

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: Political Science

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Politics of the Middle East

Course Code: PLT 5100

Course Leader: Professor Alex Seago

Student Engagement Hours: 120

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning: 75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 US credits

Course Description:

Deals primarily with the politics of the Arab world, although Iran and Turkey are discussed where appropriate. Deals with issues of political and economic development in the region, as well as with geo-strategic and international concerns. This course is thematic rather than national in focus, and addresses issues such as nationalism, religion, revolution, democratization, gender politics, the politics of oil, and external influences on the Middle East.

Pre-requisites: PLT 3100 or PLT 3105 or HST 3100 or HST 3105 or DEV 4100

Aims and Objectives:

- To understand the politics of the Middle East through the study of key themes, problems and issues.
- To understand the interrelated domestic and international political influences on the Middle East.
- To understand the social, political, economic, religious, cultural, and security dimensions of the politics of the Middle East.

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme

outcomes. 5A(ii); 5B(i); 5B(ii); 5B(iii); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(ii)

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:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of theories of economic and political development as they are relevant to the Middle East
- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of political institutions, practices and systems in the Middle East
- Demonstrates a critical and theoretical engagement with core problems and issues faced by states and societies in the Middle East
- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of the continuities and transformations evident in the Middle East, and in debates concerning the Middle East
- Completes assigned work with a degree of autonomy, clarity, technical competence, capacity for self-evaluation and critical thinking appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Historical issues in the Middle East with contemporary political significance (ie the colonial legacy, independence movements)
- Political ideologies in post-independence Middle East
- Social, Political, Cultural and Economic contexts in the post-colonial Middle East
- Political and economic development, and democratization processes, in the Middle East
- Geo-politics, resource and security issues in the Middle East, including the impact of Great Power strategic competition
- Religion and Revolutions in Middle eastern politics

Assessment:

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

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

