



O.P. Jindal Global University
A Private University Promoting Public Service

COURSE MANUAL

Politics of the Middle East and North Africa: Post- conflict Governance and state Building

Course Instructor

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Fall Semester

2026

**O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
JINDAL SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Part I

Course Title: Politics of the Middle East and Northern Africa: Post- conflict Governance and state Building

Course Number: M.A (DLB) 0504_____

Course Duration: _____ **One Semester** _____

No. of Credit Units: _____ **4** _____

Level: _____ **M.A. (DLB)** cross elective

Medium of Instruction: _____ English _____

Pre-requisites: _____ None _____

Precursors: Critical Analysis of World Politics interplay and MENA Region Development –Impacts on New World Order and New Middle East

Equivalent Courses: _____ None _____

Part II

Course Aims:

- Equip students with a thorough understanding of why the region is called “Middle East”, and not “West Asia”, in terms of geopolitics, social, economic and political processes, causes and consequences of significant historical events in the region up today, and their relevance to world politics interplay, change of world order, triggering instability in the region. It also highlights post-conflict governance and state building.
- Understand the motives of major world powers and main regional powers in terms of having a say in the politics of this region.
- **develops:**
 - ❖ transparent and open critical analysis of alternative explanations and narratives of the similar events and investigate what makes the factuality of politics in the MENA important.
 - ❖ analytical thinking about relevance of world politics to MENA politics.
 - ❖ expansive knowledge
 - ❖ Concept of Geopolitics of MENA and the core theory of geography, diversity, natural resources and geostrategic location.
 - ❖ Develops students’ ability to relate present regional problems and crises back to world colonial powers’ interests and strategies.
 - ❖ introduces students to an inclusive approach to how to understand and analyse the interrelationship between world politics and its effects on the current politics of the MENA region and prospects of specific political, economic and social map of the Middle East and world order.
 - ❖ builds students’ capacity to challenge the long-established conventional colonial powers beliefs and assumptions about the past, and the impacts on the future politics in the region on post-conflict governance and state building.

Course Intending Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Activities	Assessment Tasks/Activities
, students should be able to:	<i>Reading of Assigned Materials and Research</i>	Assessment considering student’s activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Have an overview of the history of the region regarding interrelationships of world politics interplay and impacts on regional politics in reshaping M.E political future.</i> ➤ <i>Analyse the development and predict the future</i> ➤ <i>learn the art of post-conflict governance and state building.</i> ➤ <i>Write peered essays, articles and papers.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reading textbooks and document materials to be sent to them every week before the class. • Participation in the CMES activities, such as public lectures and study visits to M.E embassies in Delhi. • Chapter review and presentation on relevant themes. <p>Lectures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15- weeks lectures on development of events and evolution of the M.E term and politics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One Timed End - Semester exam (30 % of the total grade)</i> • <i>One Mid-Semester Take Home Essay Assignment (30 % of the total grade)</i> • <i>One Mid – semester Quiz 25% of the total grade.</i> • <i>A/P (10% of the total grade. grade). based on:</i> • <i>Asking questions, giving examples-based-justifying</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geopolitical aspects of MENA politics, the main actors and challenges facing post-conflict governance and state building. 	
<p>➤ Analyse processes, causes and outcomes of events on MENA politics, especially</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Future stability, security, rise of regional groupings and alliances. ✧ Role of regional and world powers in the evolutionary changes ✧ Military bases in the region and possible regional and world powers military confrontations. ✧ Critical analysis of Inter-Arab conflict ✧ Causes of war and faltering peace initiatives. ✧ Rise of regional hegemons: and impacts of current West- East crisis. ✧ Energy politics in the region causes, impacts and future scenarios. ✧ 		<p>➤ Lectures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be introduced to the various stages of MENA politics up today. • Arba Israel conflict and future of the Palestina cause. • political trends: Pan-Arab Nationalism and political Islam. • Arab- Spring events thereafter. • History and activities of both trends and how the outdated religious trend is being revived to reshape M.E politics. • MENA and EU. Double-standard politics • M.E and India relations through history and future prospect. (the last 2 lectures will be followed by two distinguished lectures or seminars). <p>➤ <i>Classroom Discussion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be sent handouts and reading materials in advance. • Questions to ponder and revisit questions and to address them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Students will be assessed on their progress in-class interaction, and analysing any assigned event or happening through the prism of causes, consequences and processes in all three assessment activities.
<p>➤ Challenge to address relevance of world powers politics interplay to MENA politics and their vested interests.</p>		<p><i>Lectures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will be given a variety of viewpoints on MENA politics., energy, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students' ability to grasp multiplicity, complexity and challenges of MENA politics from various perspectives to take a

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✧ Divergent views and explanations are encouraged. ✧ Discussing 'what impacts MENA Politics in terms of culture, struggle for energy resources, geostrategic locations, struggle of world powers for the region with the aim to control it. ✧ Discussing Arab nationalism versus political Islam ideologies and post-conflict governance and state building. 		<p>social, cultural and economic issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will express their own opinion on any view to enrich the class discussions. <p><i>Preparation for class</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will read the materials sent to them prior to class to get an idea of what will be discussed in class. <p><i>Assignments writing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will have to read extensively and think how to approach their arguments on the issues pertaining to 'politics in, and towards MENA., specially as regards challenges facing modernization of governance and state building 	<p>stand based on hard facts and logical reasoning will be tested in the Take Home Essay and in Class Participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three assessment tasks/activities will evaluate student's creativity, capability and argumentation on different sides of key debates on MENA Politics
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Part III

Course Description:

This course will be a two- way track teaching and learning process to introduce students to contending views on Middle East in general and MENA politics in particular, its determinants from the perspectives of its geopolitical location, diversity, and rich natural resources, which make and determine politics conduct and post-conflict governance and state building in the 21st century.

It discusses international current events from the perspective of different international power canters and regions. It is meant to improve students' understanding of the 'real world' politics on one hand, and that of the MENA, and how events intersect and impact the politics in the MENA ,on the other. The main requirement and reading for students enrolled in this course is to thoroughly read the textbooks, handouts and suggested reading materials, along with the discussions in class.

In addition to the 15-weeks lectures and discussion, Learning and activities will also be carried out by some MENA Ambassador's visits to JGU to deliver public lectures on campus and/or students' study visits to some embassies to interact with the Ambassadors, besides their participation in CMES activities and writing essay in its journal.

The objective of the course is to not only raise general knowledge and awareness of students, but to develop strong opinions on current political, social, economic political, security and developments around the world in general and how they impact the MENA politics and events in particular, and vice versa. and to apply them in their discussions for better understanding of the Middle East causes of conflict, dispute, and wars.

Plagiarism Warning

Any idea, sentence or paragraph you cull from a web source must be credited with the original source. If you paraphrase or directly quote from a web source in the exam, tutorials or essays, the source must be explicitly mentioned. You *SHOULD NOT* feel free to plagiarize content, be it from scholarly sources (i.e. books and journal articles) or from the Internet. The university has strict rules with consequences for students involved in plagiarism. This is an issue of academic integrity on which no compromise will be made.

Assignments

The assignments will include one reflection paper (take home) in week 6 on contemporary regional and global economic and political developments, how such developments impact the politics of MENA, what are the prospective regional powers alliances, and why there is competition for controlling the Middle East, which causes conflict and how post-conflict states-building governance should be achieved in the Middle East. There will be a mid- term exam, and an assignment, quiz, and final exam based on what we discussed during the semester. Students' preparation and participation will also be given grading weightage as described earlier.

Grading of Student Achievement

To pass this course, students must obtain a minimum of 50% of total course marks. The following conversion criteria will be used between numeric and letter grades for this course:

COURSE LETTER GRADES AND THEIR INTERPRETATION

Letter Grade	Percentage of Marks	Grade Points	
O	80 and above	8	Outstanding: Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.
A+	75 - 79	7.5	Excellent: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.
A	70 - 74	7	Very Good: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyse existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.
A-	65 -69	6	Good: Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.
B+	60 - 64	5	Fair: Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B	55 - 59	4	Acceptable: Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B-	50 - 54	3	Marginal: Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.
P1	45 - 49	2	Pass 1: Pass with Basic understanding of the subject matter.
P2	40 - 44	1	Pass 2: Pass with Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.
F	Below 40	0	Fail: Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.

References

Essential Readings

- 1- Karen A. Mingst, [Ivan M. Arreguin-Toft](#) *Essentials of International Relations*,,,,,,(seventh edition), Canada: W.W Norton & company inc,
- 2- Ammourah AF *The Mediterranean Between Struggle and Cooperation (2020)* Damascus: Al Farqad publishing house.
- 3- Ammourah AF *Translation and The Politics of Peace (2024)* Delhi: Primus Books
- 4- Habib H. Camille, *Theories of World Politics and Foreign Policy (2018)* Beirut: Al- Majid publishing house.

Supplementary Readings

- students are encouraged to look up resources from the JGU Library in the form of books, e-books, journals and e-journals.
- The handouts that are sent to them
- Research papers on MENA politics

Type	No	Reference	Link
Ebook	1	Brinkerhoff, D. W. (Ed.). (2007). <i>Governance in Post-Conflict Societies: Rebuilding Fragile States</i> . Routledge.	Find Link Here
Ebook	2	Tat, P. (2023). <i>Policy and Governance in Post-Conflict Settings: Theory & Practice</i> . Routledge.	Find Link Here
Ebook	3	Bruch, C., Muffett, C., & Nichols, S. S. (Eds.). (2016). <i>Governance, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding</i> . Routledge.	Find Link Here
Ebook	4	Elayah, M. A., & Lambert, L. A. (Eds.). (2023). <i>Conflict and Post-Conflict Governance in the Middle East and Africa</i> . Springer.	Find Link here
	5	Chetail, V. (Ed.). (2009). <i>Post-Conflict Peacebuilding: A Lexicon</i> . Oxford University Press.	
	6	Saul, M. (2013). <i>Popular Governance of Post-Conflict Reconstruction: The Role of International Law</i> . Cambridge University Press.	
Ebook	7	United States Institute of Peace. (2010). <i>Peace Brief: Conflict and Post-Conflict Governance: The Stakeholder Perspective</i> .	Find Link Here
Ebook	8	Brinkerhoff, J. M. (Ed.). (2007). <i>Governance in Post-Conflict Societies: Rebuilding Fragile States</i> . Routledge.	Find Link here
Ebook	9	Bruch, C., Muffett, C., & Nichols, S. S. (Eds.). (2016). <i>Governance, Natural Resources, and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding</i> . Routledge.	Find Link Here
Ebook	10	Rondinelli, D. A. (2007). <i>The Challenges of Restoring Governance in Crisis and Post-Conflict Countries</i> . United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs & United Nations Development Programme.	Find Link Here
Paper	11	Bergen Governance Research Group. (2004). <i>Governance in Post-Conflict Situations</i> . Bergen Seminar 2004 Research Paper 2.	Find Link Here

Paper	12	Anten, L. (2009). Strengthening Governance in Post-Conflict Fragile States: Issues Paper. Netherlands Institute of International Relations 'Clingendael'.	Find Link Here
Paper	13	Bryden, A., & Hänggi, H. (2005). Addressing Security Governance Challenges in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding. Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).	Find Link Here
Paper	14	International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). (2021). Increasing the Success and Sustainability of Democracy and Governance Interventions in Post-Conflict Countries: Analysing Literature Findings and Partner Perspectives.	Find Link Here
Paper	15	Harris, D. (2008). Local Government in Post-Conflict Situations: Challenges for Improving Local Decision Making and Service Delivery Capacities. Institute of Development Studies.	Find Link here
Paper	16	Chetvertnykh, E. (2020). Summary of Article "Rebuilding State Institutions in Collapsed States", by Marina Ottaway. Academia.edu.	Find Link Here
Paper	17	Borgen, S., & Lægreid, P. (2005). International Governance in Post-Conflict Situations. Leiden Journal of International Law, 18(3), 603-625.	Find Link here
	18	Clarke, J., & Latto, B. (2008). Governance and Conflict Management. Department for International Development (DFID).	Find Link Here