



Tárgytematika

EÖTVÖS LORÁND TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM
TÁTK Nemzetközi és Európai Tanulmányok Tanszék
(TÁTK-EU-TANSZ)

2019/20/1

Tárgynév:	Idegen nyelv - szaknyelvi gyakorlatok 1. -The Middle East: Politics, culture, history
Tárgykód:	NTb128:5
Tárgyfelelős neve:	Kopper Ákos
Tárgy követelménye:	gyakorlati jegy (5)
Tárgy heti óraszám:	0/2/0

Oktatás célja:

The course is an introduction to the political, economic, and cultural characteristics of the Middle East and to historical events forming them. It aims to equip students with the basic theoretical approaches and concepts to understand contemporary social developments in the region.

Tantárgy tartalma:

1. Overview of the course The aim and structure of the course, assignments, grades.

2. Introduction to the Middle East I. Middle East as a geographical/geopolitical unit, outlines of its early history. **3. Introduction to the Middle East II.** Religions, societies, ethnic and religious minorities.

4. The great powers and the Middle East I. (1914-1945 and the legacy of the era) The Sykes-Picot agreement and the Hussein-MacMahon correspondence. The peace treaties of Sèvres and Lausanne. The Mandate-system and the question of Arab independence. The contemporary legacy of the post- World War One regional order.

5. Zionism: national independence movement or a tool of Western colonization? Forerunners of Zionism. The ideas and actions of Theodor Herzl. Political, cultural and practical Zionism. The Balfour-declaration. Waves of immigration and the Churchill White Paper. The Peel Commission and the question of partitioning Palestine. Contemporary perceptions of Zionism.

6. The great-powers and the Middle East II. (1945-1989) and the legacy of the era The economic and strategic interest and diplomatic manoeuvres of the United States and the Soviet Union at the time of the Cold War. British and French interests and the Suez war. The oil crises. The Iranian revolution. 1989 and the “unipolar moment”. The contemporary heritage of the Cold War.

7. The Arab-Israeli conflict and the Cold War The establishment of Israel and the question of Palestinian refugees. Nasserism and pan-Arabism. The Arab-Israeli wars. Interpretations of UN Security Council resolution 242 and the principle of “land for peace”. The Camp David Accords.

8. The Iraq wars The Iraq-Iran war. Saddam Hussein, the occupation of Kuwait and the first Gulf-war. The menace of the Iraqi nuclear program or “blood for oil”: the second Gulf-war and the occupation of Iraq. Successes and failures of the attempts at a political settlement in Iraq.

9. The Israel/Palestine conflict II. (1989-) The Oslo peace process. The establishment of the Palestinian Authority. The endlessly postponed issues: question of Jerusalem, refugees, settlements. The collapse of the



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peace process, the second (Al Aqsa) intifada. Problems and peace initiatives to date.

10. Specific political systems in the Middle East: Ayatollahs and the Iranian political system. Libya of Gaddafi. The Saudi royal family and the political system. Erdogan and neo-Ottomanism.

11. Arab Spring, regime-changes, civil wars Facebook/Twitter revolutions. The vision of Fukuyama and the question of democratization in the Arab world. Successes of the revolutions, the role of Islamist movements and the armies, authoritarian backlash. The Syrian war as a proxy war and the refugee crisis.

12. Islamic fundamentalism, Islamic reform. The ideology of Al-Qaeda. The advent and rise of the Islamic State. Wahabism and Sharia. The concept of Mecca and Medina Muslims. Djihad and Idjtihad.

13. Summary The Middle East as a specific cultural and political formation. The Middle East as a centre of international politics. Visions of the Middle East.

Számonkérési és értékelési rendszere:

As a seminar, it requires the active participation of the students. They are required to prepare for each class by doing the written/oral assignments to be announced on Coospace. A further requirement is for the students to make a presentation on any relevant sub-topics of one of the classes (4.-12.) and prepare an essay (mini-research on a specific question) until the end of the course, which should be uploaded to Coospace. Topics for the presentation should be chosen until the 3rd class in consultation with the teacher, there should not be more than 3 presentations per class.

The final grade is composed of three parts with equal weights

- 1) class presentation, approx. 20mins (critical summary of multiple sources)
- 2) written paper (essay) 5-6 pages (critical summary of multiple sources)
- 3) written homeworks/participation in class discussions

Kötelező irodalom:

REQUIRED READINGS

To be distributed during and after classes and via Coospace for each week

FURTHER SUGGESTED READINGS

Halliday, Fred. *The Middle East in International Relations: Power, Politics and Ideology*. The Contemporary Middle East 4. Cambridge, UK ; New York: Cambridge, 2005.

Morris, Benny. *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999*. 1st ed. New York:



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Kötelező irodalom:

Knopf, 1999.

Sadat, Anwar El-. *In Search of Identity. An Autobiography*. Glasgow: Collins, 1977

Said, Edward W. *The Question of Palestine*. New York: Vintage Books, 1992.

Shlaim, Avi. *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2001.