

Module Details	
Module Title	Middle East Politics and Security Dynamics
Module Code	PES7043-B
Academic Year	2021/2
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	12
Seminars	10
Directed Study	178

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 2

Module Aims
To develop knowledge and understanding of contemporary political and security dynamics in the Middle East region (including the Middle East, North Africa and the Persian Gulf), and of their historical context. To develop an advanced understanding of the regional, sub-regional and transnational factors and processes of political change and security challenges in this region, and their interrelationships with local, national and global actors and processes. To enable you to develop advanced analyses of complex political and security issues and processes in the Middle East region, and to apply relevant theoretical frameworks for such analyses To develop the knowledge and capacity to critically engage with contemporary policy debates concerning possible international, regional and local responses to specific political and security challenges in the region To provide the opportunity to apply learning in analysing, articulating and writing on complex theories and ideas and relating them to events in the region.

Outline Syllabus

The syllabus will include examination of the main processes of political change and security dynamics in the Middle East region, focussing particularly on developments since 2005 while placing these in historical context; and examination and critical review of key perspectives and theoretical frameworks for analysing and understanding such processes.

Examination of regional and sub-regional security complexes in the region, and their inter-relationships with societal political movements and international and global actors and factors.

Examination of specific key issue areas, including characteristics and challenges of political structures and processes, and different security issues. These will include understanding political Islam in the region and its relationship with transnational 'jihadi' terrorist networks; civil wars and conflicts and their aftermath; the relationship between religious/ethnic identity, democratisation, gender, state building; the relationship between conflict, security and development; the politics and security of oil, gas and other natural resources in the region; and the regionally-specific challenges of arms control, disarmament and confidence-building.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Able to develop and apply at an advanced level an appropriate multi-disciplinary approach to researching, analysing and evaluating the political and security dynamics of the middle east and north Africa region.
02	Able to critically analyse and evaluate contemporary debates relating to norms, institutions and policy responses concerning politics and security in the region.
03	Apply, at an advanced level, selected methods for analysis and assessment relating to conflict, security, fragility, governance, gender in different types of state contexts.
04	Select and employ relevant sources in support of academic analysis, with sophisticated and reflexive awareness of their assumptions, strengths and limitations.
05	Systematically investigate and analyse a topic or issue, using relevant techniques and technologies to gather, evaluate and manage evidence, data and information from valid, appropriate sources.
06	Employ theoretical and empirical knowledge to develop substantiated and carefully reasoned arguments that lead to clear and balanced conclusions.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Teaching will be through a combination of lectures, discussion seminars and organised debates. Learning will develop through preparation for and participation in seminars and debates; directed reading, reflections on organised debates; documentaries, news items and popular videos; and critical engagement with debates about policy initiatives and responses.

Please note that in light of Covid-19 all these learning activities can take place either in the classroom or online.

Formative assessment and feedback will be undertaken through class and individual discussions of essay projects; and feedback on outlines and planning of individual essays.

Summative assessment will be through an individual essay addressing a question concerning a specific aspect of political and security dynamics in the region.

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework	Essay (3600-4000 words)	100%
Formative	Coursework	Feedback on preparations and outlines of proposed individual essays.	N/A

Reading List
To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

© University of Bradford 2021

<https://bradford.ac.uk>