

Centre for West Asian Studies
School of International Studies
M.A. International Relations-West Asian Studies

Course No.	:	WA402
Course Title	:	West Asia and North Africa in International System
Course Teacher	:	Md. Muddassir Quamar
Credits	:	4
Instruction Method	:	Lectures, Seminars and Tutorials
Evaluation Method	:	Class Participation, Assignment and End-Semester Examination
Course Duration	:	One Semester
Contact Hours	:	4 per week

Objective: The West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region occupies an important place in global politics essentially because of its geostrategic location and abundant energy resources; thus, being the cynosure of great power rivalry. Consequently, the region has experienced political instability, especially in the post-War global order. The region was also at the centre of the US-USSR rivalry during the Cold War. Post-Cold War shifts in global order brought new sets of challenges for the region, and in the 21st century the rise of China has brought the region at the perimeter of the evolving US-China rivalry. The course aims to develop a comprehensive understanding among students of the importance of the WANA region in global politics, and how the two affect and are affected by each other.

Learning Outcome: The course will help student develop a broad understanding of regional geopolitics and the interactions between WANA and global politics in contemporary times.

Course Outline

Unit I. Locating WANA in World Politics: Disintegration of Ottoman Empire; Colonisation; British Influence; nationalist and resistance movements.

Unit II. Geopolitics of WANA: Cartography, Sykes-Picot agreement; Regional order; Location and resources.

Unit III. Post-War Great Power Competition: Cold War; Arab-Israeli conflict; Pan-Arabism vs. Pan-Islamism; Oil and energy politics; Bipolar vs. Unipolar world.

Unit IV. WANA in the Post-Cold War International Order: Multipolarity; Terrorism and War on Terror; Rise of Asia; Arab uprisings and regional [dis]order.

Readings

Unit I:

Acharya, Amitav and Buzan, Barry, *The Making of Global International Relations: Origins and Evolution of IR at its Centenary*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2019.

Anderson, Ewan W., *The Middle East: Geography and Geopolitics*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2000.

Barari, Hassan A., *Israeli Politics and the Middle East Peace Process, 1988–2002*, Abingdon: Routledge, 2004.

Buzan, Barry, Waever, Ole and de Wilde, Jaap, *Security: A New Framework for Analysis*, Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner.

Cook, Michael, "The Long-Term Geopolitics of the Pre-Modern Middle East," *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 2016, vol. 26, no. 1/2, pp. 33–41.

Ehteshami, Anoushiravan, *Globalization and Geopolitics in the Middle East: Old Games, New Rules*, Abingdon: Routledge.

Fromkin, David, *A Peace to End All Peace: Creating the Modern Middle East, 1914-1922*, New York: Henry Holt, 1989.

Macdonald, Hugh, *Geopolitics and Middle East Conflict*, Oslo: Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies, 2002.

Roy, Olivier, *The Politics of Chaos in the Middle East*, London: Hurst, 2007.

Rubin, Barry, "The Geopolitics of Middle East Conflict and Crisis," *Middle East Review of International Affairs*, 1998, vol. 2, no. 3.

Unit II:

Al-Sabah, Saud Nasir, *A Kuwaiti View of Middle Eastern and International Affairs*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984.

Ayoob, Mohammed, *The Middle East in World Politics*, London: Croom Helm, 1981.

Binder, Leonard, "The Middle East as a Subordinate International System," *World Politics*, 1958, vol. 10, no. 3, pp. 408–29.

Fawcett, Louise, *International Relations of the Middle East*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Gerges, Fawaz A., "The Study of Middle East International Relations: A Critique," *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, 1991, vol. 18, no. 2, pp. 208–20.

Halliday, Fred, *The Middle East in International Relations: Power, Politics and Ideology*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Hinnebusch, Raymond, *The International Politics of the Middle East*, New York: Manchester University Press, 2003.

Ismael, Tareq Y., *International Relations of the Contemporary Middle East: A Study in World Politics*, New York: Syracuse University Press, 1986.

Larrabee, F. Stephen, *The Middle East: The Changing Strategic Environment*, Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2006.

Sidaway, James Derrick, "Geopolitics, Geography, and 'Terrorism' in the Middle East," *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 1994, vol. 12, no. 3, pp. 357–372.

Unit III:

Ashford, Emma, "Unbalanced: Rethinking America's Commitment to the Middle East," *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, 2018, vol. 12, no. 1, pp. 127-148.

Cantori, Louis J., "The International Relations of the Middle East," *Review of Middle East Studies*, 1971, vol. 5, no. 3, pp. 20-44.

Gause III, F. Gregory, "Systemic Approaches to Middle East International Relations," *International Studies Review*, 1999, vol. 1, no. 1, pp. 11–31.

Halliday, Fred, *Arabia without Sultans*, London: Saqi, 2002.

Ismael, Tareq Y., *The Communist Movement in the Arab World*, Abingdon: Routledge, 2005.

Joffé, E. G. H., "Relations between the Middle East and the West," *Middle East Journal*, 1994, vol. 48, no. 2, pp. 250–67.

Kaplan, Robert D., "Order After Empire: The Roots of Instability in the Middle East," *Foreign Affairs*, August 2023, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/middle-east/order-after-empire>.

Mearsheimer, John J. and Walt, Stephen M., *The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy*. London: Penguin, 2008.

Walt, Stephen M., *The Origins of Alliance*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1987.

Waltz, Kenneth N., "The Emerging Structure of International Politics," *International Security*, 1993, vol. 18, no. 2, pp. 44–79.

Unit IV:

Ahmad, Talmiz, *Children of Abraham at War: The Clash of Messianic Militarisms*. New Delhi: Aakar Books, 2010.

Akbarzadeh, Shahram and Baxter, Kylie, *Middle East Politics and International Relations: Crisis Zone*, Abingdon: Routledge, 2018.

Aras, Bülent and Kardaş, Şaban, "Geopolitics of the New Middle East: Perspectives from Inside and Outside," *Journal of Balkan and Near Eastern Studies*, 2021, vol. 23, no. 3, pp. 397-402.

Hoffman, Jonathan, "The Return of Great-Power Competition to the Middle East: A Two-Level Game," *Middle East Policy*, 2021, vol. 28, no. 1, pp. 87-104.

Huwaidin, Mohamed Bin, *China's Relations with Arabia and the Gulf, 1949–99*, Abingdon: Routledge, 2003.

Kepel, Gilles, *Away from Chaos: The Middle East and the Challenge to the West*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2020.

Landau, Emily B., "When Neorealism Meets the Middle East: Iran's Pursuit of Nuclear Weapons in (Regional) Context," *Strategic Assessment*, 2012, vol. 15, no. 3, pp. 27-37.

Nasr, Vali, *The Shia Revival: How Conflicts Within Islam will Shape the Future*, New York: W. W. Norton, 2007.

Ottaway, David and Ottaway, Marina, *A Tale of Four Worlds: The Arab Region After the Uprisings*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Rhoades, Ashley L. et al., *Great-Power Competition and Conflict in the Middle East*, Santa Monica: RAND Corporation.