

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	International Relations		
Field of Knowledge:	Social and Legal Science		
Faculty/School:	Communication Science		
Course:	TODAY'S WORLD II: MIDDLE EAST AND THE ARABIC WORLD		
Type:	Compulsory	ECTS credits:	6
Year:	1	Code:	7017
Teaching period:	Second semester		
Area:	Geopolitics and Today's World		
Module:	Foundations for a Theory of International Relations		
Teaching type:	Classroom-based		
Language:	English		
Total number of student study hours:	150		

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SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Este curso ofrece un programa de estudio exhaustivo sobre Oriente Medio. Examina la historia de esta región desde una perspectiva diacrónica y teórica. Está diseñado para ayudar a contextualizar históricamente los acontecimientos actuales e identificar los diversos marcos teóricos interpretativos, familiarizando a los alumnos con los recursos necesarios para entender la compleja realidad de Oriente Medio. Desde el punto de vista diacrónico, los estudiantes aprenderán los principales acontecimientos históricos ocurridos en la región desde el surgimiento del Islam hasta nuestros días. Desde el punto de vista teórico, la asignatura enfatiza la conexión entre la historia pasada y los problemas y desafíos del presente, la influencia de la religión, el papel de actores

locales, regionales e internacionales así como la dinámica centro-periferia que ha contribuido a moldear la política y las relaciones internacionales de Oriente Medio.

GOAL

At the end of the course the student will be acquainted with the internal dynamics that have shaped the history of the Middle East and the roots of its current geopolitical quandaries.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Students are expected to know how to express themselves in English (oral and written). They are also expected to be familiarized with the current debates regarding Islam and the Middle East: its culture, history, politics and foreign policy.

COURSE SYLLABUS

The structure of the course consists of six main blocks related to key ME issues which will be examined according to the following criteria:

-Diachronic presentation of major historical events
-Theoretical presentation of the main concepts related to political, religious, cultural, social and legal institutions in the ME

I. The formative era: the rise of Islam, its power and religion

- Muhammad and the rise of a new world power
- Islam and the pillars of Islam: The Qur'an, the Hadith and Sharia

II. Expansion and branches of Islam: internal and external dynamics

- Early expansion: the first Caliphs and the division of Islam
- The Ottoman and Safavid Empires

III. Decline: the colonial period in the Middle East

- Napoleon and Western intervention in the XIX century
- European colonies and protectorates in the Middle East
- Modernist reformers and thinkers of the XIX century

IV. Reaction: Nationalism and Islamism

- Arab Nationalism and Ba'athism
- Islamism: Wahhabism and Pan-Islamism
- Shariati, Khomeini and the Islamic Revolution

V. Decolonization and Cold War

- The Cold War and the Geopolitics of the Middle East (1945-1989) - Soviet and American interventions and proxy conflicts
- Zionism, Israel and its disruptive effect on the Middle East: the Palestinians and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

VI. The political economy of the Middle East

-The politics of oil
- Economic development and the rentier state

VI. Authoritarianism and geopolitics in the Middle East

-Military, Security and politics in the Middle East.

VII. September 11th and its aftermath in the region

-The War on Terror and US intervention in the Middle East.
- From Al Qaeda to the Islamic State: the franchise of terrorism
- Arab Uprisings, civil wars and the quest for regional hegemony

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EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

- Students are expected to read in preparation of each session and to participate in the discussions.
- Daily discussion on press and news related to Middle East topics.
- The students will be asked to make oral presentations in class or take part in weekly debates on a series of papers about the politics and history of the Middle East.

(The content, format and timing of the activities can be modified and rearranged in order to adapt the course to different scenarios and follow the recommendations of the health/political/academic authorities).

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TIME

CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITY	INDEPENDENT STUDY/OUT-OF-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
60 hours	90 hours

SKILLS

Basic Skills

Students must have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in an area of study that is founded on general secondary education. Moreover, the area of study is typically at a level that includes certain aspects implying knowledge at the forefront of its field of study, albeit supported by advanced textbooks

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) in order to make judgments that include reflections on pertinent social, scientific or ethical issues

Students must be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to both an expert and non-expert audience

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of independence

General Skills

To acquire critical, analytical, synthetic, reflective, theoretical and practical thought to be able to understand, analyse, interpret and rigorously and independently sum up international reality from a multidisciplinary standpoint.

To acquire the ability to consider and creatively respond to the essential questions as to the whys and wherefores, and the consequences of human, social, political and economic events of global society.

To acquire the ability to present and discuss conflicting ideas, thereby generating meeting forums for individuals or social groups from different countries and cultures.

To understand and analyse the international reality from the standpoint of respect and protecting democracy, human rights, cultural diversity and the values of equality, justice and solidarity. To be able to take part in discussions on current affairs, based on knowledge of international relations and an analysis of today's world.

To suitably use all possible sources that make it possible to be familiar with the international reality in the historical, political, economic, legal and social spheres, in all formats, in order to organise and plan the study and analysis of the international reality.

Specific skills

To be familiar with and assess the role of the media with regard to the international reality and their influence on public opinion.

To be familiar with and interpret information on international current affairs in all media.

To analyse human problems associated with conflicts, disasters and inequalities, and to exercise mediation duties.

To acquire the ability to express oneself fluently and effectively in Spanish and English, to analyse and study the various processes involved in international relations.

To understand and analyse decision-making in foreign policy in the main Middle Eastern and Arab states.

LEARNING RESULTS

Analizar las diferentes corrientes de pensamiento político dentro del Islam: sus raíces y su impacto hoy en día

Comprender y analizar los principios de la religión Islámica

Comprender y analizar la vida de Mahoma

Adquirir un conocimiento de las diferentes ramas del Islam y de sus diferentes escuelas

Comprender el proceso histórico general de Oriente Medio desde el nacimiento del Islam al siglo XX

Analizar y entender los factores políticos, religiosos y económicos que afectan al escenario actual de Oriente Medio

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

This is a blended course which combines web-online learning and face-to-face seminars for deepening and broadening on-line lectures. The course is student-led, with lecture and seminar topics being assigned to students in a weekly calendar. Students are expected to read the relevant material in preparation of each session and to make oral presentations or read the papers provided as a basis for discussion with colleagues during the seminars.

Attendance to seminars is compulsory and active participation both on-line and on-site highly encouraged.

Final grade:

40% Active participation (seminars discussions, oral presentations and written essays)

50% Final Exam*

10% Interdisciplinary seminar

* In order to pass the course one needs to pass the final exam (obtain more than 50% of the note of the final exam, otherwise, the different percentages of the course cannot allow the student to pass the course without having passed the final exam)

Final grade for exceptional cases not requiring attendance (those who cannot attend the lessons should notify the PEC within the first 15 days of the course and will receive a response regarding their request within 15 days):

40% Written essay and/or participation in online forums
60% Final exam*
10% Interdisciplinary seminar

* In order to pass the course one needs to pass the final exam (obtain more than 50% of the note of the final exam, otherwise, the different percentages of the course cannot allow the student to pass the course without having passed the final exam)

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

- Bill, James A. & Springborg, Roberte. Politics in the Middle East, Addison Wesley Longman (New York, 2000)
- Coll, Steve. Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and Bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001 (Penguin, 2004)
 - Cockburn, Patrick. Age of Jihad: Islamic State and the Great War for the Middle East (Verso, 2016)
 - Esposito, John L. Islam and Politics, (New York: 1998)
 - Gelvin, James L. The Modern Middle East. A History, Oxford University Press (Oxford, 2011)
 - Gil Guerrero, Javier. The Carter Administration and the Fall of Iran's Pahlavi Dynasty: US-Iran Relations on the Brink of the 1979 Revolution (Palgrave, 2016)
 - Halliday, Fred. The Middle East in International Relations, New York, Cambridge University Press, 2005
 - Hinnebusch, Raymond. The International Politics of the Middle East, (Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2003)
 - Hourani, Albert. A History of the Arab Peoples, (New York, 1992)
 - Ismael, Tareq Y. and Ismael, Jacqueline S. Government and Politics of the Contemporary Middle East. Continuity and Change, Routledge (New York, 2011)
 - Kepel, Gilles. Jihad: the Trail of Political Islam (London; New York: I.B. Tauris, 2004)
 - Kepel, Gilles. The Roots of Radical Islam (London: 2005)
 - Lesh, David. The Arab Israeli Conflict: A History (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008)
 - Lewis, Bernard. The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror (Random House, 2002)
 - Lynch, Marc. The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East (PublicAffairs, 2016)
 - Sidahmed, Abdel Salam & Ehteshami, Anoushiravan (eds). Islamic Fundamentalism, WestviewPress (Oxford, 1996)
 - Sivan, Emmanuel. Radical Islam: Medieval Theology and Modern Politics (Yale University Press, 2002)
 - Wright, Lawrence, The Terror Years: From al-Qaeda to the Islamic State (Knopf, 2016)