



CIEE Study Abroad

Course title:	America and the Arabs
Course number:	MEST 3002 CIEE
Programs offering course:	CIEE Summer Online
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Summer 2020

Course Description

In this course, students will critically examine the complex relationship between the United States and the Arab World during the past 150 years, with particular focus on relations during the past decade.

This course is divided into two sections. In the first section, students will study the history of the relationship between America and the Arab World. Analysis begins from the end of the 19th century and chronologically examines the economic, political, and social relations, highlighting the role of colonialism, the two World Wars, the creation of Israel, the Cold War, the war in Iraq, 9/11, foreign policy during the George W. Bush and Obama presidencies. In the second half of the course, specific topics will be our focus, such as US foreign policy and its interests in the region, including oil, Israel, foreign aid, and democracy promotion. The course ends with in-depth analysis of the aftermath of the “Arab Spring” and recent events including the refugee emergencies, America’s response to ISIS, and political crisis and war in Syria, Libya, and Yemen. The interdisciplinary course relies on a combination of analysis and critical inquiry in the fields of history, politics, international relations, and sociology.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Assemble a foundational understanding of the historical, political, economic, military and cultural context of relations between America and the Arab World
- Evaluate the results of the U.S. policies in the Middle East
- Analyze current events in the Arab World with an understanding of the historical and political context
- Expand on the disapproving public opinion of the U.S. in the Arab and Muslim world

Course Prerequisites

Prior knowledge and understanding of the politics of the Middle East. However, students without a background in Modern Middle East History and International Relations are welcome to take the course but will be required to do extra reading in the first few weeks so they can keep up with the class.

**Students are responsible for having course approval conversations about how their prior courses meet pre-requisites with their home school advisors.*



CIEE Summer Online courses will involve asynchronous instruction. Instructors will apply theory and deliver the learning objectives using a rich array of online teaching methods and resources from CIEE host countries and communities. Full details, including dates and deadlines for assessments, will be provided in the final syllabus shortly before online learning begins.