

# CET Syllabus of Record



**Program:** CET Jordan

**Course Title:** (AM/LANG 310) Modern History of Conflict in the Middle East: Influences on the Arab Spring

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings:** Arabic Language / History, Political Science, Middle East Studies

**Language of Instruction:** Arabic/English

**Prerequisites / Requirements:** Open to all program participants

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## Description

This course examines the ways conflict has affected change in the Middle East, applying a historical lens. The course presents competing views, highlighting local voices and opinions. After providing a detailed examination of regional history, the course analyses the events which spurred the Arab Spring, and evaluates why it manifested in different ways around the region. This course questions the role of history in current events and takes a critical look at the impact of cycles of violence, war, victory and reconstruction on future generations and identity formation.

This course begins meeting a few weeks into the program, after a period of intensive instruction in MSA and Jordanian dialect. Depending on the number of students enrolled, the course may be split up into smaller groups so instructors can devote personalized attention to students at varying levels of Arabic to ensure all students are able to actively participate in the larger class meetings. Class sections make up approximately one-third of the total class hours, while large group meetings and activities make up the remaining two-thirds.

## Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students can:

- Build a foundational understanding of the historical background of the region, and its war and peace processes through an Arab lens
- Analyze connections between past and current events
- Learn to integrate various sources of information from multiple perspectives
- Gain knowledge of the Arabic vocabulary of war and peace; arms and demonstrations; government and opposition groups
- Conduct research and create surveys in a diverse Arab environment
- Debate opinions different from their own, and learn to solidify and support their own ideas using multiple resources

## Course Requirements

Class attendance, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy, is critical for success in the course. Students are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions and lectures. For the oral presentation, students agree upon a topic with their instructor, identifying relevant sources, and interviewing locals.

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Additionally, students are expected to write a final research paper on a topic of their choosing, typically expanding on one of the topics covered during the course. Students present their final research projects to the class. A final exam at the end of the semester is a comprehensive review and examination of all course material.

### Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

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|-------------------------------|-----|
| • Participation               | 30% |
| • Oral presentation and paper | 30% |
| • Final exam                  | 20% |
| • Final research paper        | 20% |

### Readings

غالي، بطرس بطرس. برز، شيمون. فرسي، أندري. ستون عاماً من الصراع في الشرق الأوسط: شهادات التاريخ. دار الشروق. 2007.

Ghali, Boutros, Boutros. Peres, Shimon. Versaille, Andre. *Sixty Years of Conflict in the Middle East: Historic Testimonies*. Shorouq Publishing. 2007.

Shlain, Avi. *Lion of Jordan- The Life of King Hussein in War and Peace*. Vintage. 2009.

### Additional Resources

Readings and information may be taken from online sources such as newspapers, academic articles and research papers; other various media channels; lectures from visiting politicians; and/ or eyewitnesses to the events or personal stories and testimonies.

*Demystifying the Arab Spring*. Foreign Affairs. 3 Apr. 2011.

*Kings for All Seasons: How the Middle East's Monarchies Survived the Arab Spring*. Brookings Doha Center Publications. 24 Sept. 2013.

*The Foreign Policy of Hamas*. Council of Foreign Relations. 1 Feb. 2000.

*After Gaza*. International Crisis Group. 2 Aug. 2007.

### Outline of Course Content

Topic 1—Overview of Wars in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century (2 weeks)

- An overview of the historical background of both war and peace efforts in the Middle East
  - Arab-Israeli War of 1948
  - Suez Crisis - October 29, 1956
  - Samu Incident - the morning of October 13, 1966
  - Six-Day War or "The Setback"- June 5-11, 1967
  - Battle of Karameh - March 21, 1968
  - Yom Kippur War 1973
  - Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty - Menachem Begin, Jimmy Carter and Anwar Sadat at the Camp David Accords 1978

Topic 2—Peace Plans (1 week)

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- The New Middle East Plan and the Saudi Peace Initiative of April 1981
- Jordanian-Israeli Peace Plan - July 25, 1994
- 2006 Lebanon War
- Gaza War of 2008-2009
- Gaza War of 2012

### Topic 3—Civil Wars and the Formation of Identity (1 week)

- Investigate how previous events helped to form ideas of nationality and identity throughout the region, and particularly in Jordan
- Civil Wars in the Middle East
  - Black September - Jordan, September 1970

### Topic 4—Syrian and Lebanese Civil Wars (1 week)

- 1982 Lebanon War and its results
- Entry of Syrian Troops - January 21, 1976
- Syrian Civil War 2011

### Topic 5—The Muslim Brotherhood (1 week)

- History of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt
- History of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria

### Topic 6—Islamic Movements (1 week)

- History of Islamist movements in the Middle East: objectives and regional relationships
  - Hamas
  - Islamic Jihad
  - Hezbollah

### Topic 7—Inter-Arab Alliances & Wars (1 week)

- Arab political alliances and their impact on stability, security and the economy
- The differences between Arab and Islamic countries and the tensions which led to
  - Iran-Iraq War
  - Iraq-Kuwait War
  - Egyptian-Syrian tensions after the 1973 War

### Topic 8—Relation to “The Other” in the Middle East (1 week)

- “The Other” and Arabs; “The Other” and Muslims; the historical background of changing “the other” since the emergence of Israel; the role of Arab media on perceptions of “the other”
- The impact of the Iranian Revolution and the formation of the concept of “the other”
- Political background of religious symbols and alliances
  - Hassan Nasrallah
  - Bashar Al-Assad
  - King Abdullah

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- Khaled Meshaal
- Erdogan
- Religious Figures

### Topic 9—Advent of the Arab Spring (1 week)

- Arab Spring, where and why?
  - Tunisia
  - Egypt
  - Syria
- Linking the historical background of conflict in the region to the emergence of the Spring's events

### Topic 10—Regional and Global Allies & Rivalries (1 week)

- Arab alliances and rivalries on regional and global levels
  - Arab League
  - Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
  - NATO
  - Russia and America

### Topic 11—Legitimacy of the Arab Spring (1 week)

- The Arab Spring: conspiracy theory or just demands for change and salvation from tyranny?
- Why the Arab Spring was selective and did not include all dictatorships

### Topic 12—Geopolitical Axes (1 week)

- US Role in the Arab Spring: alliances with Israel, Saudi Arabia and the Muslim Brotherhood
- Russia, China, Hezbollah, Iran and Syria as another axis of power
- The roles of these two axes in the region and whether they lead to peace, armistice agreements, or a third world war