

MIDDLE EAST CROSSROADS

Spring semester 2022

Thursday 12:00 – 13:30

This syllabus presents binding information about the course and its use is solely for this course and this semester. In case students discover any shortcoming or an issue which is not sufficiently clarified, they are encouraged to consult with the lecturer as early as possible.

LECTURER

Mgr. Eva Taterová, M.A., Ph.D. (evataterova@gmail.com)

ANNOTATION

The Middle East went through turbulent political and socio-economic changes during the second half of the 20th century which fundamentally affected not only geostrategic situation of the region but in some cases also had the significant impacts on global politics. The issues such as decolonization, military conflicts, religious radicalism and extremism, and last but not least the oil shocks have shaped the current international relations. This course aims to introduce and to discuss some of these important crossroads in a context of the development of the region in 20th and 21st centuries.

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The students should be able to analyze and understand these issues in a complex way. In order to get this knowledge it is essential to study the literature and come prepared to the class. The attendance is not mandatory however the students are highly encouraged to attend the lectures. Participation and activity in the class is recommended and invited, but not a must in itself. If students decide not to participate, they will not obtain any activity points. Students are, however, invited to participate and discuss by stating their opinion on topics done and materials read. It is, therefore, necessary for students to address all required reading materials before coming to the class dedicated to that particular topic.

Grades

A	92 - 100
B	84 - 91
C	76 - 83
D	68 - 75
E	60 - 67
F	less than 60 points

Presentation

Each presentation is about 20 minutes long and consists of a short summary/background to the given topic, critical analysis of the problem, questions for in-class discussion, and Literature and sources. The topics will be chosen by the students from the list available in IS.

Points: 30 points

Online essay

The students shall provide critical assessment of the perspectives to the given topic based on classes and readings. The students are expected to integrate the readings in a thoughtful way, not just summarize them. The detailed instructions will follow before the essay.

Date of the online essay: April 13, 2023

Points: 20 points

Final exam

Final exam will consist of five open questions which will require longer answers. Students will be asked to prove that they have acquired knowledge about the topics covered throughout the course and can critically discuss the dynamics in the region.

Points: 50 points

Date: May-June 2021

COURSE SCHEDULE

February 16: Introduction: scope of the course, organization of the course, and course requirements

No assigned readings

February 23: Looking Back: Middle East in last 100 years.

Readings: LEWIS, B. *The Middle East: A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years*. Simon and Schuster (2009), S. 387-417.

March 2: Carving up the Middle East in and after WWI: Was Europe lucky, evil, or smart?

Readings: KURŞUN, A. M. *Deconstructing the Sykes-Picot myth: Frontiers, boundaries, borders and the evolution of ottoman territoriality*. All Azimuth (2019), 9(1), 83-104. Online: <http://www.allazimuth.com/2019/03/29/deconstructing-the-sykes-picot-myth-frontiers-boundaries-borders-and-the-evolution-of-ottoman-territoriality>

The Balfour Declaration (November 2, 1917). Available from: <https://mfa.gov.il/mfa/foreignpolicy/peace/guide/pages/the%20balfour%20declaration.aspx>

March 9: The Pragmatic Superpowers: Winning the Cold War in the Middle East.

Readings: FULLER, G. E. "The Middle East in US-Soviet Relations." Middle East Journal, vol. 44, no. 3, 1990, pp. 417–430.

March 16: The Suez Crisis: New Saladin of the Arab World and a final confirmation of European decline.

Readings: PODEH, E. "The Struggle over Arab Hegemony after the Suez Crisis." Middle Eastern Studies, vol. 29, no. 1, 1993, pp. 91–110.

March 23: Iranian Revolution 1978: Great Satan, Little Satan demonizing epithets and the spread of anti-western propaganda in the Middle East.

Readings: SELIKTAR, O. – REZAEI, F. *Iran, Revolution, and Proxy Wars*. Palgrave (2020), s. 1-20.

March 30: 1990s as the Decade of Hope: Does peace even have a chance in the Middle East?

Readings: BARAK, O. “*The Failure of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, 1993-2000.*” *Journal of Peace Research*, vol. 42, no. 6, 2005, pp. 719–736.

April 6: Global Jihadism: Clash of civilization confirmed?

Readings: HAMMING, T. R. “Global Jihadism after the Syria War.” *Perspectives on Terrorism*, vol. 13, no. 3, 2019, pp. 1–16.

April 13: Online essay

No assigned readings.

April 20: Day of the Faculty – no class

April 27: Interpreting the Arab Spring: Can democracy work in the Middle East?

Readings: GREWAL, S. – MONROE, S. “*Down and Out: Founding Elections and Disillusionment with Democracy in Egypt and Tunisia.*” *Comparative Politics*, vol. 51, no. 4, 2019, pp. 497–518.

May 4: Current events in the Middle East

Readings: KATZ, M. *When the Friend of My Friends Is Not My Friend: The United States, US Allies, and Russia In the Middle East*. Atlantic Council, 2019.

May 11: Final exam

Education at FSS MU assumes that students are familiar with study regulations and they refrain from fraudulent fulfilment of their obligations, especially plagiarism, that is, appropriation of somebody else's thoughts for one's own and publication of thoughts of other authors without proper quotation. Plagiarism represents a most serious offence in the academia as it contradicts the mission of the university and meaning of studying. From legal point of view, plagiarism equals a theft of someone else's intellectual property. Fraudulent fulfilment of students' obligations is not tolerated under any circumstances and each such case will be punished by conditional expelling from the university. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the issue of plagiarism and the ways how to avoid it.