
POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST in Fall 2020 (ME3072)

Course Code	ME3072	Professor(s)	Ziad Majed
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-006
Class Schedule	M: 12:40-14:15 in G-L21 R: 18:10-19:45 in G-L21	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	zmajed@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	702

Course Description

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course aims at exploring the political situation and the on-going transformations in the Middle East. It will examine developments in the region between 1990 (the end of the cold war) and 2020.

Case studies on major political events in Middle Eastern countries (Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Saudi Arabia), on conflicts (Iraq wars, Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Syria, Libya and Yemen), and on cross-cutting themes and issues (political Islam, authoritarian regimes, youth and gender policies, popular uprisings, social networks, international interventions) will be prepared.

Course Learning Outcomes

Understanding the Middle East has always been a subject of academic and political disputes. Through presenting the complexities, the differences as well as the common questions relevant to this region, students will be better prepared to deal with the political science literature treating with the region's causes.

Students will also read articles and papers from the region's press and reviews covering the current political developments, conflicts and transitions.

General Education

Course Outline

CLASS SCHEDULE:

September

Week I – 23rd – 25th

Introduction to the region and its geopolitical conditions.

Week II – 28th – 2nd

The end of the cold war and the Iraq invasion of Kuwait (1990)

September 30th – last day to drop/add courses online

October

Week III – 5th – 9th

Operation “Desert Storm” (1991) and its regional consequences.

The Arab Israeli peace process (1991 - 1996)

Week IV –12th – 16th

Saudi Arabia, the Gulf and the new regional challenges

The end of the Lebanese civil war and the Syrian era (1990 – 2005)

Week V – 19th – 23rd

Atrocities in Algeria (1992 – 2000)

The Egyptian regime and “its” Islamists (1990s)

Week VI – 26th – 30th

Changes in Iran and Iraq (1992 - 2000)

Successions in Morocco, Jordan and Syria (1999-2000).

October 28th, Mid-semester

November

Week VII – 2nd – 6th

Failures in reaching solutions on the Palestinian Israeli and Syrian Israeli Tracks.

The second Palestinian uprising (2000) and the rise of Hezbollah and Hamas.

Week VIII – 9th- 13th

September 11, 2001 and its aftermath: Ben Laden and the Qaeda.

The US invasion of Iraq and the overthrow of Saddam’s regime.

November 11th to 13t, fall break (no classes)

Week IX – 16th- 20th

Lebanon and Syria and the end of an era (2005 - 2011)

Gaza's war (2009).

November 16th, Mid-semester grades due

Week X – 23rd – 27th

Turkey and Iran's roles in the Middle East

The Arab revolutions 2011.

November 27th, last day to withdraw from a course

last day to choose credit/no credit option

Week XI - 30th – 4th

The Arab revolutions and counter revolutions 2013 -

December

Week XII – 7th – 11th

The Middle East today.

December 11th, last day of classes,

December 12th - 15th, reading days

December 16th – 22th, Final Exam____

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Check PO 3072				No

Attendance Policy

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.

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

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 also 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*.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT: As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

GRADING:

Midterm 30%

Paper 30%

Final exam 40%.

Other
