

ISLM90007 Contemporary Middle East & Central Asia

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	9 (Graduate/Postgraduate)
Dates & Locations:	2014, Parkville This subject commences in the following study period/s: February, Parkville - Taught on campus. Intensive subject. Please see the timetable for dates.
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 24 hours Total Time Commitment: Estimated total time commitment (including non-contact time): 120 hours
Prerequisites:	Admission into the fourth-year honours program or Postgraduate programs in the Arts Faculty. Admission into the Master of Islamic Studies.
Corequisites:	None.
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None.
Non Allowed Subjects:	None.
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
Coordinator:	Dr Kylie Baxter
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Subject Overview:	This subject focuses on the contemporary political landscape of the Middle East and Central Asia. It explores the interplay of international relations and domestic politics, especially in the wake of the war on terror. It traces the challenge of Islamism with reference to the Arab-Israeli conflict and implications of Iran's growing assertiveness in the Persian Gulf and Central Asia. Of particular interest is popular perceptions of the United States in the region, as well as the disconnect between the people and the political elite.
Learning Outcomes:	Students who successfully complete this subject should... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # have a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the political systems in the Middle East and Central Asia. # have a solid appreciation of the role of great powers in the region. # have a solid grasp of the geo-political issues facing the newly established states of Central Asia. # have an understanding of the interconnectedness of patterns of conflict in the Middle East and Central Asia. # have an understanding of Islamic political and social mechanisms in the Middle East and Central Asia.
Assessment:	A 5000- word research paper 80% (due at the end of the teaching period) and continuous seminar participation 20% (throughout the teaching period).

Prescribed Texts:	Kylie Baxter and Shahram Akbarzadeh, <i>US Foreign Policy in the Middle East</i> . London: Routledge, 2008 Shahram Akbarzadeh, <i>Uzbekistan and the United States: Authoritarianism, Islamism and Washington's Security Agenda</i> . London: Zed books, 2005
Recommended Texts:	# Shahram Akbarzadeh and Benjamin MacQueen: <i>Islam and Human Rights</i> (London: Routledge, 2008) # Olivier Roy, <i>The Failure of Political Islam</i> (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994).
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	Students who successfully complete this subject should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # Develop a deeper understanding of the dynamics of the political systems in the Middle East and Central Asia # Gain a solid appreciation of the role of great powers in the region # Demonstrate a solid grasp of the geo-political issues facing the newly established states of Central Asia # Improve oral skills by participating in seminars. # Develop improved writing skills by producing a well-documented take-home exam paper.
Notes:	None.
Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations:	100 Point Master of International Relations 100 Point Master of Islamic Studies 100 Point Master of Journalism 150 Point Master of Islamic Studies 150 Point Master of Journalism 150 point program - full time over 18 months 200 Point Master of International Relations 200 Point Master of Islamic Studies 200 Point Master of Journalism 200 point program - full time over 18 months 200 point program - full time over 24 months Arabic Islamic Studies Islamic Studies