COURSE DETAIL

THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST IN THE CONTEXT OF SHIFTING GLOBAL POLITICS

Country
Denmark

Host Institution
University of Copenhagen

Program(s)
University of Copenhagen

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Political Science International Studies

UCEAP Course Number
112

UCEAP Course Suffix

UCEAP Official Title
THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST IN THE CONTEXT OF SHIFTING GLOBAL POLITICS

UCEAP Transcript Title
CONTMP MIDDLE EAST

UCEAP Quarter Units
8.00

UCEAP Semester Units
5.30

Course Description
This course provides students with an understanding of the major political processes, structures, and actors shaping political developments in the contemporary Middle East. It discusses the main theoretical and analytical approaches that dominates the study of the Middle East. The course presents the students with ongoing debates as to which, if any, International Relations theory is best equipped to grasp the key dynamics of Middle East international relations or whether one must look beyond standard theories when seeking to understand the Middle East. The course uses different cases to introduce students to interactions between different types of actors and how these interactions shape Middle Eastern politics and the state. This includes transnational and local armed non-state actors such as Islamic State or the Houthis in Yemen. It relates these interactions to shifts in global politics such as US policies towards the Middle East, the growing role of China and Russia, as well as regional dynamics, most notably the effects of the regional competition between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The course focuses on political processes before, during, and after violent conflicts, often intrastate but with some form of third-party intervention. As part of this, the course investigates how asymmetric power relations play out for example as this relates to the use of drones or the use of state and non-state proxies. The course encourages students to think critically about the universality of theories and concepts including how international power relations affect and are part of ongoing struggles to frame perceptions of political events in the Middle East.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
ASTK18301U

Host Institution Course Title
THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST IN THE CONTEXT OF SHIFTING GLOBAL POLITICS

Host Institution Course Details
https://kurser.ku.dk/course/astk18301u/2019-2020

Host Institution Campus
Social Sciences

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Political Science

Course Last Reviewed
2020-2021

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