



IR330 THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEST
IES Abroad Granada

DESCRIPTION:

This course will cover the cultural and political interaction between the Arab world and the West in the contemporary world. Topics will include the long-term impact of the penetration of Europe into the Islamic World, Orientalism, and Occidentalism, Islamic immigration into western societies, the impact of 9-11 and the different conflicts in the region, fundamentalism and the role of oil and the Middle East.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

Lectures by the instructor, supported with bibliographical and other didactic materials, followed by debates with the students.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course Participation - 10%
- Midterm Exam - 30%
- Final Exam - 30%
- Assignment - 30%

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the main problems in the MENA region: from the political to the social perspective.
- Identify the most important factors behind those problems: history, conflicts, resources, etc.
- Know the basics of Islam, its branches and role in the region and its relationship with other regions, especially Western countries.
- Understand the process of fundamentalism, both in the Islamic world and the West.
- Have basic knowledge on the history of interactions between the Arab world and the West.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all IES classes, including course-related trips. For this course, if a student misses more than three classes, one third of a letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Missed exams, presentations, or any other assignments can only be rescheduled in case of documented medical or family emergencies.

CONTENT:

Unit	Content	Assignments
Unit 1	An introduction to the Arab World. • Clarification of concepts • Geography • Population • Economy and natural resources	• Who is an Arab? And The Arab World and Spanish America: A Comparison. In: Patai, R., & DeAtkine, N. B. (1973). <i>The Arab Mind</i>. New York: Scribner.

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Unit	Content	Assignments
Unit 2	The Arab World and the West: a religious approach. - The origin of Islam and its basic features (the five pillars). - The territorial expansion of Islam and the birth of the European identity. - Misunderstanding, prejudice and criticism between religions.	Introduction. In: Nasr, V. (2007). <i>The Shia revival: how conflicts within Islam will shape the future</i>. WW Norton & Company.
Unit 3	The Arab World and the West: a history of interactions. - THE ISLAMIC EMPIRES - The Crusades and the impact of the 21st Century Crusaders –the private military companies. - The Ottoman Empire, the Armenian genocide and the EU Turkish application. - THE RISE OF THE WEST: FROM IMPERIALISM TO DECOLONIZATION - Imperialism & Colonization. - The Suez Crisis, the emergence of Pan-Arabism and the access to independence. - The Arab-Israeli conflict.	“The Arrival of the West” In: Armstrong, K. (2007). <i>Islam: A short history</i>. Modern Library. “The War of Independence” In: PRIME (2003) <i>Learning Each Other’s Historical Narrative</i>. Beit Jallah.

Unit	Content	Assignments
Unit 4	The Arab world and the West: politics and government. • POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL ○ Political systems in the Arab World: democracy versus Autocracy and Parliamentarism versus Semi-presidentialism. ○ The political management of ethno-cultural diversity in the Arab World: Power Sharing and the case of Iraq and Lebanon. ○ Demystifying the Arab Revolution: from Arab Spring to Islamist Winter. ○ Good Governance, Freedom and Human Development in the Arab World. • POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT AT THE REGIONAL/SUPRANATIONAL LEVEL ○ Regional integration in the Arab World. ○ The importance of oil. ○ The external action of the EU towards the Arab-Muslim world: From the Barcelona Declaration to the Mediterranean Union and the EU Cooperation Development policy. ○ The external action of the US towards the Arab-Muslim world.	• Anderson, L. (2011). Demystifying the Arab spring. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 90(3), 2-7. • Hollis, R. (2012). No friend of democratization: Europe's role in the genesis of the 'Arab Spring'. <i>International Affairs</i>, 88(1), 81-94.
Unit 5	The Arab World and the West: a security approach. • Geopolitics of armed conflicts and political violence along the borders of Islam. • Threats from Radical Islam to the democratic order in Western Societies. • Jihadist Terrorism in the West and in the Muslim world: an experience of mass terror in the name of <i>Allah</i>.	• Introduction. In: Brachman, J. M. (2008). <i>Global jihadism: Theory and practice</i>. Routledge.

Unit	Content	Assignments
Unit 6	The Arab World and the West: public opinion and mutual perceptions. - Negative perceptions/stereotypes of Muslims and Arabs in the West - Discrimination and Islamophobia in Europe. - Populism and Islamophobia in European elections and party system. - The perception of the West in the Arab World. - A Muslim perspective of world politics and events: Al-Jazeera and its influence in the Arab world.	Trends in Arab Attitudes Toward the United States. In: Telhami, S. (2013). <i>The world through Arab eyes: Arab public opinion and the reshaping of the Middle East</i>. Perseus Books Group.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Albert [Habib] Hourani, & Ruthven, M. (2002). *A history of the Arab peoples*. Faber & Faber.
- Armstrong, K. (2007). *Islam: A short history*. Modern Library.
- Armour, R. (2002) *Islam, Christianity, and the West: A Troubled History*. Orbis Books, 2002.
- Barr, J. (2012). *A Line in the Sand: The Anglo-French Struggle for the Middle East, 1914–1948*. WW Norton & Company.
- Brachman, J. M. (2008). *Global jihadism: Theory and practice*. Routledge.
- Cleveland, W. L., & Bunton, M. P. (2004). *A history of the modern Middle East* (Vol. 3). Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- Dalacoura, K. (2012). The 2011 uprisings in the Arab Middle East: political change and geopolitical implications. *International Affairs*, 88(1), 63-79.
- Dawisha, A. (2016). *Arab Nationalism in the Twentieth Century: From Triumph to Despair-New Edition with a new chapter on the twenty-first-century Arab world*. Princeton University Press.
- Dubai School of Government. (2011) *Arab Social Media Report*. DSG.
- Fawcett, L. (2013). *International relations of the Middle East*. Oxford University Press.
- Goody, J. (2004) *Islam in Europe*. Polity Press.
- Hegghammer, T. (2006). Global jihadism after the Iraq war. *The Middle East Journal*, 11-32.
- Hollingworth, C. (2015). *The Arabs and the West*. Routledge.
- Hunter, S. T. (ed.) (2002) *Islam, Europe's Second Religion: The New Social, Cultural, and Political Landscape*. Praeger.
- Khosrokhavar, F. (2016). *New Arab Revolutions That Shook the World*. Routledge.
- Kepel, G. (2004) *The War for Muslim Minds. Islam and the West*. Harvard University Press.
- Lewis, B. (2003). *What went wrong? the clash between Islam and modernity in the Middle East*. Harper Collins.
- Lust, E. (Ed.). (2013). *The Middle East*. SAGE.
- Mansfield, P. (2013). *A history of the Middle East*. Penguin.
- Nasr, V. (2007). *The Shia revival: how conflicts within Islam will shape the future*. WW Norton & Company.
- Nesser, P. (2008). Chronology of jihadism in Western Europe 1994–2007: Planned, prepared, and executed terrorist attacks. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 31(10), 924-946.
- Quataert, D. (2005). *The Ottoman Empire, 1700–1922* (Vol. 34). Cambridge University Press.
- Patai, R., & DeAtkine, N. B. (1973). *The arab mind*. New York: Scribner.
- Rawnsley, G. (2005). Al-Jazeera: how Arab TV news challenged the world.
- Rinnawi, K. (2006). *Instant nationalism: McArabism, Al-Jazeera, and transnational media in the Arab world*. University Press of America.
- Said, E. (1995) *Orientalism*. Penguin Books.
- Sakr, N. (Ed.). (2009). *Arab media and political renewal: Community, legitimacy and public life*. IB Tauris.
- Telhami, S. (2013). *The world through Arab eyes: Arab public opinion and the reshaping of the Middle East*. Perseus Books Group.

- Whitaker, B. (2009) *What's Really Wrong with the Middle East*. Saqi Books
- Yergin, D. (2011). *The prize: The epic quest for oil, money & power*. Simon and Schuster.