



Course Code IREL-680	Course Title Middle Eastern Studies	ECTS Credits 7.5
Department European Studies and International Relations	Semester Fall, Spring	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Elective	Field International Relations	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 2 nd Cycle	Year of Study 2 nd	Lecturer(s) Professor Farid Mirbagheri
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The main objectives of the course are to:

1. Trace the origins of the Middle East since the birth of Islam.
2. Examine Islam as a religion and a political force.
3. Examine Pan-Arabism and its historical relations with Persians, the Jewry and the Ottomans.
4. Bring into focus the influence of outside players and assess their impact on the developments in the Middle East.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Illustrate a mature understanding of law, human rights, politics, socio-religious, cultural in their varied contexts within the Islamic & Middle Eastern world.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of the region in terms of culture and geopolitics.
3. Illustrate a solid grounding in the historical development of Middle East since the birth of Islam.
4. Illustrate the former dominance of Middle Eastern powers and their domination later by the Europeans.
5. Critically analyze socio-political issues distinctive to the Middle East & Islamic world, interpret and reflect upon to different approaches to jurisprudence, religion, politics and human rights within Middle East World.
6. Report in analytical ways and evaluate complex issues both orally and in written form.
7. Evaluate according to analytical frameworks relating to the area of Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies with a minimal amount of assistance.
8. Locate, analyze, synthesize, and effectively use sources of libraries, bibliographical material and academic research.

Course Contents:

1. Historical background to Pre-Islamic Era.
2. The Birth of Islam.
3. What was Islam to the Arabs?
4. The Outward Expansion of Arabs and their Early Conquests.
5. The Rise and Fall of the Ummayyids and the Abbasids.
6. Islamic Civilisation.
7. The Crusades.
8. The Beginnings of the European Influence in the Region.
9. The Modern Middle East.
10. Establishment of Israel.
11. The Revival of Islam.
12. The Future of the Middle East.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures and discussions, Sessions with visiting speakers, Self-study.

Assessment Methods:

Class participation, Presentation and discussion, Essay, Mid-term Test, Final Exam

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Goldschmidt, Arthur	A Concise History of the Middle East (8 th ed.)	The American University in Cairo Press	2006	10: 978-0-8133-4275-7

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Bernard Lewis; Amin Seikal; Abdolkarim Soroush; John Esposito; Karen Armstrong; Ali Mazrui; Edward Said; Ali Asghar Engineer; Abdullahi Al-Naim; Abdolaziz Sachedina; Ali Shari'ati; Seyyed Qotb and Susan Buck-Morss				