

Course Profile - Department of International Relations

Course Number : IR 560	Course Title : Middle East in World Politics
Required / Elective : Elective	Pre / Co-requisites : -
Catalog Description: Historical background of the social and institutional structures and development issues in the Middle East. Concept and ideologies like Arabism, Islam and Modernization. Contemporary conflicts and treaties that formed modern delimitation of the region.	Textbook / Required Material : reader provided by the instructor
Course Structure / Schedule : (3+0+0) 3 / 7 ECTS	
<p>Extended Description :</p> <p>The main goal of the course is to provide a theoretical base to understand important issues in Middle East politics as well as the role of the Middle East in world politics. An important target of the course will be to challenge the “Middle East exceptionalism” problem where Middle East politics is typically explained by the “distinct” political culture of the region, namely Islam. In contrast, this class will employ a comparative politics perspective and seek to understand the Middle East through a variety of theoretical approaches developed in the field of comparative politics. The class will introduce cases from different parts of the Middle East and try to connect the theories covered in class to the outside world. Some of the important topics we will cover in this class include: authoritarianism, political liberalization, civil society and democratization; oil and the <i>rentier</i> state; Islamist movements and political parties; and Islamic financial actors and institutions</p>	
Design content : n/a	Computer usage: required
<p>Course Outcomes:</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow and interpret major developments in Middle East politics • Understand the sources of tension between the West and the Middle East • Understand the historical processes and economic-cultural context of political institutions and processes in the Middle East • Overcome the problem of “Middle East exceptionalism” and be able to understand Middle East politics through a comparative approach, using major theories developed in political science • Apply course information to analyze and explain new cases and deliver class presentations 	
Teaching methods: Lectures, class discussion, videotapes/slides	
Course Outline	
Week	Topics
1	The Study of the Middle East

2	Cultural and Historical Background
3	Islam in the Middle East I
4	Islam in the Middle East II
5	Jihad: Muslim Perspectives
6	Gender and Middle East Politics
7	State in the Middle East I
8	State in the Middle East II
9	Development in the Middle East: State-Led Growth and its Discontents
10	Islamic Activism: Terrorism or Politics from Below?
11	A Political Economy of Islamism
12	Democratization in the Middle East
13	Where We Are in Middle Eastern Studies
14	Overcoming Middle East Exceptionalism
15	The Arab Spring

Assessment methods:

Class participation: 10%

Quizzes: 30%

Take-home essay: 15%

Final exam: 45%

Contribution of Course Learning Outcomes to Program Outcomes

	Program Outcomes	*Level of Contribution				
		1	2	3	4	5
MIR1	Possess in-depth knowledge about the fundamental concepts and theories of the discipline of International Relations		X			
MIR2	Be aware of the theoretical approaches related to the issues of the system, nation-state, institutions, culture, and power in world politics					X
MIR3	Follow closely the contemporary world conjuncture					X
MIR4	Be able to question the well-established knowledge and causal relationships in the field of International Relations		X			

MIR5	Be aware of the shortcomings and gaps in the International Relations literature and be able to carry out research that addresses these gaps and shortcomings				X	
MIR6	Comprehend various scientific research methods and be able to use these methods effectively		X			
MIR7	Be able to produce an original, scientific study in the field of International Relations			X		
MIR8	Be able to think independently, creatively, and critically					X
MIR9	Embrace work ethics and behave accordingly				X	
MIR10	Be open-minded towards new phenomena that emerge in world politics and the politics of states					X
MIR11	Have self confidence and acquire the ability to deliver presentations in public					X
MIR12	Be able to work together with individuals from different cultures, beliefs, and opinions				X	

*1 Lowest, 2 Low, 3 Average, 4 High, 5 Highest

Student workload:

Reading	95 hrs
Lectures and discussions	40 hrs
Written assignment	30 hrs
Examinations	10 hrs
TOTAL	175hrs (25X7) 7 ECTS

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