



GUIA DOCENTE CURSO

| Course Information | |
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| Course Title | Regional Studies: Politics and Society in the Middle East |
| Code | |
| Degree | Doble Grado de ADE y Relaciones Internacionales (E-5) |
| Year | Fourth year |
| Semester | One Semester |
| ECTS | Three |
| Character | Optative |
| Department | Relaciones Internacionales |
| Faculty | Social Science |
| University | Universidad Pontificia Comillas |
| Professor | Prof. Dr. Alfred Gutiérrez-Kavanagh |
| Descriptor | <p>Formation of Islam. Islamic legal and political systems. Sunnis, Shia and other currents within mainstream Islam. The origins of fundamentalism. The role of Iran in the Middle East. Political relations of Iran, Iraq and other major players in the ME from colonialism to our present day. Revolts and Revolution. New gender roles in modern Islamic societies.</p> <p>This course is given within the framework of Regional Studies and intends to provide students with an overview of current political, social and cultural issues in the Middle East. The first part of the course relates to the formation of Islam and its subsequent development in order to examine the complexity of international relations between Islam and the West from the 7th century until today.</p> <p>The objective of this introductory course on key Middle East issues is to develop the required critical tools in order to understand the interaction between Islam and other political and religious systems throughout history and particularly in light of the major changes in the region from 1979.</p> <p>The lectures of this course are given in English. No prior knowledge of Arabic or other ME languages is required.</p> |

| Professor | |
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| Name | Prof. Dr. Alfred Gutiérrez-Kavanagh |
| Department | Relaciones Internacionales |
| Area | Faculty of Human and Social Sciences |
| e-mail | agutierrezkavanagh@hotmail.com |
| Tutorial | On request either at the end of class or by email with a week's notice, except for urgent matters. |

II. COMPETENCIES FOR THE COURSE

| Competencies – Objectives | |
|---|--|
| General Competencies of the Course | |
| INSTRUMENTAL | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CGI1 Capacity of analysis and synthesis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RA1 The student is able to describe, relate and interpret simple situations and approaches. - CGI2 Planning and organization skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RA1 The student plans his personal work in a systematic and consistent manner · RA2 The student takes part actively in group projects and developments. - CGI3 Basic knowledge of the field of study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RA1 Capacity to use and handle primary sources for the different subjects and areas of study. | |
| PERSONAL | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CGP15 Acknowledgment of diversity and multiculturalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RA1 The student understands that social and cultural diversity is part of human nature and must be considered as an enriching experience. - CGP16 Working in an international context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RA3 Detects problems arising from cultural differences | |
| STRUCTURAL | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CGS23 Understanding cultures and customs from other countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RA1 The student is able to establish standards of comparison between cultures, languages and traditions. · RA2 Detects problems arising from cultural differences - CGS25 Quality commitment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RA2 Methodical action and systematic revision of prior actions. · RA3 Depth of analysis and of the work carried out | |
| Specific Competencies | |
| <p>CE 37 Knowledge of the historical, political, economic, social and cultural dimension of the world's major regions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · RA25 The student is familiar with the main current political, social and economic issues related to the Middle East. · RA26 The student is able to discuss the most salient features of the economy, society and security in the Middle East at present and has accurate information about certain countries and communities living in the region. | |

III. CONTENTS

| Unit | THE RISE OF ISLAM AND ITS SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL AND CULTURAL EXPANSION |
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| <u>1</u> | <p>Initial presentation of the course providing a detailed and clear overview of the different areas and requirements, ensuring that students are able to understand fully the course objectives and the interaction between theory and practical assignments.</p> <p>Key concepts explained in this session: Before the advent of Islam: Jews, Nestorians and Arabs in the Arabic Peninsula. The main tenets of the Coranic revelation. The five pillars of Islam. The impact of the Islamic invasion in the Middle East civilizations. The legacy of prophet Mohammed and the split of the community on the issue of his succession. Political and cultural resistance in Persia and other neighbouring states.</p> |
| Unit | KEY RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CONCEPTS ARISING FROM THE MAIN ISLAMIC TEXTS |
| <u>2</u> | <p>In this session, a glossary of key terms which refer to institutions or concepts widely used when discussing Islam or the Middle East will be prepared which shall help students to prepare their dissertations. New terms encountered in the course shall be incorporated to this glossary with cross-references to other institutions or developments in the West.</p> |
| Unit | THE CALIPHATE AND THE RISE OF HETERODOXY IN ISLAM |

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| <u>3</u> | <p>This first half of this session is devoted to providing a general perspective of the main political, cultural and social issues from the Rashidūn (Justly Guided Ones – The First Four Caliphs) in 632 until the sacking of Baghdad in 1258 by Hulagu Khan which ended the Abbasid dynasty.</p> <p>During the second half of this session the students individually or in groups shall provide a short summary of the major highlights of the main events between 650 and 1250 in Europe and the Byzantine Empire followed by a class discussion of the interrelations between Islam and the West during that period.</p> |
| <u>Unit</u> <u>4</u> | THE ROLE OF PERSIA IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL THOUGHT |
| | In this session we shall examine the influence of pre-Islamic conceptions (Zoroastrism, Zurvanism, Manichaeism) originating from Persia in the shaping of political and religious institutions during the Islamic period. Two particular instances are analysed: The intellectual opposition to Arab values in the Shu'ubbiyya and the contribution of Persian scientists and scholars to the flourishing of arts and science in Islam. |
| <u>Unit</u> <u>5</u> | APPROACH TO ISLAMIC LAW (I) THE LEGACY OF PROPHET MOHAMMED. THE SHARI'A |
| | This session almost in the middle of the course intends to equip students with ample material to be able to understand the different legal systems existing today through the Islamic world. Our approach focuses on explaining how the four mainstream legal schools (Hanafi –Shafi'i –Maliki-Hanbali) came about and their influence up to present day in different regions. Reference is also made to the four main theological Sunni schools and their tenets and to prevailing Shi'a jurisprudence. |
| <u>Unit</u> <u>6</u> | APPROACH TO ISLAMIC LAW (II). MAIN SCHOOLS AND DEVELOPMENT OF JURISPRUDENCE AND THEOLOGY |
| | Overview of the genesis of Shari'a Law from its origins to its classical expression as the irrevocable will of God. The influence of other legal systems (Roman law) in the construction of Islamic Law. The development of Shari'a in different Moslem states and its potential for reconciling tradition and development in modern societies. Definition of key terms (asl – bid'a –fiqh –fatwā, ijtihād, hadīth, ...) used widely in Islamic Law. |
| <u>Unit</u> <u>7</u> | MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUNNI AND SHIA ISLAM. OTHER CURRENTS AND TRENDS |
| | Overview.: The origins of the split between Sunni and Shi'a Islam. Impact on political, religious, cultural and social issues in the Middle East. The main differences between Sunnite and Shi'ite jurisprudence and interpretation standards are provided with reference to other sectarian legal systems in Islam. Impact of the Shi'a Crescent (Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Pakistan and India) in shaping a new geopolitical map of the Middle East. |
| <u>Unit</u> <u>8</u> | THE IMPACT OF COLONIALISM AND ORIENTALISM IN THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN ISLAM AND THE WEST |
| | This session focuses on the rise of nationalism in Safavid Persia and the Ottoman Empire and the sources of conflict between Europe and the Islamic world. The impact of colonial administration and the Great Game in the development of an identity in Moslem states in North Africa and the Middle East. In particular, attention is given to how attitudes and views about Islam and other Eastern countries were harnessed to a number of different cultural and philological movements of the XIX century loosely described as Orientalism. |
| <u>Unit</u> <u>9</u> | RELATIONS BETWEEN ISLAM AND OTHER COMMUNITIES (CHRISTIANS AND JEWS) THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND CURRENT PERSPECTIVES |

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| | Overview of historical relations between Islam and other communities, particularly those considered by moslems <i>ahl-e ketab</i> (People of the Book, i.e.: Christians and Jews). Discussion on the current situation of religious minorities in the Middle East. The rise of fundamentalism and jihadism. The shaping of the new generations in moslem states under the influence of social networks and global technology. |
| Unit 10 | MODERN MIDDLE EAST (1948-1979) THE FOUNDING OF ISRAEL. POLITICAL ZIONISM AND NATIONALISM. ESCALATION OF CONFLICT IN PALESTINE. |
| | The origins of the Muslim-Jewish conflict. Political Zionism and nationalism. The Balfour Agreement. The United Nations Partition Plan leading to the creation of the state of Israel. British intervention in the Middle East. The Palestinian Mandate. The June 1967 and the Yom Kippur wars. Landmarks in mediation efforts (Kissinger shuttle diplomacy and Carter peace talks). Major U.N. resolutions regarding the Middle East conflicts. |
| Unit 11 | THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION OF 1979 IN IRAN AND THE DECLINE OF THEOCRATIC MODELS IN THE XXI CENTURY. THE RULE OF LAW IN MODERN ISLAMIC DEMOCRACIES |
| | The role of Persia/Iran in the Middle East before and after Islam. The impact of British colonialism in the Qajar period and the effects of the modernisation plan implemented by the Pahlevi dynasty. The 1973 crisis and global oil politics. (The role of the OPEC). Khomeini's theories on an Islamic Government based on the theory of <i>vekalat-e feqh</i> . The 1979 Revolution in Iran and the impact of a Shi'a theocratic state in the Middle East. |
| Unit 12 | THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE 21ST CENTURY. IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN ISLAMIC SOCIETIES. ROLES OF WOMEN IN ISLAMIC SOCIETIES: AT THE CROSSROADS BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY |
| | In this final session the instructor and the student will recapitulate the most salient points of previous discussions and refer them to the present situation in the Middle East. In our class discussion we shall attempt to provide a chronology of landmark events from 2010 and their impact from a geostrategic standpoint. Click revolutions and the role of digital technologies in shaping new political options. Democratic revolutions are not caused by new information technologies, but in the Muslim world, democratization seems to be no longer possible without them. The ideology of technology and manipulation by religious and political elites. |

IV. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

BLOCK 1. THE RISE OF ISLAM AND ITS SUBSEQUENT POLITICAL AND CULTURAL EXPANSION

Recommended reading:

- Lewis, B., *The world of Islam*, Thames & Hudson, London, 1976.
 Schuon, F, Schimmel, A.: *Understanding Islam*, World Wisdom, Indiana, 2003.
 Sells, M.: *Approaching the Qur'an: The Early Revelations*. White Cloud Press, Oregon, 1999.
 Watt, M.: *Muhammed: Prophet and Statesman*, Oxford University Press, US, 1974.

BLOCK 2. KEY RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CONCEPTS ARISING FROM THE MAIN ISLAMIC TEXTS

Recommended Reading:

- Bearman, P et al., *Encyclopedia of Islam (new edition)*, Brill Academic Publishers, Leyden, 2005.
 Geaves, R.: *Key words in Islam*, Georgetown University Press, EEUU, 2006.

BLOCK 3. THE CALIPHATE AND THE RISE OF HETERODOXY IN ISLAM.

Recommended Reading:

Lewis, B (ed): *The World of Islam: Faith, People, Culture*. Thames and Hudson, London, 1992.
McBrewster, J., Miller, F., Vandome, A. (eds): *Islamic schools and branches, Sunni Islam, Aqidah, Shia Islam, Ismailism, Sufism, Tariqah, Bektashi, Naqshbandi, Islamism, ... Temple of America, Bábism, Bahá'í Faith*, Alphascript Publications, EEUU, 2009.
Nasr, H.S.: *Islam: Religion, History and Civilization*, Harper One, New York, 2002.

BLOCK 4: THE ROLE OF PERSIA IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL THOUGHT

Recommending Reading:

- Axworthy, M.: *A History of Iran. Empire of the Mind*, Perseus Book Group, New York, 2008.
- Browne, E.G.: *A literary history of Persia, (4 vols.)*, IbeX Publications, Bethesda, 1997.
- Soudavar, A.: *The Aura of Kings. Legitimacy and Divine Sanction in Iranian Kingship*, Mazda Publications, Costa Mesa, 2003.

BLOCK 5. APPROACH TO ISLAMIC LAW (I): THE LEGACY OF PROPHET MUHAMMED. THE SHARI'A.

Recommended Reading:

- Coulson, N.J.: *A History of Islamic Law*, Edinburgh University Press, 1964.
- Fakhri, M., *A History of Islamic Philosophy*, Columbia University Press, Columbia 2004.
- Goldziher, I., Hamori, A., Lewis, B., *Introduction to Islamic theology and law*, Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1981.

BLOCK 6. APPROACH TO ISLAMIC LAW (II). MAIN SCHOOLS AND DEVELOPMENT OF JURISPRUDENCE AND THEOLOGY.

Recommended Reading:

- Gleave, R., Kermeli, E., *Islamic Law: Theory and Practice*, I.B. Tauris, London, 2001.
- Goldziher, I., Hamori, A., Lewis, B., *Introduction to Islamic theology and law*, Princeton University Press, New Jersey, 1981.
- Hallaq, W.B., *Islamic legal theories, An introduction to Sunni Usul al'Fiqh*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2003.
- MacDonald, B.D., *Development of Muslim Theology, Jurisprudence and Constitutional Theory*, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1903.

BLOCK 7. MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SUNNI AND SHIA ISLAM. OTHER CURRENTS AND TRENDS.

Recommended Reading:

- Genink, I., *Islamic Reform and Conservatism: Al-Azhar and the Evolution of Modern Sunni Islam (Library of Modern Religion)*, Tauris Academic Studies, New York 2009.
- Reza Nasr, S.V., *The Shia revival: How conflicts in Islam will shape the future*, W.W. Norton and Company, 2007.
- Jafri, S.Y.N, *The Origins and Development of Shi'a Islam*, Oxford University Press, US. 2002.

BLOCK 8. THE IMPACT OF COLONIALISM AND ORIENTALISM IN THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN ISLAM AND THE WEST.

Recommended Reading:

- Bates, D.G. and Amal R., *Peoples and Cultures of the Middle East*, O.U.P, 1998
- Said, E.W., *Orientalism* Vintage Books, New York, 1979.
- Reid, W., *Empire of the Sand, How Britain shaped the Middle East*, Birlinn, Edinburgh, 2011.
- Rice, E., *Captain Sir Richard Francis Burton: A biography*, Simon&Schuster, New York, 1990.

BLOCK 9. RELATIONS BETWEEN ISLAM AND OTHER COMMUNITIES (CHRISTIANS AND JEWS) THROUGHOUT HISTORY AND CURRENT PERSPECTIVES

Recommended Reading:

- Gauss, F.G., *Islam and Christianity*, Bridge-Logos Publishers, 2011
- Karsh, E., *Islamic Imperialism: A History*, Yale University Press, 2007.
- María Rosa Menocal, *The Ornament of the World. How Muslims, Jews, and Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain*, Back Bay Books, New York, 2002.
- Renard, *Islam and Christianity, Theological themes in comparative perspective*, University of California Press, CA. 2011.
- Yeor, B., *Islam and Dhimmitude: Where Civilizations Collide*, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2001.

BLOCK 10. MODERN MIDDLE EAST. THE FOUNDING OF ISRAEL. POLITICAL ZIONISM AND NATIONALISM. ESCALATION OF CONFLICT IN PALESTINE

Recommended Reading:

- Antoun, R.T., *Understanding Fundamentalism, Christian, Islamic and Jewish movements*, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008.
- Handleman, S., *Conflict and Peacemaking in Israel-Palestine* (Routledge Studies in Middle East Politics), Routledge, London, 2011.
- Laqueur, W., *History of Zionism*, I.B. Tauris Academic, New York, 2003.

BLOCK 11. THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION OF 1979 IN IRAN AND THE DECLINE OF THEOCRATIC MODELS IN THE XXI CENTURY. THE RULE OF LAW IN MODERN ISLAMIC DEMOCRACIES

Recommended Reading:

- Kavanagh, A.G., *Irán por dentro. La otra historia*, José J. de Olañeta (ed) e Indica Books, Palma de Mallorca, 2010.
- Keddie, N., *Modern Iran: Roots and Results of Revolution*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 2003.
- Khomeini, I., *Islam and Revolution, Writings and Declarations of Imam Khomeini* (1941-1980), Mizan Press, 1981.
- Naqvi, Sayed Nawab Haider, *Islam, Economics and Society*, Kegan Paul International, London, 1994
- Parra, F., *Oil Politics: A modern history of petroleum*, I.B. Tauris Academic, New York, 2009.
- Rahman, Afzalur, *Economic Doctrines of Islam: Banking and Insurance*, Muslim Schools Trust, London, 1979
- Tehrani, H.M., Pirnajmuddin, H., *The Theory of the Government of the Jurist*, Islamic Centre of England, London, 2003.

Valibeigi, Mehrdad, "Islamic economics and economic policy formation in post-revolutionary Iran: a critique," *Journal of Economic Issues*, vol. 27, no. 3, 1993, pp. 793-812.

BLOCK 12. THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE 21ST CENTURY. IMPACT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN ISLAMIC SOCIETIES. ROLES OF WOMEN IN ISLAMIC SOCIETIES: AT THE CROSSROADS BETWEEN TRADITION AND MODERNITY.

Recommended Reading:

- Ahmed, L., *Women and Gender In Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*, Yale University Press, New Haven, 1993.
- Howard, N.P., *The Digital Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Information Technology and Political Islam (Oxford Studies in Digital Politics)*, Oxford University Press, US, 2010.
- Nasr, S.H., *Islam in the Modern World: Challenged by the West, Threatened by Fundamentalism, Keeping Faith with Tradition*, Harper One, New York, 2011.
- Najmadi, A., *Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards: Gender and Sexual anxieties of Iranian modernity*, University of California Press, CA, 2003.

V. COURSE METHODOLOGY

General Methodology of the Course. Overview.

The structure of the course consists in twelve main areas related to key Middle East issues which provide an ample framework for class discussion. .

Each area is examined considering the different approaches, doctrines and schools of thought on the basis of the following methodology:

- systematic presentation of the main concepts pertaining to political, cultural, social and legal institutions in the Middle East and the level of historical exchanges that have shaped Islamic thought.
- diacronic presentation of major historical events in order to understand the complexity of international relations between Islamic states and other communities.

The materials provided by the instructor for the theoretical approach of the course includes a set of key documents from original sources (Qoran, Al-Farabi, Ibn Khaldun, etc) and their counterparts in the West for each given historical period. The texts furnished allow students to establish connections between Islam and other communities (Christianity, Manichaeism, Judaism) throughout history and draw conclusions that apply to current historical events.

This material is further supplemented by press cuttings, charts, audiovisuals and selected numbered documents for each session which enable the student to develop further the areas discussed in class and support additional research for group work, submission of papers and debates.

The different areas are interrelated and always refer to prior concepts which have been previously explained or discussed in order to ensure a gradual immersion in modern day critical issues in the Middle East.

Additional information and further references are available in the intranet of the Faculty (resources) for individual and group tasks. The portal also includes links to reliable resources in the web related to the areas examined.

| ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN CLASS | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Session 1 | Overview of the course. Introduction to Unit 1 by the Instructor. |
| Session 2 | Overview of Unit 1. Master class. Overview of the Middle East. |
| | The students will be asked to prepare a small list of terms regarding political/religious/social/cultural issues in the Islamic world which they may have encountered when reading the press or specialised journals. |
| Session 3 | Class Lecture. Unit 2. |
| | Discussion in class of reading 1 of the list of 6 readings for the course |
| Session 4 | Class Lecture. Unit 3. |
| | Guidelines for delivery of the first dissertation. The topic will be available in the platform. (Refer to DISSERTATIONS). |
| Session 5 | Class Lecture. Unit 4 |
| | Student presentation: Working in groups the students will find examples of application of the shari'a in the media and explain the reasons for its application to that particular case and providing a comparison with their own legal systems. Discussion in class of reading 2 of the list of 6 readings for the course. |
| Session 6 | Class Lecture. Unit 5. |
| | Student presentation: Working in groups the students will find examples of application of the shari'a in the media and explain the reasons for its application to that particular case and providing a comparison with their own legal systems Film: The World of Islam - Class discussion |
| Session 7 | Class Lecture. Unit 6. |
| | Student presentation: Working in groups, the students shall prepare a detailed map of the Islamic world indicating prevailing majorities/minorities in the different areas. Each group shall focus in a specific area in order to discuss the current level of international relations of that state with its neighbours. Discussion in class of reading 3 of the list of 6 readings for the course |
| Session 8 | Class Lecture. Unit 7. |
| | Submission of the first paper of the course. Film: Lawrence of Arabia - Class discussion |
| Session 9 | Class Lecture. Unit 8. |
| | Discussion in class of reading 4 of the list of 6 readings for the course |
| Session 10 | Class Lecture. Unit 9. |
| | Film: Ajami - Class discussion |
| Session 11 | Class Lecture. Unit 10. |
| | Discussion in class of reading 5 of the list of 6 readings for the course |
| Session 12 | Class Lecture. Unit 11. |
| | Film: The Yacoubian Building- Class discussion |
| Session 13 | Class Lecture. Unit 12 |
| | Discussion in class of reading 6 of the list of 6 readings for the course |

VI.- SUMMARY OF THE WORK LOAD FOR AN AVERAGE STUDENT

| SUMMARY OF THE WORK LOAD FOR AN AVERAGE STUDENT | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| IN CLASS | | | |
| Theoretical input (Lectures) | Practical | Supervised Activities | Evaluation |
| 15 | 8 | 3 | 4 |
| AT HOME | | | |
| Personal work on theoretical input | Personal work on practical tasks | Critical reading of selected texts | Study |
| 4 | 4 | 16 | 21 |
| ECTS CREDITS: | | | 3,00 |

VII. GRADING AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

| EVALUATION ACTIVITIES | GENERAL COMPETENCIES | INDICATORS | PERCENTAGE OVER FINAL GRADE (100%) |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| CLASS READINGS | CGI1 - CGS23 | RA1 - RA2 | 30% |
| FINAL EXAM | CGI1 - CGS25 | RA1 - RA3 | 70% |

This course is a research and discussion seminar.

The grade is calculated as follows:

(1) Assigned readings and participation in class discussions. At the beginning of the course the students will be given a list of **6 texts** on different issues regarding the Middle East which they will have to read critically. A short **oral** quiz on each of these texts (although the instructor may group two (2) or three (3) readings) at specified dates shall account for **30%** of the final grade. Please note that it is not possible to submit any dissertation on the class readings after the agreed dates, neither by email nor in person. The only exception to this rule refers to students who have a valid reason for being absent, confirmed by their tutor.

(2) An exam on the fundamentals of the course shall take place in the month of May. A sample test paper is provided in the Comillas web platform. The exam accounts for **70%** of the final grade.

The structure of the exam is as follows:

Section 1:

14 questions on the basics of the course that may be answered in 4/5 lines, each of them worth 0.50 points. Total maximum points: 7,00.

Section 2:

An excerpt of the class readings for critical discussion. Total maximum points: 3,00.

IMPORTANT ISSUES REGARDING THE GRADING PROCESS FOR THIS COURSE

Class attendance is **COMPULSORY**. If a student does not attend at least **70%** of the course sessions, the Instructor may exclude a student from the final exam and, in that case, the student shall have to take a resit in the month of July.

If a student does not have any grades for class participation, the final grade will be the mark obtained in his final exam.

This rule also applies to resits (exams held in the month of June for students that have failed the final exam in May).

It is not possible, under any circumstances, to submit supplementary papers, dissertations or additional work to improve the grades obtained in class.

SPECIAL CASES:

Exchange students in special circumstances (their course has not been convalidated abroad, for example) or students that have failed a resit and have to take a second or third resit according to the Regulations of the University of Comillas, only need to take a final exam on the course which will account for 100% of their grade.

In Spain grades are given according to a scale which ranges from **0** to **10** points. A rough equivalence is provided below:

| GRADES | REMARKS |
|---------------|---|
| 100% - 95% | OUTSTANDING (A+) |
| 85% - 95% | EXCELLENT (A LEVEL) |
| 70% - 85% | VERY GOOD (B+) |
| 60% - 70% | GOOD (B) |
| 50% - 60% | PASS (C) |
| 40% - 50% | NARROW FAIL – RESIT AT INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION DEPENDING ON TERM PAPERS |
| 35%- 40% | FAIL (E) |
| UNDER 35% | F LEVEL |

Pointers:

- Check the platform (<http://www.upcomillas.es> – Regional Studies (Middle East) throughout the course for postings, new materials uploaded, class work, etc.
- A specific section on Bibliography (General & Specific) is also available in the platform.
- The **only valid email address** to contact your instructor is: agutierrezkavanagh@hotmail.com