
SITUATING THE MIDDLE EAST II in Spring 2021 (ME2035)

Course Code	ME2035	Professor(s)	Ziad Majed
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-007
Class Schedule	M: 12:10-13:30 in G-009 R: 16:55-18:15 in G-009	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	zmajed@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	N/A

Course Description

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

Course Learning Outcomes

In this course students will explore major cultural, political, economic, and demographic realities of the region (historically and in the present). It presents as well the ongoing debates and themes in major political and cultural circles.

Students are encouraged to read, discuss, question the information and work in small groups to present case studies, discuss movies, novels and arts from the Middle East.

General Education

[PLEASE REMOVE THIS SECTION IF THE COURSE DOES NOT FULFILL ANY GLACC REQUIREMENT]

GLACC

The Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (GLACC) degree requirements include the following categories of courses:

- Integrative Inquiry (coded CCI)

-
- Experiential learning (coded CCX)
 - Research, Interpretation, and Writing (coded CCE)
 - Digital Literacy and Communication (coded CCD)
 - Disciplinary Research Methods and Writing (coded CCR)
 - Quantitative Reasoning (coded CCM)
 - Experimental Reasoning Course with Lab (coded CCS)
 - Expression Française (coded FR)
 - AUP Capstone (coded CCC)

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

OUTLINE:

Readings will be shared regularly and posted on the blackboard. Films/documentaries will be screened in class or on Teams.

Week I

Session One:

Introduction the history of the Middle East: Empires, Islam, Arabic Language.

Session Two:

Introduction continued: Ottomans, Europe and the Colonial era.

Week II

Session One:

Independences and Nation State formation.

Session Two:

The question of Palestine.

Week III

Session One:

Sub-regions: The Maghreb, the Levant and the Gulf: Maps, ethnicities, sects, languages and political systems.

Session Two:

Turkey, Israel and Iran: Maps, ethnicities, sects, languages and political systems.

Week IV

Session One:

Economic Systems, rentier models, social disparities and unemployment

Session Two:

Human development indicators/reports and social (in)justice

Week V

Session One:

Media in the Middle East: a brief history

Ayalon, Ami, *The Press in the Arab Middle East: A History* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1995)

Session Two:

Al-Jazeera phenomenon, internet and the digital revolution.

Week VI

Session One:

Political Islam in the Middle East: Who's who.

Session Two:

Mosques, religious ceremonies, Football and leisure time: from social to political interactions.

Kraidy, Marwan, "Star Academy as Arab Political Satire", *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 40 (2008), pp 369 – 371.

Zayani, Mohamed, "Media, Popular Culture and Contestatory Politics in the Middle East", *International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics* 7.1 (2011), pp 85-99.

Week VII

Session One:

The Middle East today: Revolutions, counter-revolutions, alliances, interventions and conflicts.

Session Two:

The Middle East today: Continued.

Week VIII:

Session One:

Film screening and homework.

Session Two:

Class presentations

Week IX

Session One:

Demography, Internally displaced populations and Refugees

Session Two:

Film Screening and Homework

Week X

Session One:

Feminism and women's rights: traditions, constitutions, quotas, cultural frameworks and activism.

Session Two:

Documentaries screening

Week XI

Session One:

Revolutions and visual Arts: creativity, social networks and new forms of expression.

<http://www.creativememory.org/?lang=en>

Session Two:

Film Screening

Week XII

Sessions One and Two:

Students presentations

Week XIII

Session One:

Students presentations, Continued.

Session Two:

Course conclusions.

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
STATE, POWER & POLITICS IN THE MAKING OF THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST, 3RD ED.	OWEN	ROUTLEDGE	9780415297141	Yes

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are still expected to attend ALL scheduled classes during the pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. If 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.

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and if unable to attend, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus.

policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence from 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. Excessive absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student's 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 Spring Periods*.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT: As an Anglophone university, The American University is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require reading and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve proficiency in English in all domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria for evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during 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:

Homework (x 2) 30%

Final Exam 40 %

Case studies and participation 30%

Other
