Unit Outline*

ECON2270

Middle East Economies

Semester 1, 2011
Campus: Crawley

Unit Coordinator
Dr Rony Gabbay

Business School
www.business.uwa.edu.au

* This Unit Outline should be read in conjunction with the Business School Unit Outline Supplement available on the Current Students web site http://www.business.uwa.edu.au/students
UNIT DESCRIPTION

Unit content

The course is made up of two parts:

Part One (6 weeks): An introduction to Islam: the religion, the economics and the politics of Islam at the present.
Part Two: (7 weeks): Energy and oil with a special reference to OPEC and the oil producing countries of the Middle East.

Tutorials take the form of seminars. One student (or two jointly) presents a researched topic selected from the attached list. The presentation would last for 35 minutes, leaving 10 minutes for discussion. Please see to it that there is a short summary (2-3 pages) of your seminar to be distributed to students (some 18 students) and be kept in their files.

The goal of the unit

The first section of the course introduces the religion of Islam, its economics and politics. It intended to be a journey into the hearts and minds of the Muslims. The second part of the course concentrates on oil being the most important raw material exported by the Persian Gulf countries of the Middle East. Oil contributes almost 40% of the total global energy consumption and the Middle East has over 60% of oil reserve. The world depends on oil from the Middle East. However, access to this oil requires interaction with the people of these countries, understanding their culture, their values and their aspirations which are heavily influenced by the religion of Islam. After successfully completing this course, you will be able to assess the determinants and the impact of doing business with the oil producing countries of the Middle East. You would have acquired a solid understanding of the teachings of Islam and the aspirations of the Muslims. This would facilitate interaction with Muslims economically, socially and politically.

TEACHING AND LEARNING RESPONSIBILITIES

Teaching and learning evaluation

You may be asked to complete two evaluations during this unit. The Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) and the Students’ Unit Reflective Feedback (SURF). The SPOT is optional and is an evaluation of the lecturer and the unit. The SURF is completed online and is a university wide survey and deals only with the unit. You will receive an email from the SURF office inviting you to complete the SURF when it is activated. We encourage you to complete the forms as your feedback is extremely important and can be used to make changes to the unit or lecturing style when appropriate.

Attendance

Participation in class, whether it be listening to a lecture or getting involved in other activities, is an important part of the learning process. It is therefore important that you attend classes. More formally, the University regulations state that ‘to complete a course or unit students shall attend prescribed classes, lectures, seminars and tutorials’.
We strongly advise students to regularly access their student email accounts. Important information regarding the unit is often communicated by email and will not be automatically forwarded to private email addresses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Unit coordinator/lecturer</strong></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name:</strong></td>
<td>Rony Gabbay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Email:</strong></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rony.gabbay@uwa.edu.au">rony.gabbay@uwa.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phone:</strong></td>
<td>6488 2926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultation hours:</strong></td>
<td>Immediately after lectures and tutorials and via email at any time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Lecture times:** | Mondays: 10am - 11.45am  
(with a break at 9.45am - 10am) |
| **Lecture venue:** | BUSN:201 |
| **Tutor:** | Rony Gabbay |
| **Email:** | rony.gabbay@uwa.edu.au |
| **Phone:** | 6488 2926 |
| **Consultation hours:** | Immediately after tutorials and via email |
| **Tutorial times:** | Group A: Tuesdays 9am - 9.45am  
Group B: Tuesdays 10am - 10.45am |
| **Tutorial venue:** | BUSN:161 |
TEXTBOOK(S) AND RESOURCES

Unit website
Lecture notes, handouts, etc. will be available from WebCT. You can access your WebCT from http://www.webct.uwa.edu.au.

Recommended/required text(s)
No required text book for this unit.

Additional resources and reading material
(The reading list (see Webct) is extensive and I do not expect everything to be read). References amongst others:
- Relation with Australia:
  www.dfat.gov.au/geo/(name of country)/fta/
  www.mapsofworld.com/.....
  www.photius.com/countries/......../
  www.arab.de/arabinfo/........
  www.europaworld.com
  www.economist.com/countries/.....
  www.oxfordresearch.co/publications
  www.unicef.org/.....
  www.asiasociety.org/publications/.....
  www.theeconomist.com/countrybriefings/.....
  www.middleeastwomen.org/html/
  www.news.bbc.co.uk
- (Islam, Energy & Oil, oil producing country, etc.) -Wikipedia-the free encyclopaedia
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week#</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28 February</td>
<td>No tutorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8 March</td>
<td>Allocation of tutorial topics. Discussing the handout: How a Muslim should lead his life. (Please read the handout before coming to the tutorial).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15 March</td>
<td>Seminar 1: The role and status of women in a TRUE Islamic state</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>22 March</td>
<td>Seminar 2: Socio-economic &amp; political conditions in Bahrain.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>29 March</td>
<td>Seminar 3: Socio-economic &amp; political conditions in Saudi Arabia</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>Seminar 4: Socio-economic &amp; political conditions in Iran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>12 April</td>
<td>Seminar 5: Iraq today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>19 April</td>
<td>Seminar 6: Socio-economic &amp; political conditions in UAE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 April</td>
<td>FIRST CLASS TEST: ISLAM</td>
<td>Test starts at 10.00 am. Duration: 50 minutes 20 Multiple Choice Questions = 20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3 May</td>
<td>Seminar 7: Socio-economic &amp; political conditions in Oman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10 May</td>
<td>Seminar 8: The Persian Gulf: Social, political and economic issues at the present. Also, trade opportunities for Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>17 May</td>
<td>Seminar 9: The economics of alternative energy sources (Excluding oil and electricity from nuclear reactors)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>24 May</td>
<td>Seminar 10: Oil in Australia: discovery, production and the price structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>30 May</td>
<td>SECOND CLASS TEST: ENERGY &amp; OIL Test starts at 10 am. Duration: 50 minutes 20 Multiple Choice = 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>Revision: Discussing both Islam and Energy &amp; Oil - Class Tests</td>
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Tutorial content

Issues to be covered in the seminar’s presentation on a selected oil-producing country

1. Geography
   - Map & geographical location
   - Area compared with Western Australia
   - Climate and rainfalls.

2. Population
   - Size
   - Indigenous/Expatriate
   - Sunnis/ Shi’ites/Others
   - Gender and age distributions.

3. Short history
   - How did the country get its independence?

4. Government
   - Role of the Royal Family
   - Representation/ Political parties
   - Separation of power/ the decision making process/ censorship (press/ internet)
   - Who is in control? The Sunni or the Shi’ites?

5. Language and education
   - Literacy rate for male and female
   - Education: free/compulsory
   - Tertiary education
   - The role of Islam in education.

6. Social structure of the society
   - Indigenous population:
     - Status of women: Freedom of movement/education/dress/employment/marriage/
       divorce/custody of children
   - Status of expatriates.

7. The legal system: Role of the Shari’a law

8. The political situation
   - Relations with neighbours/ boundary disputes
   - Index of Corruption/ Index of Happiness/ Gini Coefficient
   - Challenge of Islamists
   - Identify the forces impacting on instability and the policies implemented by the regime to
     maintain stability
   - How stable is the regime?

9. The economy
   - GDP and the importance of oil
   - The importance of agriculture/industry/ tourism/ service sector? (if any)
   - How does the country get its water?
   - Taxation (income tax, capital gain tax, GST, etc.)
   - Employment/unemployment
   - Currency and its equivalence in Australian dollars
• Income per capita
• Imports/exports
• Main trading partners
• Trade and business relations with Australia
• Trade and business opportunities for Australia
• How is the country protecting its wealth into the future?
• Nature and extend of the welfare system
• Foreign aids/giving/receiving.

Issues to be covered in the seminar’s presentation on the economics of alternative energy sources (other than the conventional sources of energy – i.e. other than: Oil, Coal, Natural Gas, Hydro electricity and Nuclear).

Alternative sources of energy

(Or non-conventional sources of energy) includes:
Solar power, tidal power, wind machines, wave machines, geothermal, ethanol, veg oil, tar sands, oil shale, nuclear fusion (i.e. binding together of atoms) etc.

For each alternative discuss:
• The advantages
• The shortcomings
• The cost
• Whether or not it satisfies the three basic conditions to become a viable alternative. These are:
  o Cost compared with existing sources
  o Reliability of supply
  o Cost of conversion and time lag.

ASSESSMENT MECHANISM

The purpose of assessment

There are a number of reasons for having assessable tasks as part of an academic program. The assessable tasks are designed to encourage you to explore and understand the subject more fully. The fact that we grade your work provides you an indication of how much you have achieved. Providing feedback on your work also serves as part of the learning process.

Assessment mechanism summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class test No. 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Islam (Monday 18 April)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20 Multiple Choice Questions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Test starts at 10.00am</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class test No.2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Energy &amp; Oil (Monday 30 May)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>20 Multiple Choice Questions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Test starts at 10am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>As per Schedule</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Final exam  |  50%  |  2 hours, essay-type questions, answer 3 out of 5

Note 1: Results may be subject to scaling and standardisation under faculty policy and are not necessarily the sum of the component parts.

Note 2: Your assessed work may also be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning outcomes as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of Business School programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the unit.

Student Guild
Phone: (+61 8) 6488 2295
Facsimile: (+61 8) 6488 1041
E-mail: enquiries@guild.uwa.edu.au
Website: http://www.guild.uwa.edu.au

Charter of Student Rights and Responsibilities

Appeals against academic assessment
The University provides the opportunity for students to lodge an appeal against assessment results and/or progress status (refer http://www.secretariat.uwa.edu.au/home/policies/appeals).