

## Politics of the Contemporary Middle East (A003218)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2023-2024**

A (semester 2)

Dutch, English

Gent

lecture

**Lecturers in academic year 2023-2024**

Franke, Lisa

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Dayeh, Islam

LW21

co-lecturer

Markiewicz, Christopher

LW03

co-lecturer

Van Den Bossche, Gowaart

LW21

co-lecturer

**Offered in the following programmes in 2023-2024**

**crdts**

**offering**

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Arabic and Islamic Studies\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject China \(China Track\)\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject China \(UGent Track\)\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject India\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures\(main subject Japan\)](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in African Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in History](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Moral Sciences](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy](#)

5

A

[Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

**Teaching languages**

English, Dutch

**Keywords**

Politics, contemporaneity, area, power, colonialism, postcolonialism, tradition, modernity

**Position of the course**

The region of the so-called "Middle East" remains of paramount importance for global politics, because of geopolitical, economic, and military-strategic interests, the threat of terror and the call of jihadism and salafism, which extends far beyond the frontiers of the region. The region is a beacon of hope (expressed, for example, in the 'Arab Spring'), as well as a place where war, persistent conflict, economic malaise, oppression of women, authoritarianism, etc. appear endemic. This course sheds light on the structures and dynamics that determine the actual politics of the region.

**Contents**

Through interactive classes and the reading of a variety of sources students acquire knowledge of and insight in the primary political issues of the Middle East.

**Initial competences**

Basic knowledge of the history of the Middle East, acquired through the course "History of the Islamic world" or self-study.

**Final competences**

- 1 Knowledge of the primary contemporary political questions in the Middle East
- 2 Insight in the primary actors, structures and processes that are at the core of contemporary political issues in the Middle East
- 3 Insight in the position of the region of the Middle East in global politics and of individual countries within the Middle East

**Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

**Conditions for exam contract**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

**Teaching methods**

Lecture

**Extra information on the teaching methods**

Interactive classes

**Learning materials and price**

The tutor offers a reader with relevant texts and articles on Minerva. Apart from the reader there are also powerpoint presentations.

**References****Course content-related study coaching**

Directly in the class (interactive classes)  
Through Minerva  
Through office hours

**Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Oral assessment

**Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Oral assessment

**Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

**Extra information on the examination methods**

NPE: Active and constructive participation in the classes on the basis of literature and guiding questions.

PE: At the end of the semester the course is assessed through an oral exam with written preparation.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

NPE: 25%

PE: 75%

Students have to pass both NPE and PE assessments in order to pass the course as a whole.

**Facilities for Working Students**

Possibility to change the NPE part into an assignment.  
Possibility to move oral exam.  
Possibility to move feedback.