
STRUGGLES AND IDENTITIES IN THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST in Fall 2018 (ME1091FB4)

Course Code	ME1091FB4	Professor(s)	Ziad Majed
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G205
Class Schedule	TF: 13:45-15:05 in PV-1	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	zmajed@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2018	Office Tel. Ext.	0140620685

Course Description

Following the decline of the Ottoman Empire during the First World War, five founding moments have marked the history of the Middle East.

The first is the one of European promises, betrayals and establishment of maps and borders (1915 - 1920).

The second moment is that of the creation of Israel in 1947, followed by the First Arab Israeli war (1948-49), and the displacement of a million Palestinians.

The third moment, 1973, is the one of the last Arab-Israeli war (in terms of State to state actor), the end of Nasserism, the oil boom and the rise of political Islam.

The fourth moment is that of the Iranian revolution in 1979 followed by the devastating Iraq-Iran war. It happened at the same moment when the Afghan jihad started against the Soviet army.

The fifth is the one that started in 2011, when revolutions against dictatorships erupted in many Arab countries. Conflicts, counter-revolutions and foreign military interventions followed and led to the series of crises that the Middle East (and the world) continue to witness today.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

The course will allow students to achieve a deep and nuanced understanding of this part of the world. It will offer them the possibility to put many of today's conflicts in their historical context and in their relation to World's politics.

Course Outline

Week I

Session I

General Introduction

Session II

WWI and the fall of the Ottoman Empire

Week II

Session I

European promises, betrayals and accords in the Middle East (1915 – 1920)

Session II

The new Middle East under the French and the British mandates

Week III

Session I

Turkey and Iran between the two World Wars

Session II

Mandatory Palestine, Zionism and the premises of a conflict (1918 – 1947)

Week IV

Session I

WWII, the UN, the creation of the state of Israel, the 1948 Palestinian Nakba

Session II

Arab regimes, political parties and the question of Democracy

Week V

Session I

Mossadegh, Nasser, the cold war and the US moment in the Middle East.

Session II

Class presentations

Week VI

Session I

The 1973 Arab Israeli war and its ramifications

Session II

Oil politics, Saudi Arabia and the rise of political Islam

Week VII

Session I

The Jihad in Afghanistan and the Iranian revolution of 1979

Session II

Midterm

Week VIII

Session I

Iran, Iraq and the gulf wars (1980 – 1991)

Session II

September 11 and the “War on terror”: the invasion of Afghanistan and the Iraq war (2001 – 2003)

Week IX

Session I

Political stagnation in the Middle East (2004 – 2009)

Session II

Social evolution in the Middle East (2004 – 2009)

Week X

Session I

Iran's green movement (2009)

Session II

Arab revolutions (Tunisia and Egypt 2010 – 2011)

Week XI

Session I

Arab revolutions (Bahrain and Yemen)

Session II

Arab revolutions (Libya and Syria)

Week XII

Session I

The struggle for Syria, ISIS, Iraq and the changing Levant

Session II

The struggle for Syria (continued): Russia, Iran and Turkey

Week XIII

Session I

The situation in Palestine

Session II

Counter revolutions and the Middle East today

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
A history of the Arab Peoples	Albert Hourani		0571226647	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an

absence for students' 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. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if 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 Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Midterm: 30%

Class participation: 10%

Paper: 30%

Final: 30%

Other
