BACKGROUND OF THE COURSE

54 contact hours

Historically, the region known to us as Middle East, has set the pulse of international western politics in many ways. Ancient and modern great powers have struggled over centuries for the dominance of these territories, identifying them as essential for their interests. In some cases, they have also influenced great powers own domestic politics. Both local and foreign rulers had fought behind different banners: religion, politics, ethnicity, access to strategic resources, and even symbolism.

The main purpose of this course is to get a glimpse at the variable factors of the region which lead us into the current delicate situation. Studying power configuration in the Middle East will help us understand the main actors behavior, interests and how they relate to one another.

Cradle of Western culture and bridge towards the East, the events which have been taking place here haven’t gone overlooked by the rest of the world. As shown in recent crisis, an unstable Middle East has consequences all over the world, especially in Europe, but also in countries like the United States and Russia. Even more, new actors as China, India or South Korea, who hadn’t taken an interest in the region before, are now getting involved in economic and demographic processes.