POL 322

International Relations of the Middle East

D2 2012

Modern History, Politics and International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
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Credit points
3

Prerequisites
30cp or (6cp in HIST or MHIS or POL units at 200 level including 3cp in POL)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit introduces students to the international politics of the Middle East, which includes patterns of interaction between the states of the region, and also relations between the region and the world. Topics covered include: the war against terrorism; the Arab-Israeli conflict; conflicts and interventions in the Persian Gulf; inter-Arab politics; and economic dependence and development in both their regional and international dimensions from the perspective of international relations. The first part of the unit concentrates on epistemological and historical issues involved in the analysis of the Middle East as a regional system, and its place in the international system. The unit then moves on to an investigation of globalisation and democratisation in the Middle East, the prevalence of rogue states in the region and ways of containing them and several of the endemic conflict situations that exist. The conflicts to be examined are the Israel-Palestine confrontation, the Iraq wars, and the war against terrorism. The unit also examines the impact of the New World Order on the Middle East.

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 international relations of the Middle East.

Outline the geography and contemporary international relations 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 international relations Middle East.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Class Participation	20%	Ongoing		No	
Seminar Presentation	10%	Ongoing		No	
Review Essay	20%	Thursday, 23 August 2012, 5pm		No	
Major Essay	50%	Thursday, 25 October 2012, 5pm		No	

Class Participation

Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **20%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

This is assessment is ongoing throughout the semester. It will assess your in-class participation. You are expected to demonstrate that you have read the material assigned for each week and can make insightful contributions to class discussion.

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relations Middle East.

Seminar Presentation

Due: **Ongoing**
Weighting: **10%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

You are to select a topic from the list provided in this unit guide. This will be decided in the first seminar with your tutor. You are to lead the in-class discussion for your selected week. This should not simply entail a summary of the readings but also to critically engage with the arguments being made in them. It is also advisable that you read beyond the compulsory articles. You will also need to submit a short paper ONE WEEK AFTER your presentation summarising your presentation to the class. You need to submit this to the Arts enquiry office on the ground floor of W6A.

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Review Essay

Due: **Thursday, 23 August 2012, 5pm**
Weighting: **20%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

Two articles have been posted on iLearn. You are to select one and write a 1000 word review essay of the article. You are expected to do independent research for this task. More details will be posted on iLearn.

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- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the international relations Middle East.

Major Essay

Due: **Thursday, 25 October 2012, 5pm**
Weighting: **50%**
Groupwork/Individual:
Short extension [3]: No
AI Approach:

You are to select one question from a list provided on iLearn. The essay must be 2500 words and include an extensive bibliography. Essays with less or more words will be penalised. Essays must be submitted in hardcopy form on the ground floor of W6A by 5pm, Thursday 25 October 2012. Make sure you double space your essays and indicate clearly which question you are responding to.

The essay will assess your ability to research the literature, form a thesis, analyse the available material and then present a coherent and compelling argument as a polished academic essay. Essays should refer to a range of material in addition to the required reading and be correctly and consistently referenced. Students are expected to do their own research. The basis of this additional material should be academic works i.e.: chapters in edited books or academic articles in recognised journals. Wikipedia, and similar web-based resources, are not acceptable sources for the essay. Further guidance will be given during lectures and seminars.

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relations Middle East.

Delivery and Resources

Delivery:

Day, Internal

This unit will use:

iLearn

Times and locations for Lectures and Seminars

For current updates, lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetables website: http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au.

Lecture:

Monday 5-6pm in E6A 133

Seminars:

Thursday 9-11am W5C 210

Thursday 1-3pm W5C 234

Thursday 3-5pm W5C 210

Note: Seminars will begin in Week 2

Required resources

All students must purchase the Unit Readings from the Coop Bookshop. There is also a textbook for this unit also to be purchased from the Coop. The textbook is *The Middle East in International Relations* by Fred Halliday.

Unit Schedule

Lecture Schedule

(The tutorial schedule and weekly readings are available on iLearn)

Week 1- Introduction.

Week 2 - *Orientalism* and its Critics: Studying the Middle East.

Week 3 - International Relations of the Middle East.

Week 4 - Introduction to the Middle East: The Ottoman Legacy and Colonialis.

Week 5 - Post World War Two Order: The Invention of Israel and the Modern Middle East.

Week 6 - The Middle East in the Cold War: 1950s and 1960s, From Mosaddeq to the Six Day War.

Week 7 - The Middle East in the Cold War: From Nasserism to the Iranian Revolution.

SEMESTER BREAK

Week 8 - The Middle East in the Cold War: Civil War in Lebanon, Soviets in Afghanistan, and the Gulf War.

Week 9 - The International Relations of Political Islam and Middle East Politics.

Week 10 - Reading Week (no classes).

Week 11 - The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy in the Middle East.

Week 12 - Globalization and the Middle East.

Week 13 - Democratization and the Middle East.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html

Grade Appeal Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: http://students.mq.edu.au/support/.

UniWISE provides:

- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops http://www.mq.edu.au/learning_skills/
- Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions.
- The Learning Help Desk is located in the Library foyer (level 2).
- Online and on-campus orientation events run by Mentors@Macquarie.

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Support Unit who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

Details of these services can be accessed at http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/.

IT Help

If you wish to receive IT help, we would be glad to assist you at http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/.

When using the university's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students and it outlines what can be done.

Graduate Capabilities

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 international relations 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 international relations Middle East.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Seminar Presentation

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

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

- Participate and lead, when necessary, in class discussions.
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- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the international relations Middle East.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Review Essay
- Major Essay

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

- Outline and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the international relations of the Middle East.
- Outline the geography and contemporary international relations 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 international relations Middle East.

Assessment tasks

- Review Essay
- Major 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 international relations of the Middle East.
- Outline the geography and contemporary international relations 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.
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- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the international relations Middle East.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Review Essay
- Major Essay

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 the geography and contemporary international relations 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 international relations Middle East.

Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Seminar Presentation

- Major Essay

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.
- 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 international relations Middle East.

Assessment tasks

- Seminar Presentation
- Major Essay

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

- Undertake independent learning and research throughout the semester.
- Outline the geography and contemporary international relations 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.
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Assessment tasks

- Class Participation
- Seminar Presentation

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 and critically evaluate theoretical debates related to the international relations of the Middle East.
- Outline the geography and contemporary international relations of the Middle East.
- Raise awareness of the importance of a critical approach to the study of the international relations Middle East.

Assessment tasks

- Review Essay
- Major 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

- 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 international relations Middle East.

Assessment task

- Class Participation

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
26/07/2012	The Description was updated.
13/07/2012	The Description was updated.
30/01/2012	The Description was updated.
30/01/2012	The Description was updated.