# Course FS-08 THE ARAB WORLD TODAY CONTEMPORARY HISTORY AND

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (45 contact hours)** 

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# **Objective-Course description**

This course will introduce the student to the contemporary history of the Arab world and its international relations during the 20th and 21st centuries. It will describe the major events in the history of Eastern (Mashreq) and Western (Maghreb) Arab states during this period and the development of their relations with Europe and the United States. Special attention will be given to Spanish relations with the Maghreb, particularly with Morocco.

# Methodology

Classes will be lectured, but student active participation will be encouraged through the discussion of assigned readings, screening of films and student presentations.

# **Program**

- 1. Who are the Arabs? What is Islam? The geography of the Arab world.
- 2. The legacy of the First World War and European colonialism in the Mashreq. The rise of the Arab Nation-States. The origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- 3. The Cold War and Arab nationalism. The Suez crisis.
- 4. The legacy of European colonialism in the Maghreb (I). The Western Sahara conflict and intermaghrebi relations.
- 5. The legacy of European colonialism in the Maghreb (II). Spanish and French relations with the Maghreb. The Algerian crisis.
- 6. The development of United States policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict (I). From the establishment of the state of Israel to the Gulf War.
- 7. The development of United States policy toward the Arab-Israeli conflict (II). From the Gulf War to the Peace Process. The impact of 9/11 terrorist attacks.
- 8. The Arab uprisings of 2011.

# **Bibliography**

Ayubi, Nazih. Distant neighbours: the political economy of relations between Europe and the Middle East-North Africa. Reading: Ithaca Press, 1995.

Brown, L. Carl. Diplomacy in the Middle East. London; New York: I. B. Tauris, 2004.

Cleveland, W. A History of the Modern Middle East. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 2004.

Emerson, Michael, et al. Political Islam and European foreign policy: perspectives from Muslim democrats of the Mediterranean. Brussels: Centre for European Policy Studies, 2007.

Jankowski, James P. Nasser's Egypt, Arab nationalism, and the United Arab Republic. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002.

Lesch, David W. The Middle East and the United States: a historical and political reassessment. Boulder: Westview Press, 2007.

Pennell, C. Richard. Morocco since 1830: A History. London: Hurst & Company, 2000.

Rogan, Eugene. The Arabs: A History. London: Penguin, 2nd Revised edition, 2012.

Smith, Charles C. Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. 6th Revised edition. Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Willis, Michael. Politics and power in the Maghreb: Algeria., Tunisia and Morocco from independence to the Arab Spring. London: C. Hurst & Co., 2012.

Zoubir, Yahia H., y Haizam Amirah Fernández (Eds). North Africa: politics, region, and the limits of

transformation. New York: Routledge, 2007.

Zoubir, Yahia H. y Gregory White. (Eds.) North African politics: change and continuity. London: Rotledge, 2016.

#### Film

Nasser 56. Mohamed Fadel (dir.), 1996.

# **Course Evaluation**

15% Active participation in class

25% Midterm/Film review (4-5 pages, double-spaced)\*

30% Short paper submission and presentation\*

30% Final examination (Geography quiz and one essay type question, class notes allowed;

(3% penalty for 3 or more unjustified absences).

\* Late submissions will be penalized

# SHORT PAPER INSTRUCTIONS

Students can choose between 3 options:

- Option A. Read the book The lemon tree: an Arab, a Jew, and the heart of the Middle East (2007) or Children of the Stone: The Power of Music in a Hard Land (2015) both by Sandy Tolan and write a review on it.
- Option B. Write an essay on a particular aspect of your interest related with current events taking place in the Arab world. The student will make use of different and diverse sources of information, including for example: <a href="https://www.aljazeera.com">www.jadaliyya.com</a>.
- Option C. Watch an Arab movie (see the list below) and write a review on it.

## Format of the paper:

- -Length: 5-10 pages.
- -Text: typed, Times New Roman, 12, double-spaced.
- -Include bibliography and references as needed.
- -Include conclusion with personal opinion and comments.
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# RECOMMENDED MOVIES FOR THE STUDY OF THE CONTEMPORARY ARAB WORLD

(all available at the Universidad de Sevilla Library)

## On colonialism and independence:

- The Battle of Algiers. Gillo Pontecorvo. 1966. Algeria/Italy.
- Lion of the desert. Moustapha Akkad. 1979. Libya/United States.

#### On society:

- Bab el Oued City. Merzak Allouache. 1994. Algeria, France, Germany, Switzerland.
- The closed doors. Atef Hetata. 1999. Egypt.
- Cairo 678 [El Cairo, 678]. Mohamed Diab, 2010. Egypt.
- Where do we go now? Nadine Labak, 2011. Lebanon.
- Wadjda [La bicicleta verde]. Haifaa al-Mansour, 2013. Saudi Arabia.

#### On the Arab-Israeli conflict:

- Divine Intervention. Elia Suleiman, 2003. Palestine/France.
- The time that remains, Elia Suleiman, 2010. France.

- Paradise Now. Hany Abu-Assad, 2005. Palestine.
- Lemon Tree (Los limoneros). Eran Riklis, 2008. Israel/ Germany / France. (The copy available in US Library is in Arabic, Hebrew, and English, with N