

Nottingham Trent University

Module Specification

	Basic module information	
1	Module Title:	The International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa
2	Module Code:	INTR32667
3	Credit Points:	20
4	Duration:	Full-Year
5	School:	Social Sciences
6	Campus:	City
7	Date:	1 September 2013

8 Pre, Post and Co-requisites:

These are modules that you must have studied previously in order to take this module, or modules that you must study simultaneously or in a subsequent academic session

Pre, Co, Post Module Code Module Title

To study this module, you should have studied at least 40 credits of International Relations or Politics modules at level 2

9 Courses containing the module

<u>Level</u>	<u>Core/Option</u>	<u>Mode</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Course Title</u>
		FT	HUMA005	BA (H) Communications & Society and International Relations
		FT	HUMA013	BA (H) English and International Relations
		FT	HUMA021	BA (H) European Studies and International Relations

FT	HUMA026	BA (H) Film & TV and International Relations
FT	HUMA030	BA (H) Global Studies and International Relations
FT	HUMA035	BA (H) History and International Relations
FT	HUMA040	BA (H) Linguistics and International Relations
FT	HUMA043	BA (H) Media and International Relations
FT	HUMA045	BA (H) Philosophy and International Relations
FT	HUMA046	BA (H) TESOL and International Relations
SW	MODL009	BA (H) French and International Relations
SW	MODL022	BA (H) German and International Relations
SW	MODL035	BA (H) Italian and International Relations
SW	MODL045	BA (H) Mandarin Chinese and International Relations
SW	MODL053	BA (H) Spanish and International Relations

FT	EURX001	European Exchange (First Half Year)
FT	EURX002	European Exchange (Second Half Year)
FT	EURX003	European Exchange (Full Year)
FT	INTX001	International Exchange (First Half Year)
FT	INTX002	International Exchange (Second Half Year)
FT	INTX003	International Exchange (Full Year)

10 Overview and Aims

This module explores the political economy of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) against the backdrop of the colonial and post-independence history of the region. You will engage with an emerging school of thought on the international relations of the MENA region which uses explanatory tools from Historical Sociology as well as International Relations and hinges on a theory of systemic transformation. The module examines the bases of political and religious identities and the nature of nationalisms in the MENA region in order to develop an understanding of their implications for both state and non-state actors in the region and beyond. The themes of conflict, regional stability, peace, co-operation, integration and development are addressed throughout the module. This module also critically analyses the foreign policies of the region's states, their relations with each other, and key extra-regional actors. A further aim is to develop an understanding of the nature of economic problems within the region and the position of the region within the global economic system.

The module is designed to be a student-led module in the sense that the formal teaching provides you with a broad framework which introduces ideas and debates, but leaves you to pursue the specific questions you want to follow both in your reading and your coursework, with the important proviso that you attend classes and

take part actively in the debates and class analysis of module material. This is a broad and diverse region and by learning about the key issues, processes and contemporary analyses of the international relations of the region you will be able to develop specialist knowledge in particular sub-regions or specific MENA states if you choose to.

11 **Module Content**

This module explores aspects of the international relations and domestic political, economic and socio-cultural processes for the following states:

Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, UAE, Yemen

The topics included in this module are as follows:

- Empire & the Colonial Experience Post-Colonialism & Systemic Transformation
- From Spring to Summer? Revolution and Democratisation
- Nationalisms 1: Pan-Arabism
- Nationalisms 2: Pan-Islamism
- Nationalisms 3: The Rise of State Nationalisms
- The Arab-Israeli Conflict 1
- The Arab-Israeli Conflict 2
- Internal Conflicts 1: Civil Wars & Instability
- Internal Conflicts 2: Terrorism
- Inter-Regional Conflict 1: the Cold War & MENA
- Inter-Regional Conflict 2: the West & Iraq
- Environmental (in)Security 1: Resource Scarcity
- Environmental (in)Security 2: Resource Endowment
- Intra-Regional Trade
- Inter-Regional Trade & the Global Economy
- Development & Modernisation 1
- Development & Modernisation 2
- Governance 1: Authoritarianism
- Governance 2: Democracy
- Institutionalism in the MENA
- External Misconceptions
- Contemporary Issues & Challenges
- MENA Research Conference

12 Indicative Reading

Andersen, R., Seibert, R., and Wagner, J., 2012, *Politics and Change in the Middle East: Sources of Conflict and Accommodation*, 10th edition, Harlow: Pearson.

Brown, C., 2004, *Diplomacy in the Middle East: the International Relations of Regional and Outside Powers*, London: L.B. Taurus.

Cleveland, W. and Bunton, M., 2012, *A History of the Modern Middle East*. 5th edition, Philadelphia: Westview Press.

Gelvin, I., 2011, *The Modern Middle East: A History* 3rd edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Halliday, F., 2005, *The Middle East in International Relations*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ismael, T. and Ismael, J., 2011, *Government and Politics of the Contemporary Middle East: continuity and change*, London: Routledge.

Lust, E. (ed.), 2011, *The Middle East*, 12th edition, Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Richards, A. and Waterbury, J., 2007, *A Political Economy of the Middle East*, Colorado: Westview Press.

Stewart, D., 2012, *The Middle East Today: Political, Geographical and Cultural Perspectives*, Abingdon: Routledge.

13 Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of the module

Knowledge and understanding. After studying this module you should be able to:

1. Critically explain the post-colonial establishment of the state system in the Middle East and North Africa.
2. Critically analyse the forms of actors engaged in international relations in the region and the differences between them.
3. Critically evaluate external misconceptions of the region, its people and its place in the global system.
4. Critically investigate the Arab Spring and contemporary processes of political change taking place in the region.
5. Interpret and critically appraise the processes and relationships that link the Middle East and North Africa to the global economy and to global security.
6. Critically compare and contrast the main themes, theories and concepts used in the study of the international relations of the Middle East and North Africa.

Skills, qualities and attributes. After studying this module you should be able to:

1. Produce oral and written analyses of the international relations of the Middle East and North Africa.
2. Orally debate and evaluate academic studies with peers and lecturers.

3. Independently conduct research by finding critically assessing and using primary and secondary information.
4. Communicate and cooperate with other students as part of a team to conduct a unique research project throughout the academic year.
5. Proficiently use e-learning technologies including Microsoft PowerPoint, Word and virtual learning resources to conduct and present research.
6. Communicate and critically debate with fellow students and lecturers.

14 **Teaching and Learning**

Range of modes of direct contact

This indicates the range of direct contact teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. lectures, seminars

The module is based on several elements. Formal lectures and seminars will be compulsory and form the staple of formal contact time. The 24 lectures (each 1 hour) will run each week during normal teaching weeks and will be used to present key information to the students in order to introduce and develop their understanding of the topics covered. The 24 seminar sessions (each 1 hour) will run every week through the year but will start one week after the lectures and will be used to reinforce student understanding of the topics covered, explore other relevant issues, material and ideas surrounding the topics under discussion, and to provide peer and staff feedback. Seminars will also be used to develop transferable skills, including: communication and group discussion skills, team work abilities and presentation skills.

Individual meetings with the module leader and seminar tutor(s) will be encouraged throughout the module via the tutorial and office hour systems.

Total Contact Hours

48

Range of other learning methods

This indicates the range of other teaching and learning methods used on this module, e.g. directed reading, research

Indicative reading lists will be provided highlighting core texts which should be read and key sources which should be used in individual research/independent learning. These sources include books, journals, reports, newspapers and audio-visual material. A virtual learning environment (via a dedicated NOW learning room for this module) will be used to provide students with module material such as lecture presentations, electronic copies of book and journal material (where copyright

permits this), information regarding relevant events such as conferences, and links to other relevant internet-based material.

In-line with the university's minimum standards on e-learning The Resource List Management Software (RLMS) will be used to ensure the reading list requirements of this module are up-to-date and that students, teaching staff and library staff are aware of these resources. An online discussion forum will also be accessible through the NOW learning room with discussion topics posted weekly, providing students with the opportunity to discuss module-related material with each other and teaching staff. A number of online quizzes/tests will be provided on the NOW learning room for students to take allowing the students to track their understanding of core elements of the module. Feedback provided online at the end of these tests will indicate the scores achieved and areas of weakness to students and teaching staff.

The university's grade based assessment scheme will be used for the summative and formative assignments for this module.

Total non-contact hours:

152

15 **Assessment methods**

This indicates the type and weighting of assessment elements in the module

<u>Element number</u>	<u>Weighting</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	25%	Group Project Proposal	Two students per group; 2500 word project proposal written collaboratively
2	25%	Group Presentation	Group presentation of approximately 20 minutes (see below for more information).
3	50%	Individual Presentation	Individual presentation of approximately 20 minutes (see below for more information).

Diagnostic/ formative assessment

This indicates if there are any assessments that do not contribute directly to the final module mark

Formative research proposal and report of 2500 words (+/-10%). Students will design their own research proposal based on topics covered throughout the module.

Students will reflect on their work and the feedback they receive through a research report which can vary in size. In addition the e-learning tools outlined above as part of the dedicated learning room on NOW will act as a forum for formative independent study and self-review.

Further information on assessment

This section provides further information on the module's assessment where appropriate

Group presentations and follow-up reports: These presentations will take place in an academic conference setting on one day in the form of panel presentations with use of PowerPoint and other audio-visual aids. Groups will consist of two students and each student is required to present for approximately 20 minutes in total (as a group and individually). The topics of the presentations will be listed in the module booklet and on the NOW learning room and groups will have to select one topic to research and present on.

Feedback will be provided by peers and staff members on the day and through a report by the module teaching staff on the following elements of the presentation: Organisation, content, practical presentation skills and team work, and via staff comments and grade on the follow-up report.

Document Management

16	Module Title:	The International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa	
17	Module Code:	INTR32512	
18	Subject (JACS) Code	L250	
19	Cost Centre	29	
20	School:	Social Sciences	
21	Academic Team	Politics and International Relations	
22	Campus	City	
23	Other institutions providing teaching	<i>Please complete in box 23 a-d - if applicable</i>	
		Institution	%
23a	Other UK Higher Education or Further Education Institution- Please name Percentage not taught by NTU		
23b	Other public organisation in the UK- Percentage not taught by NTU		
23c	Other private organisation in the UK - Percentage not taught by NTU		
23d	Any other Non-UK organisation -		

Percentage not taught by NTU

24

Date of approval:

Summer 2013