

A GREATER MIDDLE EAST

Number of sessions: 30

Length of each session: 1,5 h

Total length of the module: 45 hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The goal of this course is to offer an in-depth introduction to a fundamental geostrategic area since the end of World War II, that is, the Middle East. The course will cover region by region but always trying to keep the global picture behind the specific region.

The title of this course makes reference to both, Carter Doctrine (1980) and George W. Bush's Greater Middle East and North Africa Initiative (2004), by which the Middle East region is studied with North Africa, the Horn of Africa and Central Asia, covering the Area of Influence of the Central Command.

GRADING:

1st and 2nd Test (25% + 25%)

These exams will be based on both, class notes and the handout provided by the professor during the first week of the semester. Twenty-five multiple-choice questions will be provided with five optional answers each (a, b, c, d, e).

Each correct question represents 1 point. Two mistakes represent -1 point.

Documentary (10%)

During the semester, students will spend one session watching a documentary or a movie. After watching the documentary, students will have to answer a short questionnaire on the documentary they watched.

The professor will offer five questions to answer in a given space. So the knowledge will be specific but only based upon the movie students have watched.

Giving a Lecture and designing a Handout (10%+10%)

During the second half of the semester, students will have to give a lecture. In groups of four members, students will teach a session (one hour long) on a topic chosen by the professor. In order to provide a starting point to the group, professor will provide a book but this reading will not be central to the presentation. The group will present on a topic and will use that book as a primary source but they will have to work using other sources (movies, academic and journalistic articles, encyclopedias, books) to give a lecture and fully cover the main ideas of a topic.

The very same day of the presentation the students will provide a handout to the professor. It is necessary to give this document to the professor before the presentation

is given. The document will not be longer than 2 pages per student, that is, the document of the day will not be longer than 8 pages. The handout has to have a short chronology of the main events commented (if necessary), a short biography of the main people mentioned (if any), a map of the region covered and the definition of the most important concepts covered.

It is very important not to read from notes or cards the whole presentation. A presentation must communicate ideas that the student understood using words that the student feels comfortable with.

Class participation (10%)

In some sessions, attendance and participation is required. For example, the evaluation days with tests or the final exam are mandatory for obvious reasons, but also the sessions based upon readings or documentaries. These sessions will offer the chance to students to participate in debates and discussions, so attendance is basic to get a grade.

Final Exam (10%)

The last session students will take a mandatory exam. This test will be based upon two short questions to answer in a given space. Each of the questions will be answered in less than a page being as specific as possible covering all the elements asked by the professor.

Type of evaluation	Percentage on the final grade
Test	25%
Test	25%
Documentary	10%
Participation	10%
Project and Handout	10% + 10%
Final Exam	10%
Total	100%

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Kamrava, Mehran, *The Modern Middle East. A Political History since the First World War*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.
- Brzezinski, Zbigniew, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and its Geostrategic Imperatives*, Basic Books, 1998.
- Bideleux, Robert & Jeffries, Ian, *The Balkans. A Post-Communist History*, London: Routledge, 2007.
- Edward Said. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books, 1979.
- Ahron Bregman. *Israel's Wars, 1947–93*. London: Routledge, 2000.
- F. William Engdahl. *A Century of War. Anglo-American Oil Politics and the New World Order*. Dr. Bottiger Verlags-GmbH, 1993.
- Vassilis Fouskas. *Zones of Conflict. US Foreign Policy in the Balkans and the Greater Middle East*. London: Pluto Press, 2003.
- Jack Caravelli. *Beyond Sand and Oil. The Nuclear Middle East*. Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2011.
- Francisco Parra. *OIL POLITICS. A Modern History of Petroleum*. London: Tauris, 2009