

Course Overview: Contemporary West Asian Politics

This course aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex political landscape of West Asia in the 21st century. Building upon the foundation laid in the "West Asian Studies" course, this course will delve deeper into the contemporary political dynamics, challenges, and opportunities in the region. Students will examine the major political actors, their interactions, and the regional and international factors shaping the political trajectories of West Asian countries.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop a thorough understanding of the historical and geopolitical context of West Asia.
2. To analyze the major political actors and their influence on regional dynamics.
3. To critically examine the impact of regional and international factors on West Asian politics.
4. To assess the challenges and opportunities facing West Asian countries in the 21st century.
5. To develop critical thinking and analytical skills in analyzing complex political issues.

Course Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to identify and explain the key historical events and developments that have shaped the contemporary political landscape of West Asia.
2. Students will be able to analyze the roles and interests of major political actors, including states, non-state actors, and regional organizations, in West Asian politics.
3. Students will be able to critically assess the impact of regional and international factors, such as oil politics, sectarianism, and external interventions, on West Asian political developments.
4. Students will be able to evaluate the challenges and opportunities facing West Asian countries in terms of security, economic development, and political stability.
5. Students will be able to demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills in analyzing complex political issues and formulating informed opinions.

Course Syllabus (30 Hours):

Module I: Historical and Geopolitical Context (6 Hours)

- Recap of key developments from the "West Asian Studies" course (2 hours)
- Deeper analysis of the Sykes-Picot Agreement and its long-term consequences (2 hours)
- The Cold War and its impact on West Asian politics (2 hours)

Module II: Major Political Actors and their Influence (9 Hours)

- The Arab League: Formation, objectives, and current challenges (3 hours)
- The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC): Its role in regional security and economic cooperation (3 hours)
- Iran: The Islamic Revolution and its impact on regional politics (3 hours)

Module III: Regional and International Factors Shaping West Asian Politics (9 Hours)

- The role of oil and energy resources in regional dynamics (3 hours)
- Sectarianism and its impact on regional conflicts (3 hours)
- The role of external actors (US, Russia, China, EU) in West Asian politics (3 hours)

Module IV: Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century (6 Hours)

- Security challenges: Terrorism, extremism, and regional conflicts (3 hours)
- Economic development and diversification (3 hours)
- Political reform and democratization (3 hours)

Course Timetable (July - October 2024):

Assessment Methods:

- Midterm Exam (25%)
- Final Exam (40%)
- Class Participation (10%)
- Group Project (25%)

Multiple Choice Questions:

[Include 25 multiple-choice questions covering the topics in the syllabus. You can use a question bank or create your own questions based on the course material.]