

2010 IARU GLOBAL SUMMER PROGRAM – **DRAFT** COURSE PROFILE

<b>Host University</b>	University of California Berkeley, Center for Middle Eastern Studies-CMES
<b>Course Title</b>	"Media, Culture and Society: The Middle East and the Global Context"
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Academic coordinator: Dr. Francesca Giovannini Principal faculty: Profs. Larry Michalak, Zaniel Zoghbi and Tara Graham
<b>Students must arrive by:</b>	July 25,2010
<b>First day of classes</b>	July 26,2010
<b>Last day of classes</b>	August 13, 2010
<b>Further information (website URL)</b>	Center for Middle Eastern Studies: <a href="http://cmes.berkeley.edu/">http://cmes.berkeley.edu/</a>
<b>Course Description (approx 400 words)</b>	
<i>This course description will appear on the IARU Website</i>	
<p>This course is an in-depth and comprehensive investigation of the social complexity and cultural richness of Middle Eastern societies. It adopts an inter-disciplinary approach (ranging from sociological to anthropological, ethnographic and political studies), in order to challenge and broaden the study of the Middle East, way beyond the narrow analysis of its intractable conflicts and political difficulties. Students will explore the most recent social and cultural trends that are slowly changing the collective imagination of the region according to three main levels of analysis. Firstly we will analyze how the social configuration of families, clans and communities around the Middle East has changed across time and space. We will also explore if and how the ongoing demographic transition and the notable presence of large youth cohorts will in fact compel changes in the semi-static political architecture of the Arab countries. Secondly we will study the relationship between “the state” and “its people” by calling into question the meaning of the concept of “citizenship” as used in western contexts. We will ask, for example, whether some of the features, proper of the “Arab State” make it resilient to any democratization attempt.</p> <p>Finally, we will analyze the regional growing (although silent) influence in the international arena. We will investigate, among others, the role of Arab media in shaping new understanding of world politics and the rising economic power of Islamic Banking and Sovereign Wealth Funds against the financial collapse of major western corporations. Some of the topics covered by the course are, among others:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Family, patriarchal societies and community values: the relationship between men, women and youth in the Middle East</li> <li>2. Youth bulge and national political stability: what future for the Arab governments?</li> <li>3. The Arab State: its structure, its legitimacy and its power</li> <li>4. Migration from and migration to: Emerging informal mechanisms of governance among Arab Countries to manage migration flows</li> <li>5. Citizenship, homeland, ethnicity and identity: the complex interaction between people and, polities and</li> </ol>	

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representative institutions in the Middle East

6. The Arab Media and world politics: how are the Arab media shaping our understanding of global phenomena

7. Islam, Islamist and Fundamentalist organizations: differences, approaches and perspectives around modernity

8. The Arab and Islamic architecture: stories from Cairo, Mecca, Beirut and Jerusalem

### **Delivery method/course structure and contact hours**

*Please be as clear as possible about the style of course delivery (lectures, tutorials etc.), the course structure and contact hours*

We expect students to be in class from Monday to Thursday from 9.00-12.00 and from 2.30-5.00 p.m.

On Friday class runs from 9-12 only.

Lectures will generally take place in the morning, while group work and tutorials will be scheduled in the afternoon; however this is subjected to the availability of our faculty.

Please note: attendance is mandatory for all sessions. The academic coordinator will be available for office hours throughout the three weeks of course. Students will also be assigned a Graduate Student Instructor who will guide them through the development of the assignments.

### **Assessment details**

*Please provide as much detail as possible about the assessment expectations of the course (eg. 2 x 2000 word essay, each worth 25% of final award, 1x oral presentation, worth 20%, 1x Poster (20%) and participation in class activities/discussion (10% ).*

2 literature review at the end of the first two weeks (usually 5/6 double-spaced page each) 15% each = 30%

1 final paper (the question is provided at the end of the first week, 10 double-spaced page) = 30%

1 group-oral presentation = 40%

Please note: This is the most important assignment.

Students will be divided into groups and ask to apply what they have learned to a specific case-study. They will be asked to conduct a thorough analysis of main root and immediate causes, potential consequences and solutions of the issue at hand. We prioritize this assignment over the others because it encourages students to think collectively around a specific issue and to capitalize on each other's knowledge and expertise to identify its viable solutions.

### **Pre-requisites /Target audience**

*Please be as explicit about the expectations you would have of students participating in this course*

We are looking for students who already possess a fairly solid background on the Middle East (political, social, economic features together with the history of main countries) and are interested in further consolidating their regional knowledge by exploring cutting edge and emerging issues in the region. It is a very demanding, interactive, challenging and innovative class and we hope to find students motivated to

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work hard around the issues we aim at exploring.

This course is NOT for beginners in Middle Eastern studies for it is based (and built) on assumed pre-existing knowledge of main historical events and socio-political features of the region.

Please note: this class is also NOT appropriate for students coming to Berkeley to improve their command of the English language.

**Accommodation description: Residential halls or independent lodging**

**Further information  
(website URL)**

*If information will be made available on a website external to the IARU website, please include it here.*

<http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/>

**COSTS**

*Please indicate costs in local currency*

**Notes**

**Tuition cost**

\$1965

**Accommodation costs**

Est. \$1385

**Field-trip costs (if applicable)**

**Estimated visa cost**

\$300

**Estimated text book costs**

\$100

**Estimated living expenses (total for course)**

\$300

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