



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
MIR-650DE	Middle Eastern Politics	10
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Politics and Governance	Fall/Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Elective	International Relations	English/Greek
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
2 nd Cycle	Professor SM Farid Mirbagheri	2 nd
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Co-requisites
Distance Learning	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

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. Develop a deepened understanding of law, human rights, politics, socio-religious, cultural in their varied contexts within the Islamic & Middle Eastern world
2. To understand the importance of the region in terms of culture and geopolitics
3. Have a solid grounding in the historical development of Middle East since the birth of Islam
4. To 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. Participate in debates, present critical, comprehend arguments and evaluate complex issues both orally and in written form
7. Conduct research according to analytical frameworks relating to the area of Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies with a minimal amount of assistance
8. Communicate in English language both orally and in written form at (near) native level.
9. Use IT skills (word processing, Internet, e-mail) as study and communication tools.
10. Locate, analyze, synthesize, and effectively use sources of libraries, bibliographical material and academic research.

Course Content:

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, online discussions, individual guidance, individual study.

Assessment Methods:

Presentation, Essay, Mid-term Test, Final Exam

Required Textbooks / Reading:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
A Concise History of the Middle East (11th edition)	Goldschmidt, Arthur Jr. and Lawrence Davidson	The American University in Cairo Press	2015	978-0-813-34962-6

Recomended Textbooks / Reading:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
War & Peace in Islam	Mirbagheri, Farid	London: Palgrave	2012	978-0-230-22061-4