



## COURSE SYLLABUS

### 1. Information about the programme

1.1 Higher Education Institution	Babeş-Bolyai University
1.2 Faculty	European Studies Faculty
1.3 Department	International relations and German studies
1.4 Field of study	International relations and European Studies
1.5 Study level	MA
1.6 Programme of study/Qualification	International Relations, Foreign Policy and Crisis Management

### 2. Information about the discipline

2.1 Module	Crises of the Middle East						
2.2 Course holder	Lecturer Raluca Moldovan PhD (moldovan.raluca@ubbcluj.ro)						
2.3 Seminar holder	Lecturer Raluca Moldovan PhD						
2.4 Year of study	2	2.5 Semester	3	2.6. Type of assessment <sup>1</sup>	E.	2.7 Type of module <sup>2</sup>	OB

### 3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1 No. of hours per week	3	3.1 of which for course	2	3.3 of which for seminar	1
3.4 Total no. of hours in the curriculum	42	3.5 of which for course	28	3.6 of which for seminar	14
Time distribution:					11
Study by using handbook, reader, bibliography and course notes					1
Additional library/specialised online research, field research					0.5
Preparation of seminars/laboratories, homework, projects, portfolios and essays					0.5
Tutoring					0.5
Examinations					0.5
Other activities: .....					
3.7 Total no. of hours for individual study	3				
3.8 Total no. of hours per semester	154				
3.9 No. of ETCS credit points	6				

### 4. Prerequisites (where applicable)

4.1 of curriculum	• --
4.2 of competencies	• --

### 5. Conditions (where applicable)

<sup>1</sup> E - exam, ME - multi-term examinations, C - collocutional examination/assessment test

<sup>2</sup> OB - core module, OP - elective module, F - extracurricular module

5.1 For the development of the course	• --
5.2 For the development of the seminar/laboratory	• laptop, projector

## 6. Specific skills acquired

Professional skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• oral, written and electronic communication of specialized knowledge in the language in which the programme is taught (English)</li> <li>• the analysis of the historical background leading to the current Middle Eastern crises</li> <li>• the comparative analysis of various political regimes in the Middle East and the difficulty of implementing democracy in the region</li> <li>• understanding the implications of Middle Eastern crises and instability for the contemporary world</li> </ul>
Interdisciplinary skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meeting deadlines and carrying out tasks rigorously, efficiently and responsibly, by respecting the ethical principles of scientific research and correctly applying citation rules</li> <li>• applying team building techniques; developing interpersonal communication skills and taking on specific roles during team work.</li> </ul>

## 7. Course objectives (based on the list of acquired skills)

7.1 General objective	The main objective of the course is making the students understand the complexity of the Middle Eastern region and how various historical and political forces have led to the current climate of instability and tension, as well as how this affects contemporary global politics.
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the contemporary forces shaping/influencing the Middle East region, including states, power relations, politics, social media, and the struggles for human rights.</li> <li>• Comprehend the dynamics of conflicts, continuity and change, uprisings, and lingering tensions in the Middle East region.</li> <li>• Understand the role of modern technology (e.g., social media), and democratic uprisings in the Middle East region, as well as the role played by regional and external powers.</li> <li>• Apply the knowledge acquired in this course to explore issues such as social change, uprisings, military intervention, sectarian tensions, peaceful democratic change, technology diffusion, and social media.</li> <li>• Comprehend difficult moral and strategic choices that leaders of the Middle East region have to make given the geopolitical realities that influence the region.</li> <li>• Use tools of critical analysis to address, identify, and analyze the sources of social change, modernity, nationalism, Islamism, and uprisings in the Middle East region</li> </ul>

## 8. Contents

8.1 Lectures	Teaching methods	Observations
1-2. The emergence and rise of Islam to the 18 <sup>th</sup>	Interactive lecture	

century		
3. At the crossroads of history: the fall of the Ottoman Empire and the creation of the modern Middle East	Interactive lecture	
4. All roads lead to Jerusalem: the birth of the modern Jewish state	Interactive lecture	
5. Why there is a democratic deficit in the Arab world I	Interactive lecture	
6. Why there is a democratic deficit in the Arab world II	Interactive lecture	
7. Force and violence in Middle Eastern politics	Interactive lecture	
8. Revolution in Iran and the resurgence of Islam	Interactive lecture	
9. The Arab-Israeli conflict	Interactive lecture	
10-13. The Syrian civil war I:	Interactive lecture	
a) the decay of the Syrian state	Interactive lecture	
b) uprising, the state and opposition	Interactive lecture	
c) regional proxy war	Interactive lecture	
d) from civil war to global crisis	Interactive lecture	
14. Terror groups in the Middle East: Al-Qaeda and its affiliates; ISIS	Interactive lecture	
<b>Bibliography:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jack Caravelli, <i>Beyond Sand and Oil. The Nuclear Middle East</i>, New York: ABC Clio, 2011</li> <li>• Amr Yossef, Joseph R. Cerami, <i>The Arab Spring and the Geopolitics of the Middle East. Emerging Security Threats and Revolutionary Change</i>, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015</li> <li>• Nonie Darwish, <i>The Devil We Don't Know. The Dark Side of Revolutions in the Middle East</i>, New Jersey: Wiley, 2012</li> <li>• Arthur Goldschmidt Jr., Lawrence Davidson, <i>A Concise History of the Middle East</i>, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, Boulder: Westview, 2006</li> <li>• John L. Esposito, Tamara Sonn, John O. Voll, <i>Islam and Democracy after the Arab Spring</i>, New York: Oxford University Press, 2016</li> <li>• Peter Mansfield, <i>A History of the Middle East</i>, 4th edition, New York: Penguin Books, 2013</li> <li>• Patrick Cockburn, <i>The Rise of the Islamic State. ISIS and the New Sunni Revolution</i>, London: Verso, 2015</li> <li>• Robin Yassin-Kassab, Leila Al-Shami, <i>Burning Country. Syrians in Revolution and War</i>, London: Pluto Press, 2016</li> <li>• Flynt Leverett, <i>Inheriting Syria. Bashar's Trial by Fire</i>, Washington: Brookings, 2005</li> <li>• Christian C. Sahner, <i>Among the Ruins. Syria Past and Present</i>, New York: Oxford University Press, 2014</li> </ul>		

8.2 Seminar / Laboratory	Seminar schedule	Date
<p>The seminars will be organised as student-chaired sessions. They will propose appropriate topics, work in teams and take charge of the discussion and activities. The contribution of each team member must be made evident. Activities can include, but are not limited to, presentations, videos, debates, quizzes, media content analysis, etc. Teams are responsible for choosing their own support materials/bibliography and doing proper research; assistance in this matter will be provided upon request. In order to give students time to prepare</p>	Weeks 1-3: Saudi Arabia and Iran. A complicated history. Documentary screening: <i>House of Saud</i> (BBC, 2018); three parts John Oliver, <i>Last Week Tonight: Saudi Arabia; the Iran nuclear deal</i>	
	Week 4 Topic: Session Chair: Team:	
	Week 5 Topic: Session Chair: Team:	
	Week 6 Topic: Session Chair:	

their chaired sessions, the first three seminars will deal with Saudi Arabia and Iran; student participation in discussions and activities is encouraged and will count towards the final seminar grade. There will be 7 two-hour seminars every other week throughout the semester instead of 14 one-hour seminars.	Team:	
	Week 7	
	Topic:	
	Session Chair:	
	Team:	

**Bibliography:**

- Abbas Amanat, *Iran. A Modern History*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017.
- Ilan Berman, *Iran's Deadly Ambition. The Islamic Republic's Quest for Global Power*, New York: Encounter Books, 2015.
- Jeremy Bernstein, *Nuclear Iran*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014.
- Ehud Eilam, *Israel, the Arabs, and Iran. International Relations and Status Quo 2011-2016*, New York: Routledge, 2018.
- Dilip Hiro, *Cold War in the Islamic World. Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Struggle for Supremacy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Additional bibliography will be provided upon request based on the chosen session topics.

**9. The correspondence between the content of the course and the expectations of the academic community, professional associations and representative employers in the field:**

At the end of this course, the students will be able to apply the knowledge gathered about the diverse and complex realities of the Middle East in a comparative context as analysts, or in any other field that requires skills and knowledge about these sensitive international issues.

**10. Assessment**

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Percentage of the final grade
10.4 Course	Grasping the causes, development, and consequences of Middle Eastern crises and historical events based on the course topics and bibliography.	written exam; multiple choice and open questions	50%
10.5 Seminar	Team work contribution, participation in discussions, debates, all other seminar activities	student chaired sessions	50%

**10.6 Minimum standard of performance**

Obtaining the minimal grade 5 at the end of the class. Class attendance is compulsory and will be carefully monitored. Students who miss more than 3 lectures and/or seminars will have to complete extra assignments in order to be allowed to take the final exam.

Date  
August 31, 2019

Course holder signature  
Dr. Raluca Moldovan

Seminar holder signature  
Dr. Raluca Moldovan

Date of departmental approval  
August 31, 2019

Head of department signature  
Conf. dr. Laura Herța