Economic Transformations in New Democracies

David Stark
Spring 2012

U8150
School of International and Public Affairs
Graduate seminar
Columbia University
Wednesdays, 2:10-4:00 pm
1219 International Affairs Building
office hours: Wed 4:15-6:15pm
701C Knox Hall

dcs36@columbia.edu
TheSenseOfDissonance.com

This course examines the relationship between democratization and economic transformation. It adopts a comparative perspective to examine efforts at democratization in Eastern Europe in 1989 and, most recently, in North Africa. Topics include: patterns of social mobilization (including communication technologies), forms of accountability, property transformation, transnational organizations, and the role of international contexts.

Requirements: Informed participation in each weekly seminar is expected of every student in the course. To prepare for the discussions, write a short essay (2 pages) on the readings for each week and bring it to the seminar. The major requirement for the course is a research paper. You should begin working on your paper already during the first weeks of the course. You’ll be asked to make a brief presentation about your research. The topic and the format of the final paper are your choice, in consultation with the instructor. Our mutual goal is to find a topic and means of presentation that best meets your needs.

Readings: Several books are available for purchase at Book Culture, 112th Street between Amsterdam and Broadway.

Research Assistant: Heba Gowayed heba.gowayed@gmail.com

* indicates required reading others are recommended

January 18th Introduction, first class meeting

January 25th Transforming Property Rights and Citizenship Rights


**February 1st Uprising in North Africa**


February 8th    The Military


February 15th    The labor movement and uprising in North Africa

**Zachary Lockman** (NYU Dept of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies) guest speaker


**February 22nd** Facebook/twitter revolution?


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**February 27th** Who blocks reform?  [Note that we meet on Monday 5-7:00 pm room 801 IAB.]

**Laszlo Bruszt** (Dept of Political and Social Sciences, European University Institute, Florence) Guest speaker.


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**March 7th** Competitive Authoritarianism

**Josh Tucker** (NYU Dept of Politics) guest speaker


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**March 14th**

Spring break, NO CLASS

**March 21st**

Democracy, Inclusion, and Political Islam


March 28th     Recombination: Economic transition in Eastern Europe


April 4th     Political Ties


April 11th Problematic privatization, crony capitalism and corruption

Timothy Mitchell (Columbia University) Guest Speaker


April 18th International Contexts


April 25th Student Presentations

TBA Deadline for submitting your final paper.