The Great Powers in the Middle East, 1914 – Present
Spring Semester 2017

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Course Description:
The course will discuss the relations between the great powers and the Middle East since the outbreak of World War I until current events. We will see how the great powers formed the modern Middle East and how the region played a significant part in the global arena. Developments in Palestine and the creation of Israel and its evolution and relations with the region and the great powers will be a major topic discussed throughout the course. The transformation of the region started with the collapse of the Ottoman Empire during World War I, continued with the mandate system dominated by Britain and France, and then went on to independent states. The European dominance demised and was replaced by the American and Soviet competition and patronage, until the U.S. gained hegemony. The Middle East remained a major region in the global affairs even after the Cold War ended, with deep involvement of the great powers. The recent turmoil in the region and the relative decline in American influence opened the way to a new great power competition over influence in the region.

Course Objectives: The modern Middle East is complex and has been affected by global powers but also affected global affairs as well. Students taking the course will learn the evolution of this process and will better understand and analyze historical and current affairs, particularly the international, extra-regional ones.

Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe relations between the great powers of the recent century and the Middle East.
2. Explain how the great powers shaped the region in its modern form and what input regional forces and developments had on the great powers and the international system in general.
3. Assess the interplay between the regional and international occurrences, past and present.
4. Analyze similarities and diversities of the Israeli experience compared with other countries in the region.

Field of Education and Discipline(s): International Relations, Israel Studies

Course Structure:

Lecture: 26 Total # of Credits: 4
ECTS (European Credit Transfer System—): 6

Teaching Method:
The course will be conducted through a combination of formal lectures, class discussion, and student presentations. The lectures will be based on weekly reading assignments.

Course Requirements

Compulsory attendance YES

Pre-requisites: None

Structure of Final Course Grad

1. Participation 10%
2. Midterm Exam 20%
3. Final Paper 50%
4. Student presentation 20%
100%

Note:
- Work handed in late, will not be graded!
- Penalties and course policies should be clearly articulated (i.e. students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than 2 class meetings unexcused)
- Language of instruction is English.

Time required for individual work: in addition to attendance in class, the students are expected to do their assignment and individual work:

1-2 hours of reading each week
2 hours of work on the presentations
6 hours of work on midterm exam
12 hours of work on the final paper

Those expectations are approximate and correlate with the module's ECTS.
## Course Schedule Layout:

### First week 13.3
Introduction: Setting the scene – characterizing the Middle East; the Middle East under the Ottoman Empire

**Readings:**

### Second week 19-20.3
World War I: Regional dominance alters

**Readings:**

### Third week 26-27.3
The Mandate system and World War II: Jewish and Arab aspirations and links to the great powers

**Readings:**

### Fourth week 2-3.4
Post-war changing dominance: from British and French to American and Soviet

**Readings:**

### Fifth week 23-24.4
The Middle East in the American and Soviet grand strategies

**Readings:**

### 27.4 – Tour in Jerusalem

### Sixth week 30.4 (1.5 Memorial Day, no class)
The great powers and the creation of Israel

**Readings:**


**Seventh week 7-8.5**
The Arab-Israeli conflict: global and regional dynamics 1
Readings:

**Mid-term exam 14.5 (50 minutes)**

**Eighth week 14-15.5**
The Arab-Israeli conflict: global and regional dynamics 2
Same readings from the previous week.

**Ninth week 21-22.5**
US-Israel relations in the regional context
Readings:

**Tenth week 28-29.5**
The Great Powers and the Arab World
Readings:

**Eleventh week 4-5.6**
The Post-Cold War Middle East and the great powers 1
Readings:

**Twelfth week 11-12.6**
The Post-Cold War Middle East and the great powers 2
Same readings from the previous week.

**Thirteenth week 18-19.6**
Conclusion: The great powers and the new regional realities
Readings:

**FINAL PAPER SUBMISSION BY JULY 13**

**Additional recommended Bibliography**

**General:**

**Second week:**

**Third week:**

**Fourth week:**

**Fifth week:**

**Sixth week:**

**Seventh-Eighth weeks:**


Yehuda Blanga. "'The Russians are Coming, the Russians are Coming': American Management of the Crisis Associated with Ending the October 1973 War". *Middle Eastern Studies* 49 (4), 2013, pp. 563-589.


Ninth week:


Tenth week:


Eleventh-Twelfth weeks:


Daniel Byman. "Regime Change in the Middle East: Problems and Prospects". *Political Science Quarterly* 127 (1), 2012, pp. 25-47.
