

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	CASS
<b>Programme:</b>	MA International Relations
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	7
<b>Course Title:</b>	The Middle East and International Politics
<b>Course Code:</b>	INR 7425
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr Michael Keating
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	200
Lectures:	39
Seminar / Tutorials:	6
Independent / Guided Learning:	155
<b>Semester:</b>	FALL & SPRING
<b>Credits:</b>	20 UK CATS credits 10 ECTS credits 4 US credits

**Course Description:**

This course considers the significance of the Middle East in contemporary International Relations and its regional and global significance. Focusing upon the great power struggles and the international ramifications of ideological and religious clashes in the region, students will explore the region's successes and inherent tensions to appreciate the difficulties they pose to any would be peacemakers. The challenges of nuclear proliferation in the region and the growing role of non-state groups will be addressed. Students will engage with the works of key researchers on a course that will explore state-formation, the role of non-state actors, the Arab-Israeli conflict and access to vital resources.

**Prerequisites:** MA International Relations and MA International Development students only

**Aims and Objectives**

- To assess the idea of Middle East 'exceptionalism'
- To develop an understanding of the 'Middle East' and its relations with the West in terms of historically-constituted processes and relations of power

- To examine the origins of the state system in the Middle East and its implications for relations between Middle East states and their populations
- To engage with the comparative political economy of Middle Eastern states and the region's incorporation into the global political economy
- To study the development of different ideologies (Arab nationalism, socialism, liberalism, Islamism) and their various relations with the state in the region

**Programme Outcomes:**

LEVEL 7 A, B, C, D, E, G

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of the key academic sources in studying the international politics of the Middle East
- Respond in a critical and innovative way to the normative concerns informing the study of the international politics of the Middle East
- Demonstrate a deep, systematic and innovative ability to adapt and apply theoretical knowledge to analysis of the international politics of the Middle East
- Design and undertake substantial research in the international politics of the Middle East, while critically reflecting on the different theoretical and methodological tools
- Engage with and evaluate complex, incomplete or contradictory evidence in regard to the international politics of the Middle East.
- Demonstrate the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and diverse information regarding the international politics of the Middle East, while reflecting upon and improving the skills required for effective communication

**Indicative Content:**

- Middle East 'exceptionalism'
- The Middle East in the Modern States System
- Political ideologies and religious fundamentalism in the Middle East
- Resource politics in the Middle East
- International, regional and civil conflicts in the Middle East
- Reform and Democratisation in the Middle East
- The Arab Spring

**Assessment:**

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

**Teaching Methodology:**

The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the Course instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

**Indicative Texts:**

- Lockman, Z. (2009). *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Cambridge University Press
- Milton-Edwards, B. (2011). *Contemporary Politics in the Middle East*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, Polity
- Schwedler, J. (ed.) (2013). *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East*, Lynne Rienner

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

