



POIR2780

Middle-East Politics

Session 2, Special circumstance 2020

Department of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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Notice

As part of [Phase 3 of our return to campus plan](#), most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face-to-face and online activities for your unit, please go to [timetable viewer](#). To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit's iLearn space or consult your unit convenor.

General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Jumana Bayeh

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

40cp at 1000 level or above OR (10cp in HIST or MHIS or POL or POIR or MHIX or POIX units)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The uprisings that gripped the Arab world in 2011, the ongoing violence in Syria, the mixed results of the revolution in Egypt and the emergence of ISIS in 2014 have refocused 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 region. Broad-ranging theoretical concepts necessary for an understanding of Middle Eastern political processes, and different ways of looking at those processes, are considered in the first part. The unit then examines the structure of government and the politics of the region, drawing on some of the ideas from the earlier part of the unit. Particular attention is paid to the region's ongoing relations with the West and the "war against terrorism"; 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 globalisation 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:

ULO1: Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.

ULO2: Outline the geography and contemporary history of the Middle East.

ULO3: Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.

ULO4: Use a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics to convey, in essays and discussions, convincing arguments and ideas about the region.

ULO5: Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, by adopting macro ('big picture') perspectives discussed in the unit and integrating theory and empirical evidence.

Assessment Tasks

| Name | Weighting | Hurdle | Due |
|------------------------------------|-----------|--------|------------------|
| Essay | 60% | No | 20 October, 2020 |
| Reflective Journal | 40% | No | Ongoing |

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **20 October, 2020**

Weighting: **60%**

Write an essay of 2000 words. Choose one essay question provided by the Convenor. Students are expected to utilise the required readings in the unit and undertake independent research.

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.
- 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 to convey, in essays and discussions, convincing arguments and ideas about the region.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, by adopting macro ('big picture') perspectives discussed in the unit and integrating theory and empirical evidence.

Reflective Journal

Assessment Type ¹: Reflective Writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **40%**

Students are to keep a weekly journal where they reflect on the readings and the topic for the week.

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.
- Effectively communicate their understanding and analytical ability in both spoken and, particularly, polished written form.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the Middle East, by adopting macro ('big picture') perspectives discussed in the unit and integrating theory and empirical evidence.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

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

Resources: The study guide in iLearn 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.*)

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](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://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 help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Getting help with your assignment](#)
- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

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.