Descriptif d’enseignement / Course descriptions
3ème année internationale / International undergraduate program
Semestre 1

Titre du cours - Course title
War and Peace in the Middle East

Type de cours : Cours magistral
Langue du cours/Language of instruction : English

Enseignant(s) – Professor(s)
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Résumé du cours – Objectifs - Course description – Targets
At a time of heightened tensions and instability in the Middle East, understanding the dynamic of history and the logic of contemporary political process appear more complex to decipher and analyze beyond ready-made and often inaccurate schemes of interpretation. From the 1916 Sikes-Picot Accords and the transformations of post-WWI Middle East to the Israeli-Arab wars and subsequent peace processes initiatives, this course will cover extensively the crises and transformations that have singled out the Middle East in contemporary international relations.

As students of international relations, we will engage in a review of War & Peace in the Middle East through the lenses of diplomatic practice and crisis management processes. The course will also focus on media representations and the role of social networks in construction of perceptions and misperceptions. Discourses, Media coverage and public diplomacy will be used to better understands the interests and positions of the various actors, local and global, involved in the region’s conflicts.

This course will provide students with the necessary tools and knowledge to understand the dynamics of contemporary politics in the Middle East. Through case studies presentations, students will get the opportunity to become familiar with diplomatic, political and media strategies at the heart of ongoing events.

Evaluation - Assessment
Course requirements and Evaluation:
- Oral participation in class based on readings and material distributed in advance.
- ‘Watching the Middle East’ (Collective work by group of 4-5 students, 30min, oral presentation and written final report):
Students will be asked to make a presentation based on a movie or documentary selected in advance. The group will provide a thorough analysis of the movie (context, point of view, aim, perspectives, etc.) and explain how it sheds light on the logics of War and Peace in the Middle East.

Besides suggested and required readings, students will be invited to make extensive use of multimedia resources. Useful websites, movies and selected interviews will be presented to the class. Students will be invited to actively share their opinion and personal experience in class.
Assignments:
Assignment 1: A case-study presentation in class will amount for 50% of the final grade.

Assignment 2: A written final report on the subject of the case-study will be uploaded on the Course Dropbox by the end of the semester. The report will amount for 50% of the final grade.

Plan – Séances - Course outline

Session 1:
General Introduction.

Session 2: Israeli – Arab Wars

Session 3: The role of intelligence

Session 4: Camp David 1978 & the Israeli Arab Peace Process

Session 5: The road to Oslo: The Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process

Session 6: Making Peace? Understanding the other

Session 8: The role of the Civil Society

Session 7: The Middle East: a case for Multilateral cooperation (Quartet, the EU)

Session 9: Regional Perspectives

Bibliographie - Bibliography:


23. TOUVAL Saadia, Mediation in the Arab-Israeli conflict during and after the Cold War, Jerusalem, Israel, Leonard Davis Institute, 1999.


Suggested film references:


Notre méthode d'enseignement prend en considération les techniques d'enseignement modernes et est orientée vers le "concept de langue étrangère du Conseil de l'Europe" et les "lignes directrices de l'Académie Italienne de Langue (AIL)". Nous suivons une méthode basée sur la communication : dès le premier jour de cours, et ce pour chaque niveau, vous parlerez uniquement en italien. Vous commencerez donc immédiatement à utiliser des mots italiens et à penser dans la nouvelle langue, avec l'aide de nos professeurs, prêts à répondre aux exigences individuelles des cours. Course descriptions are published on the University of Geneva website on the formations page. Peu importe les descriptifs des cours proposés aux étudiants, ce qui se fait et se dit dans les cours n'est pas nécessairement visible. www2.parl.gc.ca.