

<b>Identification</b>	<b>Subject (code, title, credits)</b>	PSIR 359 Middle East Politics 6 ECTS		
	<b>Department</b>	Political Science and Philosophy		
	<b>Level</b>	Undergraduate		
	<b>Term</b>	Fall 2025		
	<b>Instructor</b>	Huseyn Aliyev		
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:huseyn.aliyev00@gmail.com">huseyn.aliyev00@gmail.com</a>		
	<b>Classroom/hours</b>	41 Mehseti str. (Neftchilar campus)		
	<b>Office hours</b>			
<b>Prerequisites</b>	None			
<b>Language</b>	English			
<b>Compulsory/Elective</b>	Elective			
<b>Required textbooks and course materials</b>	There is no main textbook for this course. Instead, each class will have its own reading materials, which will be sent by the instructor before the class.			
<b>Course outline</b>	This course examines the intricate political dynamics of the Middle East, focusing on the paradox of persistent conflict despite common religious, cultural, and linguistic ties. We will explore the impact of colonial history, particularly British and French influence, on the region's current political landscape. Through various theoretical lenses, including securitisation theory and the concept of carbon democracy, as well as case studies such as the Arab-Israeli conflict, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of why so many conflicts persist in the Middle East. The course will examine these issues within the context of colonial continuity and its enduring impact on the region.			
<b>Course objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To understand both historical and contemporary factors driving conflicts in the Middle East.</li><li>• To analyze the impact of colonialism on the region’s political structures and ongoing conflicts.</li><li>• To explore key theoretical frameworks, including securitization theory and carbon democracy in the Middle East case.</li><li>• To explore the Arab-Israeli conflict for understanding the regional and international dimensions of Middle Eastern politics.</li></ul>			
<b>Learning outcomes</b>				
<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>Date/deadlines</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>	
	<b>Midterm evaluation</b>	To be determined by the Dean’s Office	30	
	<b>Attendance in classes</b>		0	
	<b>Group discussion assignment</b>		15	

		Two Reading Responses		5
		In-class Presentations		10
		Final exam	To be determined by the Dean’s Office	40
		Total		100
Policy				
Tentative Schedule				
Date/Day (subject to change if necessary on holidays)	Topics	Readings		
Week 1 20.09.2025	Middle East: Ottoman Legacy and Colonial Period	Gelvin, J. L. (2011). <i>The Modern Middle East: A History</i> (3rd edition). Oxford University Press. <b>Ch.11-13 (pp.184-216).</b>		
Week 2 27.09.2025	The Arab-Israeli conflict between the World Wars	Charles, D.Smith. (2017). Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents. <b>(pp 100-114; 120-128; 135-136; 162-163; 172-174; 175-177; 226-230).</b> <b>(the page numbers are pdf page numbers).</b>		
Week 3 04.10.2025	Nation and/or state-building in the Middle East	Gelvin, J. L. (2011). <i>The Modern Middle East: A History</i> (3rd edition). Oxford University Press. <b>Ch.11-13 (pp.184-216).</b>		
Week 4 11.10.2025	Post-9/11 history: a new Middle East?!	<a href="https://carnegieendowment.org/files/new_middle_east_final1.pdf">https://carnegieendowment.org/files/new_middle_east_final1.pdf</a> <b>(pp1-10; 21-29)</b> <a href="https://www.britannica.com/event/September-11-attacks">https://www.britannica.com/event/September-11-attacks</a>		
Week 5 18.10.2025	Regional Security Complex of the Middle East	Buzan, B., & Wæver, O. (2004). <i>Regions and Powers: The Structure of International Security</i> . Cambridge University Press. <b>(pp 187-206; 215-218)</b>		
Week 6 25.10.2025	Midterm Exam			
Week 7 01.11.2025	Gulf States: ‘Carbon Democracy’ vs Democratization	Mitchell, T. (2009). Carbon democracy. <i>Economy and Society</i> , 38(3), 399–432. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/03085140903020598">https://doi.org/10.1080/03085140903020598</a>		

<b>Week 8</b> <b>08.11.2025</b>	<b>The Arab Uprisings and Egypt</b>	Gelvin, J. L. (2015). <i>The Arab uprisings: What everyone needs to know</i> (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 9</b> <b>15.11.2025</b>	<b>Civil War in Iraq and Syria</b>	Gelvin, J. L. (2015). <i>The Arab uprisings: What everyone needs to know</i> (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 10</b> <b>22.11.2025</b>	<b>The Arab Uprisings in Libya</b>	Gelvin, J. L. (2015). <i>The Arab uprisings: What everyone needs to know</i> (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
<b>Week 11</b> <b>29.11.2025</b>	<b>Non-Arabs in the Middle East: Turkey&amp;Iran&amp;Israel</b>	TBD
<b>Week 12</b> <b>06.12.2025</b>	<b>Middle East and Great Power Politics: US&amp;Russia&amp;EU&amp;China</b>	Yannis A. S. (2020). <i>Conflict and diplomacy in the Middle East: External actors and regional rivalries</i> . Hurst & Company.
<b>Week 13</b> <b>13.12.2025</b>	<b>TBD</b>	TBD
<b>Week 14</b> <b>20.12.2025</b>	<b>Reviewing, and Conclusive remarks</b>	
<b>Week 15</b> <b>27.12.2025</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	