



POL 278

Middle-East Politics

S2 Online 2019

Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

12cp at 100 level or above or (3cp in HIST or MHIS or POL units)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The September 11 terrorist attacks focused world attention on the Middle East and its relations with the West. This unit introduces students to the domestic politics of the Middle East, and to the intellectual and ideological currents shaping those politics. The first weeks are devoted to the contemporary history of the region from the late nineteenth century to the rise of post-colonial states in the area. Broad ranging theoretical concepts necessary for an understanding of Middle Eastern political processes, and different ways of looking at those processes, are considered. The unit then examines in detail the structure of government and the politics of the region. Particular attention is paid to the region's ongoing relations with the West and the current war against terror; the emergence and future prospects of religious fundamentalism; and the rise of Arab nationalism and Zionism. The Arab–Israeli conflict, the 2003 Iraq War and the impact of globalism are also covered.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.

Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the contemporary Middle East.

Outline the geography and contemporary history of the Middle East.

Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.

Participate and lead, when necessary, in class discussions.

Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics.

Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

General Assessment Information

FACULTY POLICY ON LATE PENALTIES

This is an IMPORTANT POLICY regarding assessments, late submission and extensions.

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved:

(a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date

(b) **no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline.** No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Tutorial Participation</u>	20%	No	Ongoing
<u>Take Home Research Essay</u>	50%	No	13 October 2019, 9pm
<u>Final Exam</u>	30%	No	4-10 November 2019

Tutorial Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **20%**

Internal students, you are asked to select a topic from the list below and lead the discussion for that tutorial session. The topics will be allocated in tutorials in week 2. Leading the discussion is worth 10% and weekly in-class contributions will also be worth 10%.

Externals will choose a topic and submit a written presentation (about 800 words) on the iLearn discussion board in the relevant week (no later than Tuesday 5pm). All external students will also discuss online the posted presentations, by posting their comments on iLearn. The 800 word discussion paper is worth 10% and weekly contributions will also be worth 10%.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.
- Outline the geography and contemporary history of the Middle East.
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in class discussions.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

Take Home Research Essay

Due: **13 October 2019, 9pm**

Weighting: **50%**

This essay is in the form of a 'take home'. Essay questions will be made available two weeks in advance of the due date. Students are required to complete the essay in two weeks and submit via Turnitin (links will be made available on iLearn). The essay must be 2000 words (including footnotes but *not* including the bibliography) and include a bibliography of at least **ten scholarly sources**. Further information will be made available on the iLearn site.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

Final Exam

Due: **4-10 November 2019**

Weighting: **30%**

Internal and **External** students, will find their exam on iLearn. You will all have 2 hours to

complete the exam and will have to answer two essay questions in that timeframe. Each essay should be 850-1000 words in length. You can take the exam anytime between 4-10 November.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.
- Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the contemporary Middle East.
- Outline the geography and contemporary history of the Middle East.
- Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.

Delivery and Resources

Delivery: This unit has two 1 hour lectures per week that all students are expected to attend. There is also one 1 hour tutorial per week that each student must also attend.

The tutorials are compulsory and it is university policy that you must attend 80% of your tutorials.

Resources: The unit guide contains a list of resources for you to consult. Other resources will be made available on iLearn.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) ([http](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central)

[s://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central)).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.
- Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the contemporary Middle East.
- Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in class discussions.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Participation
- Take Home Research Essay

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the contemporary Middle East.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they

participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.
- Outline the geography and contemporary history of the Middle East.
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in class discussions.
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

Assessment task

- Tutorial Participation

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.
- Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in class discussions.
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

Assessment task

- Take Home Research Essay

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate

and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.
- Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the contemporary Middle East.
- Outline the geography and contemporary history of the Middle East.
- Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in class discussions.
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics.
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Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Participation
- Take Home Research Essay
- Final Exam

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.
- Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the contemporary Middle East.
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

Assessment task

- Final Exam

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the contemporary Middle East.
- Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in class discussions.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

Assessment task

- Tutorial Participation

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.
- Outline the geography and contemporary history of the Middle East.
- Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.
- Participate and lead, when necessary, in class discussions.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East,

in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

Assessment task

- Take Home Research Essay

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the contemporary Middle East.
- Outline the geography and contemporary history of the Middle East.
- Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.
- Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, in the particular global post 9/11 environment.

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Participation
- Take Home Research Essay

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
15/07/2019	I changed the due date of the "Take Home Essay" from 7 October (a public holiday) to 13 October.