Study Center in Amman, Jordan

Course name: International Relations and Diplomacy in the Middle East
Course number: INRE 3001 AMJO
Programs offering course: Amman, Languages and Cultures
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Summer 2019

Course Description

This course focuses on the international politics of the Middle East taking as its starting point the end of the colonial rule in the region and the formation of new nation-states. The first part of the course is devoted to a methodological introduction of the study of the region and it aims at providing the conceptual frameworks and theories needed to define the Middle East. Focusing on a more empirical analysis of the Middle East political history, the second part of the course introduces and analyzes the impact of Cold War dynamics on the region and the political, economic, and social transformations the region faced at the end of the Cold War and the emergence of a New World Order. In order to provide a clear understanding of the recurrent patterns and trajectories of international and regional political dynamics, a class will be devoted to an in-depth examination of the origins, causes, and consequences of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the most significant and enduring crisis of the region. We will also focus on diplomacy in the Arab world taking the USA-Jordan relations as a case study. In the last part of the course, we will examine important themes and debates in international politics of the MENA region, including globalization, gender and ideological movements. Finally, the course will examine current uprisings and their impact on the politics of the region.

Learning Objectives

By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe and explain political mechanisms and cultural dynamics, like colonialism and orientalism, and their impact on the politics of and towards the Arab region.
- Identify and explain the most significant factors in the interplay of domestic, regional, and global political factors in the international relations of the Middle East.
- Illustrate the current political transformations in the region and analyze their impact on international politics.

Course Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.
Methods of Instruction

The class will be structured as follows:
- students’ presentations (15-20 minutes)
- a discussion/debate (1 hour)
- lecture from the instructor (20-30 minutes)
- final questions and debates (30-40 minutes)

Documentaries screenings and guest speakers participation will be organized

Assessment and Final Grade

List three or more methods of assessment in addition to attendance and participation, indicating the percent of final grade below totaling 100%:

1. In-class presentations: 10%
2. Mid-term exam: 30%
3. Final exam: 40%
4. Attendance and class participation: 20%

Course Requirements

In-Class Presentations

The weighted value of the in-class presentations amounts to 10% of the final semester grade. Every week one or two students will present on the assigned readings. The presentation will serve as an opening for the class discussion in which all students are expected to actively participate. The presenters should introduce the readings, providing a general overview and summary of the material analyzed; they should critical engage with the reading sharing their analysis and thought on them and finally suggest questions to open up the discussion. The presenters are expected to provide their classmates with a hand-out (max 2 pages), preferably organized in bullet points, in order to facilitate the understanding of the subject matter. The presentation should last 15-20 minutes in total.

Mid-Term Exam

The mid-term exam consists on a 1,000-word short essay and it is to be submitted Week 7 (22 October). The weighted value amounts to 30% of the final semester grade. The students will be provided with one question in week 6 and they should answer it in a short essay. The student should refer to the material and readings discussed in class, but can also integrate the paper with sources outside the assigned readings. an in class test.
The essay questions will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
Are you answering the question?
Is there a clear thesis and argument?
Is there evidence that you have done the readings?
Is there evidence of critical, personal engagement with the topic at hand? Or are you just reiterating and summarizing the readings?
How well are you mastering the topics we dealt with in class?
Is the language used appropriate?

Final exam

The final exam consists on a 3,000-word essay and it is to be submitted Week 15 (19 December). The weighted value amounts to 40% of the final semester grade. The students will be provided with two titles for the final paper in week 10 and they should choose one of the provided topics for their essay. A minimum of ten (10) total sources is required. The student should refer to the material and readings discussed in class, but should also integrate the paper with at least five (5) sources outside the assigned readings. Papers more than 10% longer/shorter than the word limit (3,300-2,700 words) will be penalized 2 points per each 100 words above/below the parameter. The paper will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
- Are you focusing on the topic required by the title you choose?
- Is there a clear thesis and argument?
- Is there a clear structure?
- Is there evidence of critical, personal engagement with the topic at hand? Or are you just reiterating and summarizing the readings?
- How well are you mastering the topics we dealt with in class?
- Is the language used appropriate?

Details on the format and style for the paper will be provided by the instructor.

Please note that late submission of research papers will result in a 2 points deduction for each day they are late.

Attendance and Class Participation

1. As this class is dependent on in-class activities, discussions, and group exchanges, your attendance is mandatory, necessary, and essential to your success. Therefore, you are expected to attend and participate in every class session. If a true calamity should arise and you must miss class, it is your responsibility to contact us to determine what you have missed. Absences are excused when the student submit the CIEE absence-form stamped and signed by CIEE director. Only one unexcused absence is allowed, additional absences will result in a reduction of the final grade (5 point for each class missed without providing any reason).

2. Students are requested to maintain at all times a respectful and proper attitude towards their peers and the instructor. This includes also being in class on time (it would be preferable a few minutes before class
start) and avoid premature preparation when about to leave class. Being late frequently is not accepted, as it is disruptive behavior.

3. No electronic devices of any kind (laptops, tablets and the likes) are allowed in class. Cell phones, in particular, must be turned off. Students failing to comply with these rules may be required to leave the classroom.

4. Due to the participatory nature of the course, your participation will be valued. Generally your engagement will be assessed on a 0-4 scale for participation. The scores will breakdown as follows: 0-not in attendance, 1-late and/or present without active participation, 2-active, but unprepared, 3-nearly full participation throughout the class, 4-consistent positive participation in class activities and discussions. As you can see, not only the “quantity” of your engagement but also its “quality” will be evaluated. However, the participation score will also take into account the personal and direct engagement of the student with the instructor: class discussions are informal and friendly so that everyone can and should feel free to express his/her opinion, comment and thought freely and as often as wanted. Yet, if any of the student might face difficulty in in-class exchanges can still email his/her comments to me or ask for an appointment. The evaluation of participation will take it into consideration in order to favour the ice-breaking of the student and his/her more consistent engagement during class discussion. Please remember that this kind of “private exchanges” is exceptional, only in case of strong inability to participate in class. The assessment of participation will also take into account students’ ability to listen to their classmates, allow them to freely express their opinion without interrupting, engage with them politely criticizing or supporting their arguments.

5. Submitting all papers is a minimum requirement, but not a guarantee, for passing this course. Late submissions of final exams will lose 2 points of the final grade per calendar day late and will not be accepted a week after the final submission date (unless in exceptional cases approved by CIEE administration).

6. Plagiarism—the unacknowledged use of another’s words, form, or ideas—will result in failure of the course. If you are unsure of how to acknowledge outside material, speak with me immediately.

7. During the in-class examinations (midterm and final exam), no books, notes, articles, or any kind of electronic device (see below) are allowed. Copying and cheating will result in an automatic F.

8. You can reach me easily via emails; however, do not expect I will be reading and answering your emails after 7pm or before 8am and during weekend. I am more than happy to meet with you outside class to discuss whatever issue or problem you might have with the class. Do not hesitate contacting me.
Weekly Schedule

Day 1  Orientation Week
Introduction to class
What do you know about the Middle East? Map quiz.

Day 2  Framing the study of Middle East politics. Orientalism.
Compulsory:
We will watch Edward Said interview.

Day 3  International Relations of the Middle East 101.
-Walt, Stephen. “How to get a BA in International Relations in 5 minutes.” Foreign Policy, May 19, 2014 http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/05/19/how-to-get-a-b-a-in-international-relations-in-5-minutes/

Day 4  The colonial past and its implications.
We will watch The battle of Algiers

Day 5  The Modern Middle East, Nationalism and Identity.
Day 6

The Arab Israeli conflict
*The class will be scheduled together with the MEST 3002 AMJO course. The exact date and time will be arranged with the MEST 3002 course instructor and CIEE. Readings to be assigned.*

Submission of Mid-Term Exam

Day 7

The Middle East during the Cold War

Day 8

The End of the Cold War, The New World Order and the Middle East
- Korany, Baghat. “The Middle East Since the Cold War,” in Fawcett, cit. (chapter 3)
*In the second part of the class we will watch the film Syriana*

Day 9

Religion and politics in the Middle East

In the second part of the class we will watch Persepolis.

**Day 10**

Diplomacy in the Middle East a case study: Jordan and the US. Guest speakers TBC

*This class will be held with the MEST 3002 AMJO course. The date might change according to guest speaker availability. The exact date and time will be arranged with the 3002 course instructor and CIEE*


**Day 11**

Diplomacy in the Middle East a case study: Jordan and the US. People to People, Guest panel TBC

*This class will be held with the MEST 3002 AMJO course. The date might change according to guest speaker availability. The exact date and time will be arranged with the 3002 course instructor and CIEE*


**Day 12**

Gender in the Middle East

Day 13

New Transformation in the Middle East: the Arab Revolution
- Bogaert, Koenraad “Contextualizing the Arab Revolts: The Politics behind Three Decades of Neoliberalism in the Arab World” in Middle East Critique (2013)

Day 14

Where Now From Here? Future perspectives.
Readings TBA

Submission final exam

Readings

“Adamczyk, “Jordan’s Warrior King Abdullah II,”


Al Madfai, Jordan, the United States and the Middle East Peace Process: pg. TBD, Brand, “In Search of Budget Security,”


Bogaert, Koenraad “Contextualizing the Arab Revolts: The Politics behind Three Decades of Neoliberalism in the Arab World” in Middle East Critique (2013)

Braizat, “How Jordanians view ties with US,”

Brodsky, “Trump should expand Americas relationship with Jordan,”


Goldberg, “The Modern King in the Arab Spring,”

Gulf News “US steps up intelligence cooperation with Jordan,”


Hayajneh, “US–Jordan relations: the King Abdullah II era: an analytical study.”


Human Rights Watch, “US/Jordan: stop rendition to torture.”


Korany, Baghat. “The Middle East Since the Cold War,” in Fawcett, cit. (chapter 3)


Porter, “Jordanians,”


Sharp, “Jordan: Background and U.S. Relations,”

Shenker, “How the United Statesshould protect Jordan from the chaos next door,”


