

A GREATER MIDDLE EAST *Mediterranean Studies*

Course contact hours: 45

Recommended credits: 6 ECTS – 3 US credits

OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to offer an in-depth introduction to a fundamental geostrategic area since the end of World War II, that is, the Middle East. The title of this course refers to both, Carter Doctrine (1980) and George W. Bush's Greater Middle East and North Africa Initiative (2004), by which the Middle East region is studied with North Africa, the Horn of Africa and Central Asia, covering the Area of Influence of the Central Command.

Since studying all the countries in the region will be impossible, three countries will be studied in depth in order to understand all the important elements that built the different political and social projects in the region. The countries studied will be: first, Pakistan and its complicated independence from Great Britain in 1947 and the political evolution of this country; second, Iran and its evolution from the years of the Pahlavi Dynasty to the war between Iran and Iraq; third, Afghanistan and its traumatic experience with war since the Soviet invasion.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students should demonstrate: responsibility & accountability, independence & interdependence, goal orientation, self-confidence, resilience, appreciation of differences. They will be able to communicate their ideas and research findings in both oral and written forms.

CONTENT

The Greater Middle East Region, now and then 1

The End of the Ottoman Empire, 1918-1923

North Africa, 1918-1950s

The Middle East, 1918-1950s

Iran and Central Asia, 1918-1950s

The Jewish Question and European Geopolitics

Modernization or Resistance in the Greater Middle East

The Colonial Period in the Middle East

The Cold War and the New International Relations of the Middle East

Nationalism, Islamism and the Politics of Ideology

Israel, the Palestinians and the Peace Process

Oil, Economy and Development in the Middle East

The Military, Security and Politics in the Middle East

Authoritarianism in the Middle East

Democratisation and the Arab Uprisings

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Mid-Term Exam	25%
Attendance & Participation	25%
Presentation	20%
Quiz	15%
Final Exam	15%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required reading:

Lonely Planet. Introduction to the Middle Eastern Peoples.
[<https://www.lonelyplanet.com/middle-east/history>]

Al-Rodhan. Critical Turning Points in the Middle East, 1915-2015. London: Palgrave Macmillan. 2011.

Chapter 1. The Historical Legacy — The Rise and Fall of the Golden Era. [Pages 26-57].
Benjamin MacQueen. An Introduction to the Middle East. Second Edition. SAGE Publishing. London. 2018.

The Ottoman Empire and its Legacy in the Middle East

Ana Soage. What is really behind the Saudi-Iranian cold War? Article. June 2017.
[<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/318462600>].

Benjamin MacQueen. *An Introduction to the Middle East*. Second Edition. SAGE Publishing. London. 2018.

- The Colonial Period in the Middle East
- The Cold War and the New International Relations of the Middle East 4 Nationalism, Islamism and the Politics of Ideology
- Israel, the Palestinians and the Peace Process
- Oil, Economy and Development in the Middle East
- The Military, Security and Politics in the Middle East 8 Authoritarianism in the Middle East
- Democratisation and the Arab Uprisings
- US Military Intervention in the Middle East
- The Syrian Conflict and the Syrian Refugee Crisis

Recommended reading:

Al-Rodhan. *Critical Turning Points in the Middle East, 1915-2015*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. 2011.

Byman, Daniel. *Al Qaeda, the Islamic State, and the Global Jihadist Movement. What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford. Oxford University Press. 2015.

Lewis, Bernard. *The End of Modern History in the Middle East*. Hoover Institution Press. 2011.

Parvizi Amineh, M. (Edited). *The Greater Middle East in Global Politics*. Brill. Leiden & Boston. 2007.

Freire, Maria Raquel & Kanet, Roger E. *Key Players and Regional Dynamics in Eurasia. The Return of the 'Great Game'*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

Geaves, Ron. *Islam Today*. London. Continuum International Publishing Group. 2010.

Gerges, Fawaz A. *ISIS. A History*. Princeton: PUP. 2016.

Keynoush, Banafsheh. *Saudi Arabia and Iran. Friends or Foes*. New York. Palgrave Macmillan. 2016.

Lust, Ellen. *The Middle East*. Fourteenth Edition. Thousand Oaks. SAGE. 2017.