

Arab Studies Program
American University, College of Arts and Sciences
Fall 2010 Course Offerings

HISTORY

HIST-248 Intro to Middle Eastern History

TF 12:45-2:00 PM Aksakal, M.

The Middle East escapes any single definition; it has no readily-defined geographic, ethnic, religious, or political boundaries. This course surveys the historical experiences, institutions, and events that have connected the region's diverse peoples from the rise of Islam to the present. Usually offered every fall.

HONORS

HNRS-302 Honors Colloquium in Social Sciences

007H Muslims in America

M 11:20 AM – 2:00 PM Ahmed, A.

This multidisciplinary course examines how the Muslim experience in the United States challenges and relates to core features of American identity. It is based on an unprecedented research trip across the United States and includes notes, films and ethnography from Muslims and non-Muslims, encompassing the full range of American life and culture. The course examines how American identity was shaped over American history through the work of writers such as Alexis De Tocqueville and the role that minorities played in shaping that identity. Using the Muslim experience as a case study, the

course examines how American ideals key to its identity, such as pluralism, have held up in a post 9/11 society.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

SIS-245 The World of Islam

TF 9:55 AM – 11:10 AM

The "inner dynamic" of Islamic culture and an inside look at the workings of Islamic society - a society seen as a whole with its own characteristic inner force and propellant. Original readings illustrating the Islamic paradigm and discussion of the complex relationship among reform, renewal, and fundamentalism stemming from this paradigm.

SIS-264 Contemporary Middle East

TF 11:20 AM – 12:35 PM Diwan, K.

The Middle East's contemporary political culture and its historical, economic, geographic, and social roots, with special attention to the Arab world.

SIS-364 Contemporary Islam & Int'l Relations

F 2:10 PM – 4:50 PM

Examines the nineteenth century Islamic reform movements in the Middle East and North Africa and the twentieth century neofundamentalist militant movements. The conflict between these movements and the forms of secular nationalism that developed during the same period, as well as the impact of

Islamic movements on societies oriented toward Westernization and nationalism.

SIS- 419 Adv Topics in Int'l Relations
005 Afghanistan-Conflict & Society
M 5:30 PM- 8:00 PM Akram, A

Afghanistan is the center of U.S. and international attention in a conflict with far-reaching ramifications. This course offers a better understanding of the situation in Afghanistan, with an emphasis on the past thirty years. It analyzes internal and external factors and asks why Afghanistan seems to be unable to extricate itself from a state of perpetual conflict; what are the main dynamics and who are the actors; was the current situation predictable; and whether the United States and the international community can turn it around. Also examined are how the war impacts the fundamentals of the Afghan society and, conversely, how these same fundamentals affect any success or failure to come. Meets with SIS-676 001.

SIS- 419 Adv Topics in Int'l Relations
031 USFP Towards the Middle East
W 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM Ziv, G.

This course provides students with a detailed understanding of the history of America's relations with the countries of the greater Middle East as well as of current issues in United States policy towards the region. The course not only analyses the Arab-Israeli issue in depth, but also explores the domestic and international constraints which affect overall U.S. policy toward the Middle East. Meets with SIS-653 002.

SIS-516 Peace-building in Divided Soc
W 05:30PM 8:00 pm

This course explores the various methods and techniques of peace building and conflict resolution that have been applied in conflicts in multiethnic and divided societies. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the primary case studies, but other examples of deep-rooted conflicts are also integrated into the class.

SIS-519 Special Studies in
International Politics
004 Post-Saddam Iraq
W 8:10 PM - 10:40 PM O'Leary, C.

This seminar evaluates models for comparative power sharing and their "fit" with Iraq's culture and society. Topics for discussion include power sharing in a pluralistic society, including the challenge of balancing majority rule and minority rights; the Kurdish issue, including the federalism question; and Islam and governance, including the rights of women. Students are divided into teams representing key factions in Iraq. Iraqi teams present a draft constitution and teams representing the regional states submit white papers outlining strategic concerns. Experts on comparative power sharing and constitutional issues, as well as representatives of Iraqi political parties and interest groups, are invited as guest lecturers throughout the semester.

SIS-619 Special Studies in Int'l Pol
007 Muslims in America
M 11:20AM-2:00 PM Ahmed, A

This multidisciplinary course examines how the Muslim experience in the United States challenges and relates to core features of American identity. It is based on an unprecedented research trip

across the United States and includes notes, films and ethnography from Muslims and non-Muslims, encompassing the full range of American life and culture. The course examines how American identity was shaped over American history through the work of writers such as Alexis De Tocqueville and the role that minorities played in shaping that identity. Using the Muslim experience as a case study, the course examines how American ideals key to its identity, such as pluralism, have held up in a post 9/11 society.

**SIS-653 Topics in US Foreign Policy
002 USFP Towards the Middle East**
W 5:30PM-8:00PM Ziv, G

This course provides students with a detailed understanding of the history of America's relations with the countries of the greater Middle East as well as of current issues in United States policy towards the region. The course not only analyses the Arab-Israeli issue in depth, but also explores the domestic and international constraints which affect overall U.S. policy toward the Middle East. Meets with SIS-653 002

**SIS-676 Sel Topics in Cross-Natl
Study
002 Oil, Islam & Policits in the Gulf**
W 5:30PM-8:00PM Diwan, K

The September 11th attack, the ensuing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the recent oil boom focused increasing attention to the strategically important region of the Arab Gulf. The significance of Saudi Arabia to global terrorism and Dubai to global markets demands greater attention be paid to the political dynamics of these states. Meanwhile, the past decade has seen the

Arab states of the Gulf experimenting with new means of broadening political participation and renegotiating state relations with private business. This course surveys the domestic and international pressures for these actions to assess both the potential for and implications of reform in the Arab Gulf states. By building an analytic framework based on the nexus of economic, social, religio-political, and geo-strategic forces at work in the Gulf, students are able to recognize the different choices made by each Gulf state, and to address the broader consequences of the global war on terror, unrest in Iraq and Iran, and the oil windfall and credit crunch in the Gulf.

005 Com Pol of Mid East/N. Africa
M 8:10PM-10:40PM

Understanding the potential impact of current policies and events requires a historical investigation into the politics, economics, and societies of modern Middle Eastern states. This course introduces students to the comparative politics of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) with a heavy emphasis on the political and economic roots of contemporary events. The course is divided into three sections: historical legacies and the formation of states in the region (i.e. the Ottoman Empire); social movements and ideologies that have shaped the politics of the region (i.e. Pan Arabism, Islamism, Liberalism); the effects of systemic changes and shifts in global power configurations on Middle East politics (i.e. the Cold War, globalization, oil shocks).

SOCIOLOGY

SOCY-225 Contemporary Arab World

The social, economic, and political structure of the Arab World with special emphasis on the impact on this region of the rise and fall of oil revenues. A macrosociological approach places the region in the global political economy and introduces students to its problematics and historical-cultural specificity. Usually offered every term.

001

MTH 9:55 AM – 11:10 AM

002

TF 8:30AM – 9:45 AM

003

TF 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM

ARABIC

ARAB-102 Arabic, Elementary I

Introduction to modern standard Arabic used in formal situations, meetings, instruction in schools and universities around the Arab world, and the media. The phonology and script of the language, important syntactic structures, morphology, understanding simple material including frequent structural patterns and vocabulary.

001

MTH 8:30 AM– 9:45AM
W 8:30 AM – 9:20 AM

002

TF 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM
W 8:30 AM – 9:20 AM

003

MTH 11:20 AM – 12:35 PM
W 11:20 – 12:10 PM

004

MTH 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM
W 12:35 PM – 1:35 PM

005

TF 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM
W 12:35 PM – 1:35 PM

006

TF 3:35 PM - 4:50 PM
W 3:35 PM – 4:25 PM

007

MW 5:30 PM – 7:15 PM

008

MW 8:10 PM – 9:55 PM

009

TTH 8:10 PM – 9:55 PM

010

TF 11:20 AM- 12:35 PM
W 11:20 AM – 12:10 PM

ARAB-202 Arabic, Intermediate I

Further practice in conversation; acquisition of new grammatical structures and vocabulary. Includes cultural subjects related to customs, history, geography and literature.

Prerequisite: ARAB-103 or equivalent.

001

MTH 3:35 PM – 4:50 PM
W 3:35 – 4:25 PM

002

TF 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM
W 8:30 AM – 9:20 AM

003

TF 2:10 PM -3:25 PM
W 2:10 PM – 3:00 PM

004

TTH 8:10PM – 10:15 PM

005

MW 8:10 PM – 10:15 PM

ARAB-302 Advanced Arabic I

This course introduces elements in the more advanced grammatical structures of Modern Standard Arabic (MSA) using a functional approach, and helps students develop skills in literary genres necessary for understanding authentic readings and discourse. Promotes the active use of MSA by using literary and culturally authentic selections of texts. Emphasis is on the development of effective application of thematic contexts from readings, and developing accuracy in written and oral communication. The course reviews and reinforces previously acquired grammatical structures, and expands vocabulary through extensive practice and analysis of MSA style from literary, political, social, and economic aspects of Arab culture and language.

001

MTH 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

002

MTH 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM

ARAB-425 Arab Civilizations & Cultures

W 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

This course explores the historical, cultural, political, and intellectual

developments within the twelve centuries of Arab and Ottoman civilizations, beginning with the seventh century Umayyad Empire to the nineteenth century renaissance of Arabism, and assesses and analyses the underlying factors influencing the Arab social and literary revival.