1. **Goals and Contents of the Course**

This upper-level course represents an attempt to combine general theories and concepts of international relations with the empirical reality (or realities) of the contemporary Middle East in general, and the Arab-Israeli conflict in particular. The course continues and deepens our knowledge about international relations presented at the introductory level (Govt 006) with new general and middle-range theories of international relations. In turn, those theories are applied and implemented in the context of the Middle East.

The course is divided into three main sections. In the first section we will discuss general theories and concepts of international relations, alternating each general discussion with a specific implementation and discussion about the Middle East. The relevant theories and concepts will be power and alliances (Realism); interdependence, globalization, transnational actors and integration (Liberalism); international law, sovereignty and territoriality (the Grotian approach), and norms and identity (Constructivism). In the second section we will focus on theories and concepts related to war and peace, such as war, deterrence, conflict management and resolution, negotiations, peace, and ethical dimensions. Finally, in the last section we will focus upon three other relevant topics to understand the dynamics of the region, including nationalism and ethnicity, domestic politics and foreign policy, and the psychological components of international relations.

2. **Students’ assignments and grades**

Students’ assignments include the following:

* Active participation in the lectures, which will include an interactive dimension of questions, answers, and collective discussion.

* Submission of a five-page paper as a book or bibliographical review of one of the theoretical topics studied in the course.

* Submission of a term paper (about 15 pages) from a list of topics that will be distributed the first week of class. The paper should establish a clear link between theories and realities in the Middle East.
The grade will be distributed as follows:

a. Mid-term exam (multiple choice) 20%
b. Bibliographical essay 10%
c. Term paper 25%
d. Class participation 5%
e. Final exam 40%

3. **Textbooks**

The following books should be available for purchase at the University Bookstore and/or on reserve at the library:


4. Lecture Topics and Schedule of Classes

A. General Theories and Concepts
1. Thu January 9: Introduction: IR Theories
2. Tue January 14: Introduction: Realities in the Middle East
3. Thu January 16: Power Politics and Alliances (Realism)
4. Tue January 21: Power Politics and Alliances in the Middle East
5. Thu January 23: Institutions, Interdependence, and Integration
6. Tue January 28: Relevance of Liberalism in the Middle East (?)
7. Thu January 30: State, sovereignty, and international law
8. Tue February 4: The Middle East as a regional society
9. Thu February 6: Constructivism: Norms and identity
10. Tue February 11: Norms, identity, and the role of women in the region

B. Theories and Concepts on War and Peace
11. Thu February 13: Theories of war
12. Tue February 18: Wars in the Middle East
13. Thu February 20: Deterrence and coercive diplomacy
14. Tue February 25: Deterrence and coercive diplomacy in the Middle East
15. Thu February 27: Mid-term exam
16. Tue March 4: Conflict management and resolution
17. Thu March 6: Conflict management and resolution in the Middle East
18. Tue March 18: Negotiations and diplomacy
19. Thu March 20: Negotiations and diplomacy in the Middle East
20. Tue March 25: Peace, stable peace, and peaceful change
21. Thu March 27: The peace process in the Arab-Israeli conflict
22. Tue April 1: The normative dimension (ethics)
23. Thu April 3: The relevance of norms and rules of war for the region

C. Other (Relevant) Theories and Concepts to Understand the Middle East
24. Tue April 8: Nationalism and ethnicity
25. Thu April 10: Nationalism and ethnicity in the Middle East
26. Tue April 15: Domestic politics and foreign policy
27. Tue April 22: The relevance of domestic politics in the Middle East
28. Thu April 24: The psychological dimension of international relations
29. Tue April 29: Psychology as a key concept in the Middle East
5. **Reading List**

A. **General Theories and Concepts**

1. **Introduction: IR Theories** (January 9)


   Colin Wight, “Philosophy of Social Science and International Relations,” pp. 23-51, in *Handbook of International Relations*.


2. **Introduction: Realities in the Middle East** (January 14)

   Milton-Edwards, *Contemporary Politics in the Middle East*, pp. 1-40; 121-144.


3. **Power Politics and Alliances (Realism)** (January 16)

   David A. Baldwin, “Power and International Relations,” pp. 177-191, in *Handbook of International Relations*.


4. **Power Politics and Alliances in the Middle East** (January 21)

   Michael Oren, *Six Days of War* [browse].


5. **Institutions, Interdependence, and Integration** (January 23)

Beth A. Simmons and Lisa L. Martin, “International Organizations and Institutions,” in *Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 192-211.


Young Jong Choi and James A. Caporaso, “Comparative Regional Integration,” in *Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 480-499.

6. **Relevance of Liberalism in the Middle East (?)** (January 28)


Shimon Peres (1993), *The New Middle East* [browse, especially pp. 87-99; 155-161.


7. **State, Sovereignty, and International Law (the Grotian Approach)** (January 30)


8. **The Middle East as a Regional Society** (February 4)

Sela, *The Decline of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, pp. 3-54; 305-350; browse the rest of the book.


9. **Constructivism: Norms and Identity** (February 6)


Emanuel Adler, “Constructivism and International Relations,” in *Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 95-118.


10. **Norms and Identity in the Middle East** (February 11)


A. **Theories and Concepts on War and Peace**

11. **Theories of War** (February 13)

12. Wars in the Middle East  (February 18)

Michael B. Oren, Six Days of War, pp. 1-32; 170-304.

Milton-Edwards, Contemporary Politics in the Middle East, pp. 93-120.

Avraham Sela, The Decline of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, pp. 57-150.


13. Deterrence and Coercive Diplomacy  (February 20)


14. Deterrence and Coercive Diplomacy in the Middle East  (February 25)


Michael B. Oren, Six Days of War, pp. 33-169.


16. Conflict Management and Resolution  (March 4)
Lilach Gilady and Bruce Russett, “Peace-making and Conflict Resolution,” in *Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 392-408.


17. **Conflict Management and Resolution in the Middle East**
   (March 6)


18. **Negotiations and Diplomacy**
   (March 18)


19. **Negotiations and Diplomacy in the Middle East**
   (March 20)


20. **Peace, Stable Peace, and Peaceful Change** (March 25)


21. **The Peace Process in the Arab-Israeli Conflict** (March 27)


22. **The Normative Dimension (International Ethics)** (April 1)


23. The Relevance of Norms and Rules of War in the Region  (April 3)

Michael Walzer (1977), Just and Unjust Wars, pp. 74-85; 176-196; 197-206; 207-222.


C. Other (Relevant) Theories and Concept to Understand the Middle East

24. Nationalism and Ethnicity  (April 8)


25. Nationalism and Ethnicity in the Middle East (April 10)

Milton-Edwards, Contemporary Politics in the Middle East, pp. 41-67.

Ian Lustick (1993), Unsettled States, Disputed Lands, pp. 7-25.

Sela, The Decline of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, pp. 3-30; 341-350.

26. Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy (April 15)


27. The Relevance of Domestic Politics in the Middle East  (April 22)


Telhami and Barnett, *Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East* [browse].

28. The Psychological Dimension of International Relations  (April 24)


29. Psychology as a Key Concept in the Middle East  (April 29)


