

## **MIDDLE EAST. ARAB NATIONALISM, ISLAM AND ZIONISM**

### **MODULE DESCRIPTION**

#### **MODULE TITLE: Middle East. Arab Nationalism, Islam and Zionism.**

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#### **SUMMARY:**

This module examines the emergence and evolution of nationalism, nations and national identity across cases in the Middle East and North Africa.

ECTS Credits: 6

Semester: 2

#### **MODULE ABSTRACT:**

This course has three main objectives. First, we will explore the origins of nationalist ideology in the Middle East and its impact in regional politics. Second, we will study the specific evolution of the different nationalist movements and their interaction, leading to long-lasting conflicts that have characterized the regional History during the twentieth century. We will also pay attention to the impact of nationalism on aspects like state-building processes, voting, identities, social cohesion, ethnicity and religion. Finally, we will trace how History of nationalism continues to shape both domestic and regional contemporary conflicts in the Middle East.

#### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Students must be proficient in English.

## **NORMS:**

Students are responsible for being familiar with all materials posted on Moodle and any other course announcements by email during the course. Powerpoints for lectures and the other materials will be posted on Moodle. Assignments, announcements, and other information relating to the course will appear on Moodle as the semester progresses.

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated.

## **MODULE CONTENTS**

1-Introduction. The emergence of nationalism in the Middle East. Theoretical debate

2-The end of the Ottoman empire and national identities

3-Turkish nationalism

4-Arab nationalism

5-Egyptian nationalism

6-Zionism

7-Zionism

8-Iranian nationalism.

9-Islam and nationalism

10-Peoples without a state

11-Comparative study of nationalisms

12-Other aspects

## **TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

Every session will consist of a first part (lecture) and a second part (seminar).

Lectures:

Theoretical introduction to every session (about 30 minutes)

Seminars:

Students will be introduced to primary and secondary sources that are related to the theme of the course. Some shorter assignments will be included. Participation is a vital component in determining your final grade. You are required to complete each session's reading assignment and to come to class with ideas, insights, and/or questions for the group. The success of the class depends upon everyone arriving prepared, remaining open to other's ideas, and offering

arguments based upon on a thorough understanding of the assignments and lectures. They will include debates, presentations and other activities.

Debates:

In every session, there will be a debate on a topic. They are the heart of this course. All students are expected to read adequately the suggested readings for each seminar. These readings can be found under the relevant topic in the reading list. As the semester progresses, I will post discussion questions for each of our readings.

Presentations:

The students will give oral presentations on relevant reading materials. Afterwards, there will be a debate. Each student is required to give at least one presentation on one of the topics. Presentations should be a maximum of 20 minutes long. Each presenter will receive written feedback on their contribution.

Other activities:

Individual work, short written assignments, individual tutorials, self-study.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Final test: 40%. This final test will consist of a final research paper on a topic you choose from a list. This paper will be presented orally to the other students in the last sessions.

Participation in discussions 25%.

Class presentations 25%.

Other assignments (short written essays) 10%.

## **SCHEDULE AND SAMPLE READINGS:**

Week 1 (January 29): Introduction. The emergence of nationalism in the Middle East.

Theoretical debate

a) Differentiate between concepts like state, nation, community and sectarianism in the Middle East

b) The role of religion in Middle East nationalisms

Sample readings:

Toby Dodge, "Introduction: Between Wataniyya and Taifia: Understanding the Relationship between State-Based Nationalism and Sectarian Identity in the Middle East", *Nations and Nationalism*, 26, 2020, 85-90.

Fanar Haddad, "Sectarian Identity and National Identity in the Middle East", *Nations and Nationalism*, 26, 2020, 123-137.

Week 2 (February 5): The end of the Ottoman Empire and national identities

a) Did nationalisms destroy the Ottoman Empire?

b) What are the features of sovereignty in the Middle East?

Sample readings:

Feyzi Baban, "Nationalism and the Crisis of Community in the Middle East", *Dialectical Anthropology*, 42, 2018, 351-357.

Louise Fawcett, "The Middle East after Empire: Sovereignty and Institutions", in Sally Cummings and Raymond Hinnebusch (Eds.), *Sovereignty after Empire*, Edinburgh University Press, 2011, 157-177.

Week 3 (February 12): Turkish nationalism

a) European influence and Turkish nationalism

b) Turkish nationalism and minorities

Sample readings:

Ihsan Yilmaz, *Creating the Desired Citizen*, Cambridge University Press, 2021, 55-71.

Fuat Keyman, "Nationalism in Turkey", in Ayse Kadioglu and Fuat Keyman (Eds.), *Symbiotic Antagonisms: Competing Nationalisms in Turkey*, University of Utah Press, 2011, 10-32.

Week 4 (February 19): Arab Nationalism (1)

a) Ideological origins and religious links

Sample readings:

Adeed Dawisha, *Arab Nationalism in the XXth Century*, Princeton University Press, 2003, 1-13.

Lorenzo Kamell, "The Birth of Nationalisms", in Andrew Mango and Robert McNamara (Eds.), *Making the Modern Middle East*, 2015, 1-23.

Week 5 (February 26): Arab nationalism (2)

a) The manipulation of Arab nationalism

b) Reasons for its decline

Sample readings:

Adeed Dawisha, *Arab Nationalism in the XXth Century*, 160-185.

Rashid Khalidi, "The 1967 War and the Demise of Arab Nationalism", in William Louis and Avi Shlaim (Eds.), *The 1967 Arab-Israeli War*, Cambridge University Press, 2012, 264-284.

Week 6 (March 4): Egyptian nationalism

a) Relationship with Arab nationalism

b) Historical evolution

Sample readings:

Israel Gershoni and James Jankowski, *Redefining the Egyptian Nation, 1930-1945*, University of Colorado, 2009, 212-219.

Charles Smith, "Imagined Identities, Imagined Nationalisms", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, 29(4), 1997, 607-622.

Week 7 (March 11): Zionism

a) Secular or religious?

b) Historical evolution

Sample readings:

Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin, "Religion and Nationalism in the Jewish and Zionist Context", in Nadim Rouhana and Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian (Eds.), *When Politics Are Sacralized*, Cambridge University Press, 2021, 33-53.

Baruch Kimmerling, "Between Primordial and Civil Definitions of the Collective Identity", in Baruch Kimmerling, *Clash of Identities*, Columbia University Press, 2008, 85-103.

Week 8 (March 18): Iranian nationalism

a) Western and Islamic influences

b) Relationship with Western powers

Sample readings:

Ali Ansari, "Conclusion", in Ali Ansari, *The Politics of Nationalism in Modern Iran*, Cambridge University Press, 2012, 285-300.

Ali Banuazizi, "The Crossing Paths of Religion and Nationalism in Contemporary Iran", in Nadim Rouhana and Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian (Eds.), *When Politics Are Sacralized*, Cambridge University Press, 2021, 247-271.

Week 9 (April 8): Islam and nationalism

a) Modernization and religion

b) Religion and state legitimacy

Sample readings:

Hossein Razi, Legitimacy, Religion and Nationalism in the Middle East, *American Political Science Review*, 84(1), 1990, 69-91.

Haldun Gülalp, "Modernization Policies and Islamist Politics in Turkey", in Sibel Bozdoğan (Ed.), *Rethinking Modernity and National Identity in Turkey*, University of Washington Press, 1997, 52-61.

Week 10 (April 15): Palestinian Nationalism

a) Reaction to Zionism or autonomous development?

b) Influence of leadership

Sample readings:

Asad Ghanem, "Palestinian nationalism: An Overview", *Israel Studies*, 18 (2), (2013), 11-29.

Wendy Pearlman, "The Palestinian National Movement", in William Louis and Avi Shlaim (Eds.), *The 1967 Arab-Israeli War*, Cambridge University Press, 2012, 126-148.

Week 11 (April 22): Kurdish nationalism

a) Nation-building without a state

b) Relationship with other nationalisms

Sample readings:

Michael Gunter, "The Kurdish Minority Identity in Iraq", in Maya Schatzmiller (Ed.), *Nationalism and Minority Identities in Islamic Societies*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 263-282.

Hakan Yavuz, "Kurdish Nationalism in Turkey", Maya...

Week 12 (April 29): Revision session

a) Identity and state formation

b) The Influence of Western ideologies

Sample readings:

Morten Valbjørn, "Culture in the Middle East: The Western Question and the Sovereignty of Post-Imperial States in the Middle East",

Raymond Hinnebusch, "Identity and State Formation in Multi-Sectarian Societies: Between Nationalism and Sectarianism in Syria", *Nations and Nationalism*, 26 (2019), 138-154.