

# Middle East Relations

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Last Updated: Wed, 01/07/2026

**Course prefix:** INTA

**Course number:** 3260

**Section:** A

**CRN**

30416

**Instructor first name:** Rana

**Instructor last name:** Shabb

**Semester:** Spring

**Academic year:** 2026

**Course description:**

This course is an in-depth introduction to the study of the politics of the Middle East. The course is divided into several thematic interrelated parts. First, an overview of International Relations theory will guide the analysis and approaches used to understand and analyze various dynamics in the Middle East. After understanding the theoretical underpinnings, the class will be divided into several general themes that are important to understand the Middle East's current affairs, priorities, and issues inclusive of (1) the emergence of the state system, (2) the role of non-state actors, (3) the evolution of governance and revolutions, (4) Arab-Israeli relations, (5) the Israeli Palestinian conflict, amongst other issues. Further, discussions in International Relations theory will help us understand the region and its place in the global political system. Based on the historical and theoretical background provided, students will emerge with tools and approaches to analyze social and political issues in the Middle East, grasp the nature of the interplay between international, regional, and local dynamics to explain Middle East politics, and understand the implications of the pressing issues in the Middle East for the global political system.

**Academic honesty/integrity statement:**

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

**Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):**

**This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.**

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

**This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:**

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

**Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:**

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

**Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:**

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion