, Iran and Morocco"	Social Sciences 11(85)	—
Wedeen, Lisa	1998	"Acting 'As If': Symbolic Politics and Social Control in Syria"	Comparative Studies in Society and History 40(3)	—
Wiktorowicz, Quintan	2000	"Civil Society as Social Control. State Power in Jordan"	Comparative Politics 33(1)	—
Yom, S. L. and F. G. Gause III	2012	"Resilient royals: How Arab monarchies hang on"	Journal of Democracy 23(4)	—
Recommended reading				
Albrecht, Holger and Oliver Schlumberger	2004	"Waiting for Godot": Regime Change Without Democratization in the Middle East	International Political Science Review 25(4)	—
Azizi, H.	2026	The Axis of Resistance: Iran, Israel, and the Struggle for the Middle East	—	John Wiley & Sons
Bank, André, Thomas Richter and Anna Sunik	2014	"Durable, Yet Different: Monarchies in the Arab Spring"	Journal of Arabian Studies 4(2)	—
Barany, Zoltan	2011	"Comparing the Arab Revolts: The Role of the Military"	Journal of Democracy 22(4)	—
Cengiz, Fatih Çağatay	2020	"Proliferation of Neopatrimonial Domination in Turkey"	British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies 47(4)	—
Lim, Timothy C.	2016	Doing Comparative Politics (Chs. 1 & 2)	—	Lynne Rienner
Louër, Laurence	2014	"The State and Sectarian Identities in the Persian Gulf Monarchies: Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in Comparative Perspective" In: Sectarian Politics in the Persian Gulf	—	Oxford University Press
Luciani, Giacomo	2016	"On the Economic Causes of the Arab Spring and its Possible Developments" In: Oil States in the New Middle East	—	Routledge
Lust, Ellen	2007	"The Management of Opposition: Formal Structures of Contestation and Informal Political Manipulation in Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco" In: Debating Arab Authoritarianism	—	Stanford University Press

Lust, Ellen	2009	"Competitive Clientelism in the Middle East"	Journal of Democracy 20(3)	—
Roll, Stephan	2013	"Managing change: how Egypt's military leadership shaped the transformation"	Mediterranean Politics 21(1)	—
Schedler, Andreas	2002	"Elections Without Democracy. The Menu of Manipulation"	Journal of Democracy 13(2)	—
Schedler, Andreas	2006	Electoral Authoritarianism: The Dynamics of Unfree Competition	—	Lynne Rienner
Schwedler, Jillian	2006	Faith in Moderation: Islamist Parties in Jordan and Yemen	—	Cambridge University Press
Valbjørn, Morten	2012	"Upgrading Post-democratization Studies: Examining a Re-politicized Arab World in a Transition to Somewhere"	Middle East Critique 21(1)	—