

Centre for West Asian Studies

School of international Studies

PhD Programme

Course No: WA607N

Course Title: West Asia in World Affairs

Credits: Two

Course Teacher: Prof. Bansidhar Pradhan

Instruction Method: Lectures/Seminars/Tutorials

Course Duration: One Semester (Monsoon Semester)

Contact Hours: Two Per Week

Evaluation Method: Sessional Work and Semester Examination

Course Content

Objective: West Asia remained at the centre stage of World Politics much before the First World War began. This was due to the historical evolution of the region, its strategic location and the involvement of great powers from time to time. During the Ottoman era, the region became a factor in European Colonial rivalry leading to the penetration of key European powers into the region and ultimately their control over it. West Asia's involvement in the First World War decisively shaped the future trajectory of the region and its interaction with the World in the subsequent periods. During the divisive, bi-polar politics of the Cold War era, the resource-rich West Asian region became a theatre of the geopolitical as well as ideological competition/rivalry between the two Super Powers, the US and the Soviet Union. With the end of the Cold War era, one witnessed an entirely different pattern of engagement between West Asia and the World, dominated by a uni-polar International Order for many years. Students will be exposed to the complex and changing dynamics of the interaction between the West Asian region and the World through these three different phases revolving around many critical issues/events having a definite bearing on the conduct International Relations at large.

Learning Outcome: After completing this course, students would be equipped with the necessary research skills to critically analyse the varying pattern of the region's interaction with the World from the perspective of the Global South and thereby comprehend any future event/crisis in West Asia taking into account the regional dynamics and the existing power structure at the international level. Such a strong foundation would enable the students to expand their domain knowledge base and motivate them to venture into cutting edge /innovative research from a wider international perspective.

Section A: The Region, its History and Interactions with World Powers

Contextualizing the West Asian Region in World Affairs. Historical background and Evolution. Interaction with the West. European colonial rivalry and the Ottoman Empire. World War I and West Asia. Arab Nationalism. Zionism. Palestine Question. Post-World War I settlement. Inter-war period and Imperial construction of West Asia.

Section B: West Asia during the Cold War Era

Burden of History and the Legacy of Imperialism. Changing pattern of West Asia's interactions with the post-World War II international system. Cold War dynamics and regional responses. Arab-Israeli conflict and major powers. Turmoil in the Gulf. Palestine Question during Cold War.

Section C: West Asia since the end of the Cold War

The New World Order and its implications. Oslo Peace Process. War on Terror. West Asia and International Relations. Issue of nuclear proliferation, Iran and Israel. changing pattern of US involvement. Russia's reassertion. China's penetration. Abraham Accords.

SELECT READINGS

Ahmad. Aijaz. *Iraq, Afghanistan and the Imperialism of Our Time* (New Delhi: Left World Books, 2004).

Al-Azmeh, Aziz and Fokas Effie (ed), *Islam in Europe: Diversity, Identity and Influence* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

Allan, David and Pijpers, Alfred (ed), *European Foreign Policy-making and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1984).

Amin, Samir and Kenz, Ali El, *Europe and the Arab World* (London: Zed Books, 2005).

Antonius, George. *The Arab Awakening: The Story of the Arab National Movement* (London: Capricorn Books, 1955).

Armajani, Yahya and Ricks, T. M. *Middle East: Past and Present* (New Jersey:Prentice Hall College, 1986).

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Braun, Aurel. *The Middle East in Global Strategy*, (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1987)

Chomsky, Noam, *World Orders: Old and New* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1996).

Dabashi, Hamid. *The Arab Spring: The End of Postcolonialism* (London and New York: Zed Books, 2012).

Dalacoura, Katerina, *Islamist Terrorism and Democracy in the Middle East* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011).

Dietl, Gulshan, *The Dulles Era: America Enters West Asia* (New Delhi: Lancer International Books, 1986).

DiMauro, Danilo, *The UN and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: American Hegemony and UN Intervention since 1947*(London and New York: Routledge, 2017) .

Doran, Christopher, *Making the World Safe for Capitalism: How Iraq Threatened the US Economic Empire and Had to be Destroyed* (London: Plato Press, 2012).

Esposito, John *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992).

Fouskas. Vassilis K. and Bulent, Gokay, *The New American Imperialism: Bush's War on Terror and Blood for Oil*, (Westport, CT: Prager, 2005).

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Issawi, Charles Philip, *Oil, the Middle East and the World* (Washington, DC: Sage, 1972).

Khalidi, Rashid, *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East* (Boston, NY: Beacon Press, 2005).

Khan, Saira, *Iran and Nuclear Weapons: Protracted Conflict and Proliferation* (New York and London: Routledge, 2010).

Koshy, Ninan, *The War on Terror: Reordering the World* (New Delhi: Left Word Books, 2003).

Kumaraswamy, P. R. (ed.), *China and the Middle East: The Quest for Influence*, (New Delhi: Sage, 1999).

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Yodfat, Aryeh and Abir, Mordechai A., *In the Direction of the Gulf: Soviet Union and the Middle East* (London: Taylor and Francis, 1977).