

PO398-15 Politics and Culture in the Middle East

26/27

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Nicola Pratt

Credit value

15

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module explores the relationship between politics and culture in the Middle East with a focus on the role of culture in processes of domination and resistance. It considers the racial-cultural dimensions of imperialism; legacies of colonialism and orientalism in shaping Western representations of the Middle East and, in turn, postcolonial nationalism and its gendered and heteronormative dimensions; and the role of (popular) culture in resisting authoritarianism, patriarchy and heteronormativity. Whilst the module is concerned with the Middle East and North Africa, a large number of readings focus on Egypt, as the most populous and one of the most significant geopolitical actors in the region, which, therefore, has attracted the lion's share of scholarly attention. You will be introduced to different approaches to understanding the relationship between politics and culture, drawing on postcolonial studies, cultural studies, anthropology, gender studies and queer studies. You are encouraged to consume and engage critically with popular culture that either represents the Middle East or is produced in the Middle East/by people from the Middle East.

Module aims

- To provide a discussion of the different ways in which politics and culture are interrelated in the Middle East, with a focus on the role of culture in domination and resistance.
- To introduce the notion of culture in the study of politics and how it can be conceptualized in non-essentialist ways in the study of the Middle East.
- To demonstrate the importance of coloniality, race, gender and sexuality in understanding the exercise of power in the Middle East and relations between the Middle East and the West.

-To provide an introduction to some scholarly debates in postcolonial studies, feminist studies, queer studies and cultural studies and how they are relevant to the politics of the Middle East.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Weekly topics:

1. Mapping the relationship between (popular) culture, power and politics
2. Imagining the Middle East: Orientalism then and now
3. Sexuality, race & (settler) colonialism
4. Nationalism and gender
5. Heteronormativity and the nation
6. Reading week
7. Popular culture & resistance against authoritarianism
8. Feminist and queer resistance
9. Alternative masculinities
10. Revision and essay writing guidance

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- - Demonstrate significant knowledge of the ways in which politics and culture intersect in the Middle East and North Africa.
- -Use relevant theories from cultural studies, postcolonial studies and anthropology (amongst others) to analyse contemporary political dynamics in the Middle East and North Africa.
- - Demonstrate an understanding of how race, gender, sexuality and class intersect and are constitutive of political processes and dynamics in the politics and International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa.
- -Critically assess the notion of culture as a site of resistance and domination.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Research element

Independent research for essay writing

Interdisciplinary

Engages with theories from anthropology, cultural studies, postcolonial studies, feminist studies, queer studies

International

Introduces students to the Middle East and North Africa region

Subject specific skills

- knowledge of the ways in which politics and culture intersect in the Middle East.
 - knowledge of relevant theories from cultural studies, postcolonial studies, feminist studies, queer studies and anthropology (amongst others)
 - application of theories to analyse the relationship between politics and culture
- understanding of how race, gender, sexuality and class intersect and are constitutive of political processes and dynamics in the politics and International Relations of the Middle East.

Transferable skills

communication (verbal and written), analytical, time management, critical thinking

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Students are expected to spend 10 hours per week reading the core readings and preparing the relevant seminar questions for each week's seminar class. Students are expected to spend

around 32 hours researching and writing assessments.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A3

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
3000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)
Essay questions to be released in week 5			

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback via feedback forms and verbal feedback in person.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
- UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 3 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 4 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 4 of UPOA-M101 Undergraduate Politics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3

year)

- Year 3 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 3 of UPOA-M162 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods
- Year 4 of UPOA-M167 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 4 of UPOA-M16B Undergraduate Politics and International Studies (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)