

COURSE OUTLINE

1. GENERAL

SCHOOL	Humanities and Social Sciences		
DEPARTMENT	Department of Language and Intercultural Studies		
LEVEL OF STUDIES	Undergraduate		
COURSE CODE:		SEMESTER	
COURSE TITLE	Special Topics in Modern Cultural History (with emphasis on the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean)		
INDEPENDENT TEACHING ACTIVITIES	WEEKLY TEACHING HOURS	ECTS	
<i>If credits are awarded for separate components of the course (e.g. Lectures, Laboratory Exercises, etc.), indicate them here. If credits are awarded for the course as a whole, indicate the weekly teaching hours and the total number of credits.</i>			
	3	5	
<i>Add rows if necessary. The organization of teaching and the teaching methods used are described in detail in section 4.</i>			
COURSE TYPE	Scientific Area		
<i>Background, General Knowledge, Scientific Area, Skills Development: Scientific Area</i>	GD3.3		
PREREQUISITE COURSES:	NO		
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATION:	Greek		
IS THE COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS:	NO		
COURSE WEBSITE (URL):			

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The learning outcomes of the course describe the specific knowledge, skills, and competences of an appropriate level that students will acquire upon successful completion of the course.

Please consult:

Appendix A

- Description of the Level of Learning Outcomes for each study cycle according to the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area
- Descriptive Level Indicators 6, 7 & 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning

and **Appendix B**

- Concise Guide to Writing Learning Outcomes

Knowledge

- Understanding of the historical development and the key events that shaped the Middle East.
- Knowledge of the political, social, economic, and religious factors that influence the region.
- Familiarity with theories and concepts of international politics, conflict studies, and regional studies as applied to the Middle East.

Skills

- Ability to analyze complex political and social phenomena through critical thinking.
- Interpretation of primary and secondary sources (texts, articles, data) in a scholarly manner.
- Synthesis of different perspectives to understand contemporary issues, such as conflicts, migration, or international relations.
- Communication of arguments both orally and in writing with academic precision.

Competences

- Linking theory and practice through case studies or negotiation simulations.
- Development of multicultural awareness and the ability to understand diverse cultural and religious contexts.
- Application of knowledge to analyze current developments in the Middle East and anticipate possible scenarios.
- Independent research and further study of topics related to the region.

General Competences

Taking into account the general competences that graduates are expected to have acquired (as listed in the Diploma Supplement and presented below), which of the following does the course aim to develop?

- Search for, analysis, and synthesis of data and information, using the necessary technologies
- Adaptation to new situations
- Decision-making
- Independent work
- Teamwork
- Working in an international environment
- Working in an interdisciplinary environment
- Production of new research ideas
- Project design and management
- Respect for diversity and multiculturalism
- Respect for the natural environment
- Demonstration of social, professional, and ethical responsibility and sensitivity to gender issues
- Exercise of critical thinking and self-criticism
- Promotion of free, creative, and inductive thinking

The course aims to cultivate the following competences:

Understanding of historical and political complexity

- In-depth study of the history of the Middle East, including colonialism, nationalist movements, conflicts, and agreements.
- Examination of the role of major powers and local hegemonies.

Analysis of social and cultural dimensions

- Religious diversity and interfaith relations.
- Culture, languages, identities, and social structures.

Study of contemporary issues

- Developments such as the Arab Spring, the conflicts in Syria, the Palestinian issue, and the role of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

- Issues of energy, water resources, and economic development.

Geopolitics and international relations

- The Middle East's relations with major powers (USA, Russia, China, EU).
- Strategic interests, security, and regional alliances.

Development of critical thinking skills

- Use of primary and secondary sources for analysis.
- Understanding of different narratives and perspectives.

Linking theory and practice

- Application of theories of international relations and history to specific case studies.
- Analysis of current events using academic tools.

3. COURSE CONTENT

The Middle East has long been considered to be in a state of seismic instability, though perhaps not in the stereotypical way portrayed by conventional analysts. The region has been not only a zone of conflict and war, but also a source of profound cultural, social, and intellectual exchanges between East and West that challenge—or demonstrate the inadequacy of—the dominant Huntington-style view of “the West and the Rest.”

The aim of the course is to trace and identify these points of conflict as well as contact and mutual influence between the region commonly referred to as the “Middle East” and the “West.” At the same time, especially in the present “times of war and death,” it would be disingenuous to ignore the fact that European colonial violence, American military interventions and territorial occupations, and state repression within the Middle East itself have deeply shaped and reshaped the region.

In light of the above, the course covers—through both theoretical approaches and specific case studies (Greek–Turkish relations, the Cyprus issue, the Kurdish question, the Palestinian issue, the Syrian conflict, etc.)—some of the most fundamental issues concerning the region, such as colonialism, imperialism, violence/repression, while also emphasizing cultural interactions in each case.

4. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS – ASSESSMENT

MODE OF DELIVERY Face-to-face, Distance learning, etc.	in-person	
USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) Use of ICT in teaching, laboratory education, and communication with students.	Use of ICT in teaching	
ORGANIZATION OF TEACHING The teaching methods and modes of instruction are described in detail below: Lectures, Seminars, Laboratory Practice, Fieldwork, Study and analysis of bibliography, Tutorials, Internship (Placement), Clinical Practice, Artistic Workshop, Interactive teaching, Educational visits, Project work, Writing of paper(s)/assignments, Artistic creation, etc. The student study hours for each learning activity, as well as the hours of independent (non-guided) study, are specified so that the total semester workload corresponds to ECTS standards.	Activities	Workload
	Lectures	
	Research and Analysis of literature	25 hours
	Essay preparation	100 hours
	Total (25 hours per ECT)	125
STUDENT ASSESSMENT Description of the assessment procedure Language of Assessment, Assessment methods, Formative or Summative assessment, Multiple-choice	The assessment criteria are explicitly presented during the first introductory lecture. They are also available on the university's eClass asynchronous e-learning platform, in the course description.	

test, Short-answer questions, Essay-type questions, Problem solving, Written assignment, Essay / Report, Oral examination, Public presentation, Laboratory work, Clinical patient examination, Artistic performance, Other / Others. Clearly specified assessment criteria are stated, as well as information on whether and where they are accessible to students.	
---	--

5. Recommended Literature

1. Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations: Power, Politics and Ideology*, Ξιφαράς, 2010. (Greek translation of the book)
2. Nikos Christofis, Antony Dersiotis, Murat Issi (eds.), *The Kurds of Turkey: From the Ottoman Empire to the Present Day*, University of Patras Press, 2023 (in Greek)

-Relevant academic journals:

International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies

Middle Eastern Studies

Middle East Journal

Turkish Studies

Foreign Policy (αγγλική και ελληνική έκδοση)

Foreign Affairs