COURSE DETAIL

ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Country
United Kingdom - England

Host Institution
London School of Economics

Program(s)
London School of Economics

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Economics

UCEAP Course Number
108

UCEAP Course Suffix
Y

UCEAP Official Title
ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

UCEAP Transcript Title
ECON HIST: ME & NA

UCEAP Quarter Units
12.00

UCEAP Semester Units

8.00

Course Description

The course explores the economic history of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Many, if not most, of MENA's contemporary problems cannot be understood without a deep understanding of its history, not only during the postcolonial period, but also during the precolonial and colonial periods. The course first introduces students to the definition of the MENA region, and the broad trends in its history since antiquity. It then examines specific themes that are of great importance for understanding the economic history of the region, such as: how most of MENA's population became Muslims in the Middle Ages? What do we know about MENA's economic performance vis-à-vis Europe in the long run? How did "Islamic" institutions emerge? What legal rights did people have over land and labor? Students also discuss state-led development, inequality, education, socioeconomic inequality across ethnoreligious groups, and the demographic transition. Throughout the course, students focus on the view from below, examining the living conditions, preferences, and behavior of local populations, rather than taking a macroeconomic perspective that studies MENA only in comparison to Europe. Students also emphasize the recent developments in MENA economic history based on novel data sources, including MENA local archives, papyrology, medieval chronicles, literary sources, and archeology. In terms of methods, the course will draw upon both qualitative and quantitative approaches to history, employing economic theory, econometric methods, novel data sources, and solid historical evidence.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
EH222

Host Institution Course Title
ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Host Institution Course Details

https://www.lse.ac.uk/resources/calendar/courseGuides/EH/2022_EH222.htm

Host Institution Campus
London School of Economics

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Economic History

Course Last Reviewed
2022-2023

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