

Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.

The American University of Rome
International Relations and Global Politics Program

Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate

Course Title:	Conflict and Peace in the Mediterranean
Course Number:	POL 314
Credits & hours:	3 credits – 3 hours
Pre/Co-Requisites:	HST 201 or HST 202 or a lower level Political Science or International Affairs course and Junior or Senior standing or permission of the instructor

Course description

This course addresses recent political and social changes in the Mediterranean area, with a focus on the eruption of political conflicts and the causes behind them. In recent years, a number of Mediterranean states have experienced a struggle between secular and religious forces over political power, and we will look at this struggle via a series of case studies from the three main regions of the Mediterranean area: the Middle East, North Africa, and Southern Europe. While stressing a comparative perspective, regional variations will be addressed throughout the course. Rather than proposing 'the Mediterranean' as an essential unit, it will be discussed how different discourses (political and cultural) are part of the creation of the Mediterranean as an 'area'. For example, in the context of the Barcelona process, the Mediterranean area is imagined as a security zone and as a European area of policy making. The approach is multi-disciplinary, combining political science, sociology, history and anthropology.

Required Textbook (subject to change)

There will be no core textbook for this course. A detailed list of assigned readings is available later throughout the topical schedule of the course. Most readings can be accessed online through the AUR library website. If not, the instructor will circulate the assigned texts in due course.

Course Learning Objectives

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. apply critical thinking and analysis to selected case studies problems posed in various Mediterranean settings;
2. reflect in a theoretically informed way on present political conflicts within the Mediterranean area;
3. discuss different approaches to 'the Mediterranean' as an area of research and scholarly articles about Mediterranean issues, institutions and initiatives;
4. describe and explain parallels and contrasts within the Mediterranean area;
5. develop and present convincing written and oral arguments about Mediterranean problems and issues;
6. develop and demonstrate collegiate level written and oral communication skills, by negotiating, presenting and explaining orally and in writing positions and presentations to the class.

Course Learning Activities

- Country Briefings - Students will prepare and deliver a 20 minute briefing to the class about a country in the Mediterranean. The briefings will cover the politics, economies, geography and societies of the country and the country's history since WWII with special emphasis on ongoing conflicts internal and external and conflicts which have been settled or resolved. Students should also report on their country's involvement in greater Mediterranean institutions and initiatives.
- News Presentations - Each student will be assigned specific class in which the student will be asked to present comprehensive brief all the major news related to countries in the Mediterranean with special emphasis on events in the Libyan situation. The news briefings will be 5-10 minutes and must include at least three items.
- Article Presentations - Each student will present two relevant academic or professional journal articles concerning current Mediterranean issues. The articles must be found in peer reviewed academic journals or professional sources and be presented to the Professor in hard copy for approval in advance as noted in the syllabus. Be prepared to discuss you findings. Submit article and briefing to the Professor after the presentation.
- Interest Based Negotiations & Exercises - Students will be assigned readings and cases for in class interest based negotiation training. The training will serve as the basis for the Conflict Resolution Negotiation Exercise later in the class. Attendance is mandatory for all three sessions.
- Conflict Resolution Negotiation Exercise - The students will conduct negotiations with the goal of achieving a settlement to the ongoing Libya crisis. Some of the role players may include Libya, the Interim Transition Group, NATO, Gulf Cooperation Council, the Contact Group, the EU, the U.S., Russia, Germany, France, Arab League and the African Union. Students will prepare position papers and negotiating positions and other materials required to support the negotiations in advance of the negotiations. The class will be expected to draw what was learned in the Interest Based negotiation training and exercises when the preparing and executing of the Libyan conflict resolution negotiations.

Assessment tools

Class Participation	10%
Group work	10%
Press dossiers and class debate on them	10%
Weekly essay questions and final exam (3, 10% each)	30%
Research paper	30%
Paper presentation	10%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Readings
Week 1	Introduction to the course and reading of the syllabus	
	<p>The Mediterranean: Just a Sea? What do we mean by 'Mediterranean region'? What are the key turning points in modern history of the Euro-Mediterranean area?</p>	<p>European Commission, 'The Mediterranean Region' (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/biogeog_regions/mediterranean/index_en.htm)</p> <p>Maps provided by the instructor</p>
Week 2	<p>Survey of the 20th Century in the Mediterranean Imperialism and decolonization The Israeli-Palestinian question Cold War Wars in former Yugoslavia European integration</p>	<p>Roby C. Barrett, <i>The Greater Middle East and the Cold War: US Foreign Policy under Eisenhower and Kennedy</i> (London: I.B. Tauris, 2007), 10–39 John R. Lampe, <i>Balkans into Southeastern Europe: A Century of War and Transition</i> (New York: Palgrave, 2014), 260–308</p>
Week 3	<p>The Mediterranean after the Cold War: A Clash of Civilizations? What are the main security issues of the Mediterranean area following the end of the Cold War? How can we explain the rise of radical Islamist terrorist organizations like al Qaeda and Isis? What are the main motivations behind international terrorism—political conflicts, religious views, cultural differences, economic interests,...?</p>	<p>Samuel P. Huntington, 'The Clash of Civilizations?', <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, Summer 1993, 22–49 Lydia Wilson, 'Understanding the Appeal of Isis', <i>New England Journal of Public Policy</i>, 29:1 (2017), 1–10 Ayşenur Sönmez Kara, 'ISIS and the Challenge of Interpreting Islam: Text, Context, and Islam-in-Modernity', <i>American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences</i>, 34:1 (2017), 162–165 Daniel Byman, 'Isis Goes Global', <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 95:2 (2016), 76–85</p>
Week 4	<p>Military Crises, Political Changes and Humanitarian Emergencies What are the main armed conflicts in the Middle East in the last 20 years? How have the political settlements of the region changed in the meantime? How is the current refugee crisis related to Middle Eastern military and political developments?</p>	<p>Ahmed Ibrahim Abushouk, 'The Arab Spring: A Fourth Wave of Democratization?', <i>DOMES</i>, 25:1 (2016), 52–69 Ted G. Carpenter, 'Tangled Web: The Syrian Civil War and Its Implications', <i>Mediterranean Quarterly</i>, 24:1 (2013), 1–11 François Heisbourg, 'The Strategic Implications of the Syrian Refugee Crisis', <i>Survival</i>, 57:6 (2015), 7–20</p>
Week 5	PAPER PRESENTATIONS	

ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please verify with the Dean's Office for the list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will not be penalized but will be counted as an absence. Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

*Note: No instructor may penalize a student more than one-third of a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		