

1. Informations générales :

Titre du cours :	Contemporary Issues in the Arab and Muslim World		
NOM de l'enseignant·e :	Daniel MEIER	Semestre :	☒ Automne ☐ Printemps
Public visé :	☐ 1 ^{ère} année ☐ 2 ^{ème} année ☒ 1 ^{ère} année et 2 ^{ème} année	Langue :	☐ français ☒ anglais
Nombre maximal d'étudiant·es :	☒ 20 ☐ 30 ☐ 40 ☐ 50 ☐ Pas de maximum	Organisation du cours :	☒ 9 séances de 2h sur 9 semaines ☐ 12 séances de 1h30 sur 12 semaines ☐ 12 séances de 1h30 sur 6 semaines ☐ 6 séances de 3h sur 12 semaines

2. Résumé du cours :

This course constitutes an introduction to the key issues in Middle East politics nowadays. It deals mainly with the Machreq states and numerous local non-state actors, including refugees and migrants. I will start the course with a general lecture introducing Middle Eastern politics through its key historical moments in the 20th century that brought up the modern nation-state system from the remains of the Ottoman Empire and authoritarian regimes once states became independent. I will also shed a light on the current violent period faced by the entire region in the backdrop of the genocidal policy followed in Gaza.

3. Pré-requis éventuels :

None

4. Modalités de contrôle des connaissances et des compétences envisagées :

Contrôle continu : Participation active : 10%, Présentation orale : 40%, Examen final sur table : 50%

5. Description détaillée du cours (facultatif)

The thematic organization of the course intends to open several debates on today's issues at stake in the Middle East region. Starting with wide-reaching issues and in order to make the link with the inaugural session, the first theme proposes to deal with authoritarianism in the Middle East. Second, we will continue with the longstanding problem of the Palestinian refugee issue. This will bring us to the Palestinian political scene by discussing about Hamas movement from the perspective of its political success since 2006 with its domination of Gaza until the current war.

Shifting to the neighbouring state, Lebanon, the two following sessions will discuss sectarianism as a mode of governance and the role of Hizbullah as a (still) powerful political party and an armed non-state actor. The Syrian refugee question will be then analysed through the fate of millions of refugees that are still living in Lebanon in Jordan, a lasting problem for the decade to come despite the emergence of a new post-baathist regime in Damascus. In the Machreq, the political trajectory of Iraq raises the question of the Kurdish minority and how the political leaders have managed to mobilise around their ethnic identity to secure greater autonomy in the post-Saddam era. Not far from there, in the Gulf countries, the key question revolves around the position of the renewable energy sector and deserve a debate on the post-oil era. The final session will focus on al-Qaida, the jihadist matrix of the Islamic State, in order to shed light on the changing phenomenon of the violent movements in political Islam. At the beginning of each class, after the discussion of the reading of the week, I will briefly introduce each theme before leaving the floor to oral presentations.