



Course Code IREL-370	Course Title Middle East Politics	ECTS Credits 6
Department European Studies and International Relations	Semester Fall, Spring	Prerequisites None
Type of Course Required	Field International Relations	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Year of Study 3 rd	Lecturer(s) Dr 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:

- Introduce a historical and geo-political landscape of the Middle East.
- Examine the origins of the faith in Arabia, its development and geographical and contextual expansion.
- Address the ideologised version of the religion in the shape of Islamic fundamentalism.
- Survey the movements and trends within Islam.
- Present an account of colonialism and neo-colonialism affecting the region.
- Address the current problems and conflicts gripping and threatening the Middle East.

Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Report on and analyze Pan-Arabism and its historical relations with Persians, the Jewry and the Ottomans.
2. Review in a historical way the Middle East, conquests and defeats.
3. Appraise the importance of the region in terms of culture and geopolitics.
4. Report on the former dominance of Middle Eastern powers and their domination later by the Europeans.
5. Assess and appraise the developments in the region including foreign interference.

Course Contents:

1. The Middle East: Geography and History
2. The origins of Islam
3. The *Sunni/Shi'a* Division
4. The *shari'a* and epistemology
5. Historical Developments
6. Colonialism and neo-colonialism
7. The Arab-Israeli Dispute/Arab nationalism
8. Islamic fundamentalism
9. The Iranian revolution
10. The Iran-Iraq war and the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait
11. The American-led occupation of Iraq
12. Iranian Nuclear Crisis

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 et al.	A concise History of the Middle East (8 th ed.)	The American University in Cairo Press	2002	
Doesnrode, Soren et al.	The European Union and the Middle East	UACES	1997	
Mallat, Chibli	The Middle East in the 21 st Century	Ithaca	2004	
Brown, Carl (ed.)	Diplomacy in the Middle East	I.B. Tauris		

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

Authors	Title	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Salem, Paul (ed.)	Conflict Resolution in the Arab World	American University of Beirut	1997	9 999010 979813
Yambert, Karl (ed.)	The Contemporary Middle East: A Reader	Westview Press	2006	0-8133-4339-9