



POIR8430

The Middle East in Global Politics

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of International Studies

Contents

<u>General Information</u>	2
<u>Learning Outcomes</u>	2
<u>General Assessment Information</u>	3
<u>Assessment Tasks</u>	3
<u>Delivery and Resources</u>	5
<u>Policies and Procedures</u>	5

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MIntRel or MSecStrategicStud or MCrim or MIntell or MCyberSecAnalysis or MCTerrorism or MPPP or MPASR or GradCertPP or PGDiplIntRel or GradDiplIntRel or MIntPubDip.

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit will introduce students to the key questions in the area of the Middle East in global politics, or as Professor Fred Halliday has put it, the Middle East in International Relations. Students will learn about globalisation and neoliberalism, Political Islam, democratisation and the crisis of government legitimacy across the region. Students will also examine the legacies of the Ottoman Era, Colonialism, the Cold War and the “War on Terror” on the shaping of the modern relations of the Middle East at both the regional and the international levels.

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: Develop and apply independent learning and research skills throughout the semester

ULO2: Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the international relations of the Middle East.

ULO3: Demonstrate a capacity to communicate, both verbally and in written form, ideas

during in class and online discussions.

ULO4: Evaluate and critically engage with a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics and international relations theory.

ULO5: Recognise the importance of undertaking a critically engaged approach to the study of the Middle East.

General Assessment Information

Rubrics and indicative samples are provided in iLearn as additional guidance on standards of achievement for different assessment types. Submission of most tasks is via iLearn, but there maybe use of other submission platforms, such as an e-book. All assessment tasks are compulsory and must be submitted on time. Assignment tasks handed in early will not be marked and returned before the due date. Late Assessment Submission Penalty Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special Consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic. The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Special Consideration Policy. Extensions will not be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through Special Consideration: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/my-study-program/special-consideration> Reassessment of Assignments during the semester Macquarie University operates a Grade Appeal Policy in cases where students feel their work was graded inappropriately: <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html> In accordance with the Grade Appeal Policy, individual works are not subject to regrading.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Reflective Journal	50%	No	31/08/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Essay	50%	No	12/10/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Reflective Journal

Assessment Type [1](#): Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task [2](#): 50 hours

Due: **31/08/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

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:

- Develop and apply independent learning and research skills throughout the semester
- Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the international relations of the Middle East.
- Evaluate and critically engage with a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics and international relations theory.
- Recognise the importance of undertaking a critically engaged approach to the study of the Middle East.

Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 50 hours

Due: **12/10/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Write an essay of 2500 words. Choose one essay question provided by the Convenor. Students are expected to utilise the required readings in the unit and independent research.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Develop and apply independent learning and research skills throughout the semester
- Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the international relations of the Middle East.
- Demonstrate a capacity to communicate, both verbally and in written form, ideas during in class and online discussions.
- Evaluate and critically engage with a wide range of written and digital resources related to Middle East politics and international relations theory.
- Recognise the importance of undertaking a critically engaged approach to the study of the Middle East.

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

The unit runs from weeks 1 to 12 and consists of a 2-hour lecture followed by a 1 hr seminar/tutorial on Friday between 2pm - 5pm at 10HA 212. Lectures are recorded and available in Echo360 within 48 hours. Required readings are accessible via the Leganto site through iLearn, along with other unit resources. Computer and internet access are essential — log in at <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

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

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](#) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Unit information based on version 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)