DESCRIPITON:
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.

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| **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.  
| **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.  
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| Unit 4 | **The Arab world and the West: politics and government.**<br>• POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL  
  o Political systems in the Arab World: democracy versus Autocracy and Parliamentarism versus Semi-presidentialism.<br>  o The political management of ethno-cultural diversity in the Arab World: Power Sharing and the case of Iraq and Lebanon.<br>  o Demystifying the Arab Revolution: from Arab Spring to Islamist Winter.<br>  o Good Governance, Freedom and Human Development in the Arab World.<br>• POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT AT THE REGIONAL/SUPRANATIONAL LEVEL  
<p>| Unit 5 | <strong>The Arab World and the West: a security approach.</strong>&lt;br&gt;• Geopolitics of armed conflicts and political violence along the borders of Islam.&lt;br&gt;• Threats from Radical Islam to the democratic order in Western Societies.&lt;br&gt;• Jihadist Terrorism in the West and in the Muslim world: an experience of mass terror in the name of Allah. | • Introduction. In: Brachman, J. M. (2008). <em>Global jihadism: Theory and practice</em>. Routledge. |</p>
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- 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.

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

- Dubai School of Government. (2011) *Arab Social Media Report*. DSG.
• Whitaker, B. (2009) *What’s Really Wrong with the Middle East*. Saqi Books