
HUMANITARIAN LAW AND THE MIDDLE EAST in Fall 2019 (ME2091)

Course Code	ME2091	Professor(s)	Ziad Majed
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	
Class Schedule	MR: 10:35-11:55 in C-505	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	zmajed@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

The Middle East is a region of great diversity with different histories, cultures, languages and populations. It constitutes nevertheless a systematic entity, with close interrelations, and many common political, cultural and socio-economical challenges.

The course will explore in its first part the cultural, political, ethnic and geographical realities of the region (historically and in the present).

In the second part, it will focus on International law and International humanitarian law in relation to the region's conflicts and wars. It will explain the implications and the political consequences of Impunity that has long been a characteristic in dealing with many of the regional powerful actors.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the Middle East Studies and History majors requirements and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

1. The course explores the cultural, political, ethnic and geographical realities of the region (historically and in the present).
2. It presents the ongoing debates and themes in major political and cultural circles.
3. It focuses on International law and International Humanitarian Law in relation to conflicts in the region (Israel/Palestine, Syria, Yemen...).
4. Students are encouraged to read, discuss, question the information and work in small groups to present case studies.

Course Outline

Organization of Lectures

Week I

- A. The historical development of the concepts of Orient, Near East, Middle East as a geographical, geocultural and geopolitical unit.
- B. The geography of the region and the geography of each country: the topography, the borders and their impact on life and the interaction between neighboring countries.
- C. The natural endowments and resources of the region: Are they a source of tensions and conflicts?

Week II

The demographics of the Middle East: characteristics, ethnicities, religions, majorities and minorities.

Week III

Political systems and political movements in the Middle East: Republics, Monarchies, state structures and institutions, ideologies and political parties.

Week IV

Middle East Economies: An overview of the different systems, of socio-economic indicators (GDP/capita, wealth, growth rates, unemployment), of the characteristics of rentier economies, and of openness to world trade and tourism.

Week V

International law and International Humanitarian Law: an introduction.

The UN system encountering the Middle East: the Palestine partition plan

Week VI

Conflicts in the Middle East and international law.

Week VII

War crimes, crimes against humanity, impunity and their consequences.

Week VIII

Film screening and discussion.

Visit in Paris.

Week IX

Social media, politics and arts (mapping of the new trends in individual expression: blogs, street arts, graffiti, music and videos).

Week X

Mobilizations and social movements (feminism, social, cultural and Human rights initiatives) in

the Middle East: campaigns, videos and literature.

Week XI, XII

Class presentations

Weeks XIII

Review, Questions and Conclusion

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Final Exam 30 %

Papers 40%

Class participation 30%

Other
