



## Course Syllabus

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Course Title</b>	<b>ECTS Credits</b>
IREL-369	Middle-East History and Politics	6
<b>Prerequisites</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Semester</b>
None	Politics and Governance	Fall or Spring
<b>Type of Course</b>	<b>Field</b>	<b>Language of Instruction</b>
Core	International Relations	English
<b>Level of Course</b>	<b>Lecturer(s)</b>	<b>Year of Study</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Cycle	Prof. Farid Mirbagheri	3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Mode of Delivery</b>	<b>Work Placement</b>	<b>Corequisites</b>
Conventional	N/A	N/A

### Course Objectives:

This course aims to trace the origins of the Middle East since the birth of Islam. It will therefore focus on Islam as a religion and a political force as it will on Pan-Arabism and its historical relations with Persians, the Jewry and the Ottomans, the last three representing the three non-Arab states in the region (Iran, Israel and Turkey). In the contemporary period the course will attempt to 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:

- . Offer a brief history of the relations between the European and Middle Eastern peoples.
- . Understand factors such as economics and geopolitics shaping the interests of the two sides.
- . Examine the role of religion and culture in their relationship.
- . Illustrate the non-monolithic nature of the Middle East.

**Course Content:**

The Middle East: Geography and History  
The origins of Islam  
The Sunni/Shi'a Division  
The shari'a and epistemology  
Historical Developments  
Colonialism and neo-colonialism  
The Arab-Israeli Dispute/Arab nationalism  
Islamic fundamentalism  
The Iranian revolution  
The Iran-Iraq war and the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait  
The American-led occupation of Iraq  
Iranian Nuclear Crisis

**Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:**

Interactive Teaching with use of Power Point and Internet.

**Assessment Methods:**

Participation and Discussion, Presentation, Essay, Mid-Term Test, Final Exam.

**Readings:**

Goldschmidt, Arthur Jr. and Lawrence Davidson, A Concise History of the Middle East (8<sup>th</sup> edition), The American University in Cairo Press, 2002.

Mirbagheri, Farid, War & Peace in Islam, Palgrave, 2012.

Brown, Carl (ed.), Diplomacy in the Middle East, I.B. Tauris, 2004.

Doesnrode, Soren et al., The European Union and the Middle East, UACES, 1997.

Mallat, Chibli, The Middle East in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Ithaca, 1996.

\*These are the key texts, in addition to which journal articles or research summaries will be circulated to students through the online platform.