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 armed conflicts afterwards, and the role of oil and the Middle East conflict.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 hours

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

ADDITIONAL COST: None

PREREQUISITES: 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.
- **Guest speakers**: See Guest Speakers section for detailed information.
- **Course-related trips**: See Course-Related Trips section for detailed information.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
- **Student participation** - 15%
- **Mid-term exam** - 30%
- **Final exam** - 30%
- **Essays and Presentation** - 25%

**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. Final debate (the final debate will count for 5 points).

**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 answer 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 minutes’ presentation on their paper, which will count for 5 of the 25 points.
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:
Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related trips. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course, 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

COURSE RELATED TRIPS AND GUEST SPEAKERS:
Course-related trips
The course includes a visit to the Union for the Mediterranean (UPM) general secretariat in Barcelona. The students will be able to directly understand the actual work of the institution and how the Euro-Mediterranean partnership evolved in the last 25 years.

Guest speakers

Hiram Irizarry Osorio: M.A. (1999) and a Ph.D. (2005) in Political Science from The Ohio State University and a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Puerto Rico (Mayagüez Campus). His teaching emphasizes development issues, the inter-/intra-relation between ideation & materiality (Quantum possibilities), and the inter-/intra-relation between religion & politics.

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<td>15</td>
<td>From the Barcelona Process to the Union for the Mediterranean – Spain,</td>
<td>• Balfour, R. (2009). The Transformation of the Union for the Mediterranean, Mediterranean Politics, 14:1, 99-105,</td>
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<td>17</td>
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**REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Balfour, R. (2009). The Transformation of the Union for the Mediterranean, Mediterranean Politics, 14:1, 99-105,
• Hatem, M. 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.

INSTRUCTOR BIO:
Massimo Di Ricco holds a Ph.D. in Mediterranean Cultural Studies and an MA in Research in Communication and Journalism. He has been conducting research and teaching in Europe, the Middle East & North Africa, and Latin America. He published in several academic journals on the relation between the Middle East and Latin America, social and political movement within the Arab world, and the role of media in geopolitics. He is contributing to international news media on global politics, the Arab World and Mediterranean issues.