



UNIVERSIDAD
DE GRANADA



CENTRO DE
LENGUAS
MODERNAS

CURSOS DE LENGUA Y CULTURA EN
INGLÉS

SOCIOLOGY, POLITICS AND
ECONOMICS

THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEST



THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEST

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This course will cover the cultural and political interaction between the Arab world and the West in the contemporary world. Topics will include the long-term impact of the penetration of Europe into the Islamic World, Orientalism, and Occidentalism, Islamic immigration into western societies, the impact of 9-11 and the Iraq war, fundamentalism and the role of oil and the Middle East conflict.

CONTENTS

THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL SYLLABUS:

Unit 1. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ARAB WORLD

- Clarification of concepts
- Geography
- Population
- Economy and natural resources

Unit 2. THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEST: A RELIGIOUS APPROACH

- The origin of Islam and its basic features (the five pillars).
- The territorial expansion of Islam and the birth of the European identity.
- Misunderstanding, prejudice and criticism between religions.

Unit 3. THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEST: A HISTORY OF INTERACTIONS

1. *THE ISLAMIC EMPIRES*

- The Crusades and the impact of the 21st Century Crusaders –the private military companies.
- The Ottoman Empire, the Armenian genocide and the EU Turkish application.

2. *THE RISE OF THE WEST: FROM IMPERIALISM TO DECOLONIZATION*

- Imperialism & Colonization.
- The Suez Crisis, the emergence of Pan-Arabism and the access to independence.



CONTENTS

- The Arab-Israeli conflict.

Unit 4. THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEST: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

1. *POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL*

- Political systems in the Arab World: democracy versus Autocracy and Parliamentarism versus Semipresidentialism.
- The political management of ethno-cultural diversity in the Arab World: Power Sharing and the case of Iraq and Lebanon.
- Demystifying the Arab Revolution: from Arab Spring to Islamist Winter.
- Good Governance, Freedom and Human Development in the Arab World.

2. *POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT AT THE REGIONAL/SUPRANATIONAL LEVEL*

- Regional integration in the Arab World.
- The importance of oil.
- The external action of the EU towards the Arab-Muslim world: From the Barcelona Declaration to the Mediterranean Union and the EU Cooperation Development policy.
- The external action of the US towards the Arab-Muslim world.

Unit 5. THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEST: A SECURITY APPROACH

- Geopolitics of armed conflicts and political violence along the borders of Islam.
- Threats from Radical Islam to the democratic order in Western Societies.
- Jihadist Terrorism in the West and in the Muslim world: an experience of mass terror in the name of *Allah*.

Unit 6. THE ARAB WORLD AND THE WEST: PUBLIC OPINION AND MUTUAL PERCEPTIONS

- Negative perceptions/stereotypes of Muslims and Arabs in the West
- Discrimination and Islamophobia in Europe.
- Populism and Islamophobia in European elections and party system.
- The perception of the West in the Arab World.
- A Muslim perspective of world politics and events: Al-Jazeera and its influence in the Arab world.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures by the instructor, supported with bibliographical and other didactic
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TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lectures by the instructor, supported with bibliographical and other didactic materials, followed by debates with the students.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment criteria are as follow:

- Exam (70%): Midterm (35%) –that keep mark for the final exam– and Final exam (35% in case of passing the first exam).
- Assignment (30%)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

MANDATORY READING:

Who is an Arab? And The Arab World and Spanish America: A Comparison. In: Patai, R., & DeAtkine, N. B. (1973). *The Arab Mind*. New York: Scribner.

Introduction. In: Nasr, V. (2007). *The Shia revival: how conflicts within Islam will shape the future*. WW norton & Company.

"The Arrival of the West" In: Armstrong, K. (2007). *Islam: A short history*. Modern Library.

"The War of Independence" In: PRIME (2003) *Learning Each Other's Historical Narrative*. Beit Jallah.

Anderson, L. (2011). Demystifying the Arab spring. *Foreign Affairs*, 90(3), 2-7.

Hollis, R. (2012). No friend of democratization: Europe's role in the genesis of the 'Arab Spring'. *International Affairs*, 88(1), 81-94.

Introduction. In: Brachman, J. M. (2008). *Global jihadism: Theory and practice*. Routledge.

Trends in Arab Attitudes Toward the United States. In: Telhami, S. (2013). *The world through Arab eyes: Arab public opinion and the reshaping of the Middle East*. Perseus Books Group.

Additional References

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- Kepel, G. (2004) *The War for Muslim Minds. Islam and the West*. Harvard University Press.
- Lewis, B. (2003). *What went wrong? the clash between Islam and modernity in the Middle East*. Harper Collins.
- Lust, E. (Ed.). (2013). *The Middle East*. SAGE.
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- Nesser, P. (2008). Chronology of jihadism in Western Europe 1994–2007: Planned, prepared, and executed terrorist attacks. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 31(10), 924-946.
- Quataert, D. (2005). *The Ottoman Empire, 1700–1922* (Vol. 34). Cambridge University Press.
- Patai, R., & DeAtkine, N. B. (1973). *The arab mind*. New York: Scribner.
- Rawnsley, G. (2005). Al-Jazeera: how Arab TV news challenged the world.
- Rinnawi, K. (2006). *Instant nationalism: McArabism, Al-Jazeera, and transnational media in the Arab world*. University Press of America.
- Said, E. (1995) *Orientalism*. Penguin Books.
- Sakr, N. (Ed.). (2009). *Arab media and political renewal: Community, legitimacy and public life*. IB Tauris.
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