

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 1)	English	lecture	30.0 h
		self-reliant study activities	15.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

Parker, Christopher	PS05	lecturer-in-charge
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Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Middle East Studies)	5	A
Master of Science in Conflict and Development	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Science in Conflict and Development	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Middle East, state formation, social movements, development, conflict, globalization, transition.

Position of the course

This course is taught at the level of a Master's and post-Master's degree in the Political Sciences. The course generally aims to provide a broad overview of the Middle East's social and political history, with particular attention to the current issues that determine politics in the region. The course also introduces students to core topics in, and the possible scientific approaches to, the study of contemporary Middle East.

This educational component is in keeping with the following educational competences of the degree program for Master of arts in the Political Sciences: M.1.1; M.1.2; M.1.4; M.1.5; M.1.7; M.2.1; M.3.1; M.3.3; M.5.1; M.5.2; M.6.1

Contents

The course begins by addressing the problem of 'how to define the Middle East', and by discussing strengths and weaknesses of competing approaches to the study of the region. This is followed by a series of four lectures addressing these topics: 1) the social and political foundations of state formation in the Middle East; 2) the historical trajectory of current social movements and ideological schools of thought; 3) the dilemmas political leaders were faced with in the era following the independence, and the impact of these on subsequent development of the region; 4) the forces that have had an influence on the shaping of the regional system until the first Gulf War (1991).

A subsequent series of lectures discusses in detail current challenges both individual

states and the contemporary Middle East state system are faced with (e.g., the Arab-Israeli conflict; Islamism; US influence in the region; Iraq; democratization; globalization; the influence of oil on the economic development; the rise of Iran in the wake of the Iraq war; etc.). Throughout the course, students are encouraged to examine the ways in which scholars, policy-makers and—not in the least—the people of the region are thinking about and offering an answer to these challenges.

Initial competences

The course builds further on the competences acquired through the following study programs: social sciences, history, cultural studies, Eastern languages and cultures.

Final competences

- To be able to consult the most important sources relevant to the study of politics in contemporary Middle East.
- To be able to critically reflect upon journalistic reporting on current events in the region.
- To be able to form an opinion about the core topics and methodological issues scholars currently working in the region have to deal with.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture, on-line discussion group, self-reliant study activities, seminar: coached exercises

Extra information on the teaching methods

The course is primarily lecture-based, but significant room will be made for class discussion based on literature students are required to read prior to each session. As discussion and debate will be an important part of each lecture, students are strongly encouraged to prepare for and to attend classes. Students will submit three short papers as a critical response to an assigned article from the reading material, employing in this the KKMQ-formula (key question, key citation, method and personal questions). Students may also be asked to write a “minute paper” during lectures in which they take time to put into words and on paper their thoughts prior to a discussion session. In addition, an online discussion group will be organized on Minerva intended to encourage students to plumb the depths of current events in the Middle East.

Learning materials and price

- Reading material, including both introductory texts and articles from academic books and journals. If and where possible, this course material will be made digitally available through Minerva.
- Summaries of lectures and key words from each lecture will be made available through Minerva.
- Students’ personal lecture notest.

References

Owen, Roger. *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East* (London: Routledge, 1992 and 2004).

Fawcett, Louise (ed). *International Relations of the Middle East* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

Fisk, Robert. *Het Groot Beschavings Oorlog*.

Course content-related study coaching

Study guidelines and tips for each lecture will be posted on Minerva.

During office hours: Tuesday afternoon from 02.00pm to 04.00pm.

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

examination during the second examination period is possible

(Approved)

Extra information on the examination methods

Written exam.

Continuous assessment is based on three short papers and general class participation

Calculation of the examination mark

Continuous (20%) and periodic assessment (80%).