

COURSE DETAIL

POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Country

Korea, South

Host Institution

Seoul National University

Program(s)

Seoul National University

UCEAP Course Level

Graduate

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

Political Science International Studies

UCEAP Course Number

204

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

UCEAP Transcript Title

POLITICS/MIDDLE EST

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

This course addresses politics in the Middle East and North Africa with a focus on relations between states. Questions that guide the course include: When do countries engage in costly conflict against each other? What is the relationship between domestic politics and international relations? Do transnational ideologies impact politics? If so, how? In line with these overarching questions, the course addresses topics such as international involvement in the region, the role of resources, authoritarianism and democratization, sectarianism and ethnicity, terrorism, and protests.

Why did some Middle Eastern countries experience uprisings and others did not? Why do we observe Iran and Saudi Arabia supporting some non-state actors but ignore others? Why have some actors changed their religious rhetoric? Does oil impact politics in Saudi Arabia? This seminar examines these questions and contemporary politics in the Middle East. Students familiarize themselves with major political science debates on issues relevant to the region, and develop understanding of concepts and theory that are useful for analyzing Middle East regional politics. Themes addressed include: war and international involvement in the region; authoritarianism and the Arab Spring, religion and sect; and, energy resources. The course examines a number of events, including, but not limited to, the 2003 Iraq War, the Arab Spring and the Syrian Civil War, and the Iranian nuclear deal. This course is designed as a broad survey of Middle East politics; given the time constraints; it is not possible to cover every country and issue.

This course focuses on theoretical and empirical explanations for political phenomena in the Middle East. As such, we pay close attention to how to theoretically and empirically address social and behavioral science research questions relevant to the Middle East.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

M1321.001700

Host Institution Course Title

POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST (A SURVEY OF CONTEMPORARY ISSUES)

Host Institution Campus**Host Institution Faculty****Host Institution Degree****Host Institution Department**

Political Science and International Relations

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