



IR 337 THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEST
IES Abroad Barcelona

DESCRIPTION:

This course will cover the cultural and political interaction between the Arab world and the West in the contemporary world. Since the emergence in the 7th century of the Islamic civilization, the Arab world and the West had continuous cultural and political interactions: the expansion of the Caliphate to the Al Andalus, the Crusades in the Holy Land, XIX century European countries colonial adventures, Western countries military interventions in the region or support to local authoritarian regimes in contemporary era. In this course, students will explore a wide range of topics including the analysis of old forms of Orientalism and stereotyped representations of Arabs in actual Western cultural products, ongoing armed conflicts and Western interests in the area, the challenges of global jihad for the West, the geopolitics of the Arab world and the impact of Islam into Western societies. The course will offer students the basic tools in order to understand the current Arab world political situation, its evolving relation with the West in a continuously changing global geopolitical landscape, and to reconsider the existent structural prejudices towards Muslims and Arabs in Western societies.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

INSTRUCTOR:

PREREQUISITES: None

ADDITIONAL COST: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- **Class discussion:** A significant part of the course will consist of the discussion of key themes from the course readings. Students must come to class having completed and reflected on the assigned readings. The required readings for each class will be available on Moodle.
- **Lectures:** In each class the instructor will provide the students with the background to the session topic through a lecture, which will summarize the theoretical information of the session, and provide some key concepts related to the readings.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Student participation - 10%
- Mid-term exam - 30%
- Final exam - 30%
- Essays and Presentation - 30%

Student participation

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings, core issues and questions proposed by the instructor. Participation is more than just attending class; students should show that they have done the readings and are thinking critically, based on the core concepts that will be used throughout the course. A rubric for participation is posted on Moodle.

Mid-term exam

The midterm exam will include essay questions, short answer questions and multiple-choice questions on the first part of the course.

Final exam

The final exam will include open-ended questions, short answers and multiple-choice questions on all the contents of the course.

Essays and Presentation

Students will write an essay on a subject related to the course material, chosen in consultation with the course instructor. The final essay will be 2500 words long and will draw on at least 4 reputable external sources. Each student will give a 10-minute presentation on their paper.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- Discuss their general knowledge and realistic views of the geographic, historical, social, economic, and political aspects of the Arab world today;
- Interpret the chapters of the common history of interactions between the Arab World and the West;
- Understand the specific cultural, religious, and social customs involved in Arab-Muslim behavior and practices;
- Have a deeper understanding regarding diversity, stereotyping, and prejudice towards Muslims and Arabs in Western societies;
- Utilize analytical study skills which include critical reading, use of Internet resources and listening, outlining and note taking, as well as effective writing and public speaking.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, attendance is required for all IES Barcelona classes, including course-related excursions. If a student misses more than three classes in any course without justification, 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven unjustified absences in any course will result in a failing grade. Absences will only be justified, and assessed work, including exams, tests and presentations rescheduled, in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments
1	Introduction to the Course	
2	Introductory Concepts: Arab World, Muslims and the West	• Barakat, H. (1993). <i>The Arab World: Society, Culture and State</i> (pp. 32-48). University of California.

3	The Arab World and the West: First Encounters	Lewis, B. (1994). <i>Islam and the West</i> (pp. 3-29). Oxford University Press.
4	Colonialism and Mandates: Shaping the Middle East and North Africa	- Said, E. (1978). <i>Orientalism</i> (pp. 1-28). New York: Pantheon Books. - Shatz, A. (2019). 'Orientalism,' Then and Now, The New York Review of Books, May 10.
5	The Emergence of the Palestinian Issue and the Arab-Israeli Conflict	- Khalidi, R. (2020). The Hundred Years' War on Palestine. New York: Metropolitan Books, Chapter 1. - Pappe, I. (2004). <i>A History of Modern Palestine. One Land, Two people</i> (pp. 1-13). Cambridge University Press.
6	The Establishment of the State of Israel and the first Arab-Israeli War	Pappe, I. (2004). <i>A History of Modern Palestine. One Land, Two people</i> (pp. 122-140). Cambridge University Press.
7	The Gulf, the Cold War and the Geopolitics of Oil	Luciani, G. (2009). Oil and political economy in the international relations of the Middle East. In L. Fawcett (ed). <i>International Relations of the Middle East</i> (pp. 82-103). Oxford University Press.
8	Lebanon, Sectarianism and the West	Khalaf, S. (2002). <i>Civil and Uncivil Violence in Lebanon</i> (pp. 273-303). Columbia University press: New York.
9	Islam, Islamism and Political Islam: From the Muslim Brotherhood to Hezbollah	Roy, O. (1994). <i>The Failure of Political Islam</i> (pp. 35-60). Harvard University Press: Cambridge.
10	The Establishment of the Global Jihad, Al Qaeda and the War on Terror	- Gerges, F. (2011). <i>The Rise and Fall of Al-Qaeda</i> (pp. 29-68). Oxford University Press, USA. - Hatem, M. (2003). Discourses on the "War on Terrorism" in the U.S. and its Views of the Arab, Muslim, and Gendered "Other". <i>The Arab Studies Journal</i>, Vol. 11/12, No. 2/1 (Fall 2003/Spring 2004), pp. 77-97.

11	Midterm Review	
12	Midterm Exam	
13	Spain, and the Quest for Inter-Mediterranean Cultural Dialogue	- Barbe E. (1996). The Barcelona Conference: Launching Pad of a Process. <i>Mediterranean Politics</i>, 1(1), 25-42. - Barreñada, I. (2006). Alliance of Civilisations, Spanish Public Diplomacy and Cosmopolitan Proposal. <i>Mediterranean Politics</i>, 11:1, March 2006, 99-105.
14	From the Barcelona Process to the Union for the Mediterranean – Spain, the EU and the Mediterranean	- Ayadi, R. and Gadi, S. (2011). <i>The Future of Euro-Mediterranean Regional Cooperation: The Role of the Union for the Mediterranean</i>. Papers leMed n. 7, joint paper with EuroMeSCo. - Balfour, R. (2009). The Transformation of the Union for the Mediterranean. <i>Mediterranean Politics</i>, 14:1, 99-105.
15	The US, the EU and the Arab-Israeli Conflict (I)	- Ben Ami, S. (2006). <i>Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy</i> (pp. 312-332). Oxford University Press. - Khalidi, R. (2013). <i>Brokers of Deceit: How the US Has Undermined Peace in the Middle East</i>. Boston, MA: Beacon Press. - Khalidi, R. (2020). The Hundred Years' War on Palestine. New York: Metropolitan Books, Chapter 5.
16	The US, the EU and the Arab-Israeli Conflict (II)	Thrall, N. (2017). Israel-Palestine: the real reason there's still no peace, <i>The Guardian</i>, 16 May.
17	2011: The Arab Uprising	- Documentary: <i>The Square</i> (2013) - Kassir, S. (2013). <i>Being Arab</i> (pp. 15-31). London-New York: Verso.

18	The Arab Uprising and Western Governments Stance	Gelvin, J. (2012). <i>The Arab Uprisings: What Everyone Needs to Know</i> (pp. 155-186). New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.
19	Arab Immigration in Spain and Europe	Khader, B. (2015). <i>Muslims in Europe: The construction of a "problem"</i>. In The Search for Europe. Contrasting approaches. BBVA. https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/articles/muslims-in-europe-the-construction-of-a-problem/.
20	Is Islam a Challenge for Europe?	Roy, O. (2013). Secularism and Islam: The Theological Predicament. <i>The International Spectator</i>, Vol. 48, No. 1, March 2013, 5-19.
21	ISIS, the Islamic State and its Global Projection	- Roy, O. (2017). Political Islam after the Arab Spring: Between Jihad and democracy. <i>Foreign Affairs</i>. November/December. - Roy, O. (2017). <i>Jihad and Death: The Global Appeal of Islamic State</i> (pp. 75-90). Oxford University Press, USA.
22	Jihadism, the Al Andalus "Dream" and Spain	- Aidi, Hisham D. (2006). The Interference of al-Andalus: Spain, Islam and the West. <i>Social Text</i>, 24(2), 67-88. - García Calvo, F. and Reinares, F. (2016). <i>Patterns of Involvement Among Individuals Arrested for Islamic State-Related Terrorist Activities in Spain, 2013-2016</i>. Real Instituto Elcano; Perspectives on Terrorism, Volume X, Issue 6.
23	Presentations of Research Papers	
24	Presentations of Research Papers and General Review of the Course	
Final Exam		

REQUIRED READINGS

- Aidi, H. D. (2006). The Interference of al-Andalus: Spain, Islam and the West. *Social Text*, 24(2), 67-88.
- Ayadi, R. and Gadi, S. (2011). *The Future of Euro-Mediterranean Regional Cooperation: The Role of the Union for the Mediterranean*. Papers leMed n. 7, joint paper with EuroMeSCo.
- Balfour, R. (2009). The Transformation of the Union for the Mediterranean. *Mediterranean Politics*, 14:1, 99-105.
- Barakat, H. (1993). *The Arab World: Society, Culture and State* (pp. 32-48). University of California.
- Barbe E. (1996). The Barcelona Conference: Launching Pad of a Process. *Mediterranean Politics*, 1(1), 25-42.
- Barreñada, I. (2006). Alliance of Civilisations, Spanish Public Diplomacy and Cosmopolitan Proposal. *Mediterranean Politics*, 11:1, March 2006, 99-105.
- Bayat, A. (2003). The "Street" and the Politics of Dissent in the Arab World, Middle East Report, No. 226 (Spring, 2003), pp. 10-17.
- Ben Ami, S. (2006). *Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy* (pp. 312-332). Oxford University Press.
- Dabashi, H. (2012). *The End of Postcolonialism*. London, Zed Books.
- García Calvo, F. and Reinares, F. (2016). *Patterns of Involvement Among Individuals Arrested for Islamic State-Related Terrorist Activities in Spain, 2013-2016*. Real Instituto Elcano; Perspectives on Terrorism, Volume X, Issue 6.
- Gelvin, J. (2012). *The Arab Uprisings: What Everyone Needs to Know* (pp. 155-186). New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Diamond, L. (2010). "Why are there no Arab democracies?" *Journal of Democracy* Volume 21, Number 1 January 2010, pp. 93-104.
- Gerges, F. (2011). *The Rise and Fall of Al-Qaeda* (pp. 29-68). Oxford University Press, USA.
- Hatem, M. (2003). Discourses on the "War on Terrorism" in the U.S. and its Views of the Arab, Muslim, and Gendered "Other". *The Arab Studies Journal*, Vol. 11/12, No. 2/1 (Fall 2003/Spring 2004), pp. 77-97.
- Khader, B. (2015). *Muslims in Europe: The construction of a "problem"*. In *The Search for Europe. Contrasting approaches*. BBVA. <https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/articles/muslims-in-europe-the-construction-of-a-problem/>
- Khalaf, S. (2002). *Civil and Uncivil Violence in Lebanon* (pp. 273-303). Columbia University press: New York.
- Khalidi, R. (2013). *Brokers of Deceit: How the US Has Undermined Peace in the Middle East*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.
- Kassir, S. (2013). *Being Arab*. London-New York: Verso. Chapter 2, pp. 15-31.
- Lewis, B. (1994). *Islam and the West* (pp. 3-29). Oxford University Press.
- Luciani, G. (2009). Oil and political economy in the international relations of the Middle East. In L. Fawcett (ed). *International Relations of the Middle East* (pp. 82-103). Oxford University Press.
- Makdisi, U. (2000). *The Culture of Sectarianism: Community, History, and Violence in Nineteenth-Century Ottoman Lebanon* (pp. 15-27). Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Pappe, I. (2004). *A History of Modern Palestine. One Land, Two people* (pp. 1-13). Cambridge University Press.
- Roy, O. (1994). *The Failure of Political Islam* (pp. 35-60). Harvard University Press: Cambridge.
- Roy, O. (2013). Secularism and Islam: The Theological Predicament. *The International Spectator*, Vol. 48, No. 1, March 2013, 5-19.
- Roy, O. (2017). Political Islam after the Arab Spring: Between Jihad and democracy. *Foreign Affairs*. November/December.
- Roy, O. (2017). *Jihad and Death: The Global Appeal of Islamic State* (pp. 75-90). Oxford University Press, USA.
- Said, E. (1978). *Orientalism* (pp. 1-28). New York: Pantheon Books.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Barakat, N. (2018, April 18). Let's banish the term the Arab World. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/apr/18/lets-banish-the-term-arab-world-what-does-it-mean-anyway>
- Beblawi, H. (1987). *The Rentier State in the Arab World*. *Arab Studies Quarterly* (Fall 1987). 383-398.

- Beinart, P. (2022, August 26). Has the Fight Against Antisemitism Lost Its Way? *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/08/26/opinion/antisemitism-israel-uae-saudi.html>
- Breeden, A. (2019, October 19). Another Hijab Furor Hits France. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/19/world/europe/france-hijab-school-trip-mother.html>
- Chamberlin, P. (2011). The Struggle Against Oppression Everywhere: The Global Politics of Palestinian Liberation. *Middle Eastern Studies*, 47:1, 25-41.
- Chotiner, I. (2022, May 11) Is Anti-Zionism Anti-Semitism? *The New Yorker*. <https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/is-anti-zionism-anti-semitism>
- Fargues, P. and Fandrich, C. (2012). *Migration after the Arab Spring*. MPC Research report 2012/09, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, San Domenico di Fiesole (FI): European University Institute.
- Haugbolle, S. (2011). *The historiography and the memory of the Lebanese civil war*. <http://www.massviolence.org/The-historiography-and-the-memory-of-the-Lebanese-civil-war>
- Lynch, M. (2022, February 22). The End of the Middle East. *Foreign Affairs*. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/africa/2022-02-22/end-middle-east>
- Maalouf, A. (1989). *The Crusades through Arab eyes*. Random House.
- Massoumi, N. (2020, March 6). Why is Europe so Islamophobic? *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/06/opinion/europe-islamophobia-attacks.html>
- Roy, O. (2017, April 13). Who are the new jihadis? *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2017/apr/13/who-are-the-new-jihadis>
- Shatz, A. (2019, May 20). Orientalism: Then and Now. *The New York Review of Books*. <https://www.nybooks.com/online/2019/05/20/orientalism-then-and-now/>
- Thrall, N. (2017, May 16). Israel-Palestine: the real reason there's still no peace. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/may/16/the-real-reason-the-israel-palestine-peace-process-always-fails>