Philipps-Universität Marburg
Center for Near and Middle Eastern Studies (CNMS)

Course Outline

Course Title: Political Economy of Natural and Environmental Disasters in the MENA Region (LV-10-772-223)

Semester: Winter Semester 2018/2019

Type of Course: Seminar

Level: B.A.

Credits: 6 LP

Study Program: B.A. Near and Middle Eastern Studies (Specialization Economics)

Modules: For B.A. Oriental Studies: OWi3
For B.A. Near and Middle Eastern Studies: Economics of the Middle East Interdisciplinary/Optional Module for other Bachelor programs (e.g., B.Sc. Economics, B.Sc. Business Administration)

Language: English

Date: 17 October 2018 – 13 February 2019, 14:15 – 15:45 p.m. (weekly), except on 21 and 28 November 2018

Location: CNMS, Deutschhausstr. 12, Room: 00A03

Research Group: Economics of the Middle East (FB02/CNMS)

Instructor: Sven Fischer, M.A.

Office Location: CNMS, Room: 01A41, Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4 – 5 p.m.

E-Mail: sven.fischer@uni-marburg.de

Phone: +49 (0)6421 2825089

Website: www.uni-marburg.de/cnms/wirtschaft
Course Contents and Objectives:

Natural and environmental disasters are affecting the daily-life of many people recurrently. The negative effects of these incidents and phenomena are especially in developing countries a high burden and cause many casualties, because of lacking prediction methods, disaster-proof infrastructure, and quality of health systems as well as inefficient institutions and crisis management. According to a World Bank (2014) report, over the past 30 years, disasters have affected more than 40 million people in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and have cost their economies about US$20 billion. Between 2008 and 2013, more than 120 disasters have caused an average of US$1 billion per year in damages and losses. The report highlights the synergy of natural disasters, rapid urbanization, water scarcity, and climate change as a serious challenge for the region. This makes it exceptionally interesting to look into the political economy of natural and environmental disasters in the MENA region.

In this course, we will deal with natural and man-made disasters and their implications for the political economy of MENA countries. Our focus is on the effects of disasters on economic performance and socio-economic development. The seminar starts with a theoretical introduction to relevant growth and development models, followed by theories related to natural disasters and its relationship to socio-economic factors. Based on this theoretical input, students will give presentations in class, reviewing the theoretical input and analyzing specific empirical aspects of natural and environmental disasters in the MENA region.

After the completion of the course, students will be able to:
- master the basic models and theoretical links between disasters and socio-economic development.
- test these theories in the analysis of specific research questions on the MENA region.
- identify links between economics and other issue areas within the MENA region, apply analytical tools from various fields and thus take on an interdisciplinary view.
- take part in scientific discussions and write an academic paper in English.

Enrollment

Enrollment for this course via Marvin. Registration for the seminar paper (Hausarbeit) and presentation via LSF. Please make sure not to miss the deadlines of your study programs.

Teaching Timetable:

The course is taught in Winter Semester 2018. The seminar sessions take place weekly on Wednesdays (except on 21 and 28 November 2018) 14:15 – 15:45 p.m. from 17 October 2018 to 13 February 2019. Room: 00A03.

During the first sessions, you will be assigned a topic for your presentation and paper. Your presentations will be in January and February 2019.
Course Evaluation

*Students from B.A. Orientwissenschaft / Nah- und Mitteloststudien:*
The grade in the paper will be your grade for the course. Your presentation will not be graded. However, both parts are mandatory for passing the course.

*Students from B.Sc. Volkswirtschaftslehre (and other FB02 programs):*
The final grade consists of two parts. The presentation counts 1/3 and the written paper counts 2/3. Both parts are mandatory for passing the course.

Please note that attendance is mandatory.

The **deadline for the seminar paper (Hausarbeit) is 31 March 2019.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**
In the papers and presentation slides, always indicate if you got an information from an author other than yourself (e.g. from books, articles, websites, unpublished work)!
Stealing body of work or ideas (i.e. NOT indicating its source and displaying it as your own) is PLAGIARISM. This is both unethical and illegal!
Failure to comply will be considered as fraud and result in grading down your work to 0 points = 5,0, which means you have failed the course. In addition, your case will be forwarded to the Prüfungsausschuss for academic prosecution.
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<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Literature</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>17.10.2018</td>
<td>Introductory session</td>
<td>Essential reading: CRED, 2018</td>
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<td>- Course organization</td>
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<td>- Introduction to the topic and region</td>
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<td>Additional reading: Cohen and Werker, 2008</td>
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<td>Strömberg, 2007</td>
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<td>Klomp, 2016</td>
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<td>Additional reading: Loayza et al., 2012</td>
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<td>Mochizuki et al., 2014</td>
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<td>Additional reading: WRR, 2017</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>14.11.2018</td>
<td>Earthquakes I</td>
<td>Essential reading: Deif et al., 2017</td>
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<td>Additional reading: Barone and Mocetti, 2014</td>
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<td>Paudel and Ryu, 2018</td>
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<td>Please read the suggested literature!</td>
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<tr>
<td>28.11.2018</td>
<td>No session due to Dienstreise.</td>
<td>Please read the suggested literature!</td>
<td>Essential reading: Foulger et al., 2018</td>
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| 6 | 05.12.2018 | **Earthquakes II** | Essential reading: Foulger et al., 2018  
Additional reading: Shapira et al., 2018 |
Hanif, 2017  
Additional reading: Gherboudj et al., 2017  
World Bank, 2018 |
Additional reading: World Bank, 2018 |
| 9 | 16.01.2019 | **Pollution and environmental degradation** | Essential reading: Gholipour and Farzanegan, 2018  
Additional reading: Biswas et al., 2012  
Farzanegan and Markwardt, 2018  
Laylin, 2018 |
| 10 | 23.01.2019 | **Student presentations** |
| 11 | 30.01.2019 | **Student presentations:**  
**Topic 1: Natural Disasters and Institutions**  
**Topic 2: Natural Disasters and Political Stability** |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>06.02.2019</td>
<td>Topic 3: Natural Disasters and Investments</td>
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<td>Topic 4: Natural Disasters and Humanitarian Aid</td>
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<td>13.02.2019</td>
<td>Topic 5: Natural Disasters and Migration</td>
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<td>Topic 6: Environmental Degradation and Institutions</td>
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**Basic Literature:**


