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Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies (The Middle East & Central Asia)

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The Australian National University (ANU) is situated in the heart of Canberra, the capital city of Australia. The University campus is spacious (approximately 145 hectares) and conveniently situated adjacent to the central business district. It is accessible by public transport and an excellent city-wide bicycle path system. Canberra, a planned city of around 360,000 people, is surrounded by natural bush-land. It is only a few hours away from both the mountains and the coast and three hours driving distance from Sydney.

The University was founded as a research university in 1946, and undergraduate teaching was added in 1960. The unique structure of ANU makes it the most research-intensive university in Australia. ANU is comprised of seven Colleges, made up of the research and education Centres, Schools and Faculties that contribute to the various broad disciplines. The ANU Colleges link research and teaching at undergraduate, postgraduate and higher degree levels, and provide the base to achieve research at the highest standards of excellence, educational programs informed by current research and active researchers that offer students a memorable learning experience.

Internationally recognised as an outstanding university, ANU is a national centre of excellence in both research and teaching, with world-class computing, library and research facilities. The Australian National University has reaffirmed its position as Australia’s top university and 24th in the world (latest QS World University Rankings for 2018/19) and it is among the great research and educational institutions of the world.

The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies (The Middle East & Central Asia)

The Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies (Middle East & Central Asia) - CAIS - forms part of the College of Arts & Social Sciences at the Australian National University and is Australia’s premier location for studies in this field. It has a high international standing and links with its major counterparts in the Arab and Muslim world, as well as in North America and Europe.

The Centre integrates the study of Middle Eastern and Central Asian contemporary politics, international relations, history, culture, political economy, and the role of Islam within the broader framework of the changing global order.
The Centre fosters the study of the region’s most relevant languages of Arabic, Persian and Turkish. It also focuses on issues pertinent to Australia’s interests in, and the development of its cultural, commercial, scientific and industrial ties with, its areas of coverage.

CAIS is a multi-disciplinary teaching and research Centre, with cognitive links with ANU College of Asia & the Pacific, as well as professional association with other ANU Colleges. Its activities are guided by a twenty-one member Advisory Board and a group of international advisers, made up of prominent scholars in Arabic, Islamic, Middle Eastern and Central Asian studies.

The Centre draws on the support of a rich academic community at the ANU to bolster its coverage and activities. Throughout the year students are encouraged to attend special lectures and events by leaders in the academic, political and business communities. The Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies is situated in a new and contemporary-styled building which reflects the architecture of the region. Here, students have access to the leading academics in the field, a specialised library and an audio-visually enhanced lecture theatre.

The Centre offers graduate programs, undergraduate courses and postgraduate supervision (PhD and MPhil) on a wide range of topics, including the contemporary politics, modern history and political economy of the Middle East and Central Asia, as well as Islamic Studies, Arabic, Persian and Turkish languages, literature and culture.

**The primary objectives of CAIS:**

- to promote Arab, Islamic, Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies by providing quality educational programs at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels;
- to conduct research of its own, and to coordinate broader research projects with Australian and international academics and specialists;
- to provide a pool of expertise for public and private sectors;
- to strengthen Australia’s ties with the Middle Eastern and Central Asian domains through educational links, and engagement with government, business, diplomatic missions and the broader community.
ADVISORY BOARD

Centre Patron

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum
Deputy Ruler of Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Advisory Board

Professor The Hon Gareth Evans AC AO QC ANU Chancellor
Professor Brian Schmidt AC FAA FRS ANU Vice-Chancellor (ex-officio)
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Mr Tom Harley Senior Advisor to the Executive Leadership Committee, The Dow Chemical Company
Professor Adam Shoemaker Vice-Chancellor, Southern Cross University
Mr Richard Gibbs Principal and Senior Consultant, Wye Valley Advisory Services
Professor Amin Saikal AM Director, Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies, ANU (ex-officio)
Amin Saikal is an ANU Distinguished Professor of Political Science, a Public Policy Fellow, and Director of CAIS. He has been a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in International Relations, and Visiting Fellow to Princeton University, Cambridge University; the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex; and Indiana University. He is an awardee of the Order of Australia (AM), and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia. He is the author of numerous works on the Middle East, Central Asia, political Islam, and Russia. His recent books include: Iran Rising (Princeton University Press, 2019); Iran at the Crossroads (Polity Press, 2016); Zone of Crisis: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq (I.B. Tauris, 2014); and Modern Afghanistan: A History of Struggle and Survival (I.B. Tauris, 2012); The Rise and Fall of the Shah: Iran – from Autocracy to Religious Rule (Princeton University Press, 2009); Islam and the West: Conflict or Cooperation? (Palgrave Macmillan); and editor of The Arab World and Iran: A Turbulent Region in Transition (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016); Weak States, Strong Societies: Power and Authority in the New World Order (I. B. Tauris, 2016); co-editor of Afghanistan and its Neighbours after the NATO Withdrawal (Lexington Press, 2016). He has also published numerous articles in major international journals, book chapters in edited volumes, feature articles in major dailies, including The New York Times, The International Herald Tribune, The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, The Sydney Morning Herald, and The Age, and he is a frequent commentator on Australian and international TV and radio.

James Piscatori is currently Deputy Director and Professor at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies. Prior to holding this position he was Chair of the School of Government and International Affairs at Durham University, a Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford; and Professor of International Politics in the University of Aberystwyth. He has held professorial appointments in the Department of International Politics, the University of Wales, and the School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University. In addition, he has been a Research Fellow at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, London, and Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, New York. He has served on several international collaborative committees such as the Committee for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies of the Social Science Reseach Council, and was co-editor of a series on Muslim Politics for Princeton University Press. Prof. Piscatori is the author of Islam in a World of Nation-States and co-author (with Dale F. Eckelman) of Muslim Politics. He is the editor of Islam in the Political Process and co-editor of Muslim Travellers: Pilgrimage, Migration, and the Religious Imagination. Islam, Islamists, and The Electoral Principle appeared in a series of papers for the International Institute for the Study of the Modern Muslim World in Leiden. He has also co-edited Monarchies and Nations: Globalization and Identity in the Arab States of the Gulf. Prof. Piscatori is currently researching the development of pan-Islamic thought and movements.

Zahra Taheri
Lecturer, Convenor of the Persian Program & Undergraduate Advisor

Zahra Taheri holds the position of lecturer in Persian Language and Iranian Studies at CAIS. Dr Taheri received her BA in Persian language and literature from Pahlavi/ Shiraz University, Iran, her MA in Persian literature from The Research Institute of Persian Culture in Tehran, and her PhD in Near Eastern Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. She has taught Persian language and literature at UC Berkeley and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Japan.


Huda Al-Tamimi
Lecturer, Convenor of the Arabic Program & Postgraduate Advisor

Huda Al-Tamimi has a PhD from ANU. Her research was on the political and social mobilisation for Iraqi women members of parliament post-2003. Dr Al-Tamimi has an MPhil and a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from Massey University, NZ, a BA in English Literature from Mustansiriyah University, Baghdad and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching from Trinity College, Dublin.

At CAIS, Dr Al-Tamimi has used her specialist skills to teach courses in Arabic linguistics and literature. In 2017, she received the 'Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Education'.

Dr Al-Tamimi has published two books: One forthcoming entitled *Women and Democracy in Iraq: Gender, Politics and Nation-Building* (I.B. Tauris); and *Arabic Literature through History*, (Dar Al Saqi Publishers), Beirut, 2015, pp 400. She has also published her work in the following journals: *Contemporary Arab Affairs, Journal of Islam and the Contemporary World, and Arab World English*.

Raihan Ismail
Lecturer & Undergraduate Advisor

Raihan Ismail is a lecturer at CAIS. In 2018 she received an ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award to continue her work on the transnational networks of the ultra-orthodox Salafi Sunni Muslim clerics.

Dr Ismail was awarded the prestigious 2018 Max Crawford Medal for her outstanding scholarly achievement in the humanities.

Dr Ismail’s research interests include Islam, Political Islam, Sunni-Shia relations, women in Islam and Middle East politics. She has presented at the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University, examining Saudi clerics and Sunni-Shia relations in the Middle East. She is a regular commentator in Australian and international media on Islam and Middle East politics.

Dr Ismail is the author of *Saudi Clerics and Shia Islam*, (Oxford University Press, 2016). She is currently working on a book project on the Transnational Networks of Salafi Clerics in Egypt, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia (to be published by Oxford).

She has a Bachelors Degree in Political Science, with a minor in Islamic Studies, a Masters in International Relations from the International Islamic University of Malaysia, and a PhD from ANU.
Jessie Moritz
Lecturer

Jessie Moritz was appointed to CAIS following a postdoctoral research fellowship with the Transregional Institute, Princeton University, where she focused on post-2014 economic reform programs in the GCC and lectured on political and economic development of the Middle East. She received her PhD from ANU in 2017. Her dissertation, "Slick Operators: Revisiting Rentier State Theory for the Modern Arab States of the Gulf", received the 2017 Association for Gulf and Peninsula Studies Dissertation Award. She holds a BA with first class honours in International Relations from ANU.

Dr Moritz has held a number of visiting fellow position. In March 2018, she was a Visiting Fellow at the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh, in 2013 she was a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter and from 2013-2014 she joined the Gulf Studies Program at Qatar University as a Graduate Fellow.

Her current research focuses on the political economy of oil in the Arabian Peninsula, with a particular focus on state-society relations and diversification strategies.

France Meyer
Literary Translator
Lecturer in Arabic Program

France Meyer is a Literary Translator and an Associate Lecturer in CAIS Arabic program. Ms Meyer has a BA and an MA in Arabic Language, Literature and Civilisation from the Aix-Marseille University, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, France. She is a past recipient of the Institut Français du Proche-Orient (IFPO) Arabic studies scholarship.

France has translated 18 works of Modern Arabic Literature into French, seven of them by Egyptian writer and Nobel Prize of Literature Laureate Naguib Mahfouz. Ms Meyer has worked in collaboration with the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris and is a translator and reviewer of Modern Arabic literature for several major French Publishing Houses. Her latest translations include Ahmed Saadawi’s Frankenstein à Bagdad (Piranha - 2016) Naguib Mahfouz’s Wedding Song (Les Noces du Palais - 2015 Abdul Rahman Mount Cities of Salt (Villes de Sel - 2013).

Leila Kouatly
Associate Lecturer in Arabic Program

Leila Kouatly is an Associate Lecturer in the Arabic program. Ms Kouatly holds a Bachelor of Information Management from the University of Canberra and is currently completing a Master of Teaching (Languages Other Than English). She has been involved in the teaching of CAIS Arabic courses since 2011. More recently, she held the role of Educational Developer for the CAIS Online Languages project, working on the design and development of the CAIS courses for online delivery. As part of this project, Leila has worked on two levels of Introductory and Intermediate Arabic courses as well as the Arab Current Affairs and Media course. Her interests include Second Language Acquisition and Technology-Enhanced Language Learning.

Leila is working with France Meyer to publish an Introductory Arabic e-Text based on the online course that they designed and implemented through CAIS. They have recently been awarded an ANU eTEXT Grant to work on this publication.

Stephanie Wright
Associate Lecturer

Stephanie Wright is an Associate Lecturer in Middle Eastern Studies at CAIS. She graduated from the ANU with a Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) in History in 2013, and received a University Medal for her honours thesis, “From ‘Mahometan Tyranny’ to ‘Oriental Despotism’: The Secularisation of Islam in French Political Thought, 1610-1798.” In 2016, she was awarded a Master of Arts in Religious Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara, for her research on the cosmology and political economy of the Nation of Islam in the 1960s. Her previous publications include ‘Reproducing Fear: Islamophobia in the United States’ (in Fear of Muslims, ed. Douglas Pratt and Rachel Woodlock, Springer, 2016), the introduction to Weak States, Strong Societies (I. B. Tauris, 2016), co-authored with Amin Saikal, and two articles on ‘Abd al-Rahman al-Kawakibi’ and ‘Islam in Australia’ for the Encyclopedia of Islam (Facts on File, 2017). She is currently completing her PhD on the underworlds of port cities in late nineteenth-century Lebanon.
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies

The Bachelor of Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies at ANU takes you through the topics, debates and developments in the Middle East and Central Asia. You will study the socio-cultural, political, historical and economic structures of these regions and develop comprehensive knowledge of their relationship to global trends. In order to further engage with the history and culture of the regions, you will have the opportunity to study a Middle Eastern or Central Asian language. You can also choose from a wide range of electives to complement your studies.

Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies students have the opportunity to:

- Discern socio-cultural, historical and political structures of the Middle East and Central Asia
- Define and analyse the global implications of events and developments in the Middle East and Central Asia
- Understand the role of economic modernisation and themes relevant to regional security
- Communicate in a Middle Eastern or Central Asian language.

The Middle East and Central Asia is a significantly important region in world finance, trade, tourism, and politics. In the Bachelor of Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies you will learn the complexities of the region while being able to communicate effectively in a relevant language.

Middle East and Central Asian Studies (MECAS) Major or Minor

A MECAS major requires the completion of 48 units of CAIS courses (see pages 18 & 19). A MECAS minor requires 24 units of these courses. CAIS undergraduate courses are frequently chosen as part of an Arts or Asian Studies Degree. The politics courses can be included in a Political Science major, the European Studies Program, and the Development Studies and History majors and as a minor or electives in the International Relations Program. Depending on the rules of their program, students from other Colleges may be able to include the CAIS courses as their electives.

MECAS (Hons)

Plan: HMECA CRICOS: 082705K

A Bachelor degree with Honours is the most effective means of qualifying for higher degrees (PhD or MPhil) in the future. The MECAS Honours program can be taken in Arabic language, Persian language, or in a non-language stream (with a focus on a social science such as political science, history, international relations. It can be taken in a BMECAS, BA or PhB degree. It is normally only available full-time and starting at the beginning of First Semester. It is an intensive program, requiring the completion of 24 units of course work, normally in the first semester, and 24 units for a thesis of up to 20,000 words, normally with the topic refined in the first semester and then all or most research and writing conducted in second semester.

Admission Criteria

MECAS Hons

The entry requirement is a MECAS major or a major in a cognate discipline, with a weighted average mark of 70% or higher across 36 units of latter year courses. Applicants will also need the written agreement of a supervisor for the thesis.

Flexible Vertical Double Degrees (FVDD)

In a FVDD program, you can combine a Bachelor degree and a Master degree. Opt-in to your FVDD program straight after you enrol in your Bachelor degree, or up until you have completed 72 units of study. [Read more: www.anu.edu.au/study/study-options/vertical-double-degrees]
“I was first attracted to studying at ANU because of its Bachelor of Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies and the opportunity to study Arabic. I have always been fascinated in the Middle East and sought the opportunity to develop my knowledge on the region, its languages and its culture. Ultimately, I am driven to study Arabic as I hope to travel extensively in the Middle East and possibly one day work in the region.”

S A R A H

Bachelor of Middle Eastern & Central Asian Studies/Bachelor of Laws
The aim of these programs is to provide quality and coherent graduate education in Middle Eastern, Central Asian and Islamic Studies. The programs are designed for students who seek academic preparation for a career in a professional area requiring a solid understanding of the Middle East, Central Asia and Islam, whether in diplomacy, the public service, teaching, journalism or business.

Graduate Coursework

Master of Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies (MMECAS)
CRICOS 049043G

The Master of Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies is designed for students who want to get a broad education in Middle East and Central Asian Studies. The program consists of 96 units of coursework. Students will choose a maximum of sixteen courses (with a value of 6 units each) and can elect to include a maximum of two 6 unit courses from Arabic, Persian or Turkish. Applicants may be eligible for credit (up to 48 units) for prior study. Please refer to the diagram on page 13.

Program Requirements

This program has a duration of two years but applicants may be eligible for credit for prior learning.

The degree takes two years to complete if the applicant has no cognate qualifications. A two year program requires the completion of 96 units, or 16 courses, of which four can be substituted for a thesis.

Applicants with a Bachelor Degree or Graduate Certificate in a cognate discipline may be eligible for 24 units (1 semester) of credit.

Applicants with a Graduate Diploma or Honours in a cognate discipline may be eligible for 48 units (1 year) of credit.

Cognate disciplines

- Politics, including political science, international relations, political economy, security studies, strategic studies; sociology; modern history; religious studies/Islamic studies;
- Other social sciences and humanities disciplines and fields where there is significant coverage of a relevant aspect of Middle Eastern, Central Asian or Islamic Studies and where similar approaches and methodologies are used;
- And modern languages relating to the Middle East and/or Central Asia region such as Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Russian or French.
Enrolment Dates

Admission to the degree is possible in either first or second semester.

Part-time enrolment is available for all programs offered by CAIS.

Research Degrees

The Centre also offers M Phil and PhD by research in the field of its coverage. Admission to such degrees at ANU normally requires an Honours degree (at Honours 2A or above), or equivalent prior studies including some research work. Candidates with other qualifications and experience that include research may be considered for admission.

Prospective students should contact the Centre regarding their proposed research topic. For more information on applying for a research degree see the website: cais.anu.edu.au/higher-degrees-research/prospective-students

Pathway options

You have an undergraduate degree in an unrelated field

You have an undergraduate degree in a related field

You have an undergraduate degree with honours in a related field

You have a graduate qualification in a related field

up to 6 months' credit

up to 12 months' credit

1 year
In my personal experience, the staff at the Centre for Arab and Islamic Studies have always been approachable, and continually display that they are all experts in their field. The last time I finished a postgraduate university qualification in 2002, I joined the Army as a soldier. Since then, I have been inspired by numerous work experiences in the Middle East, a year-long Farsi language qualification and broader experience in the international environment to pursue a Master of Middle East and Central Asian studies. I now understand the region more deeply and am better able to fulfil my current role in the Department of Defence providing policy advice to government.
Arabic
Persian
Turkish

The Centre currently offers courses in three of the major languages of the regions of its coverage—Arabic, Persian and Turkish.

Each of these languages is associated with a rich historical and cultural legacy. Each is also a dynamic contemporary language, with large populations of speakers throughout the regions of the Centre’s coverage.

Undergraduate students can take Arabic or Persian as a major, minor or elective. Turkish is offered as an elective.

Postgraduate coursework students can take up to 36 units of language in a MMECAS program. The number of language units in their degree will depend on the length of their coursework program.

No prior knowledge is required for the Introductory A units, but a student may be admitted directly to a more advanced unit if he/she is assessed by the lecturer as having sufficient prior knowledge.

CAIS offers the following language courses:
- Introductory Arabic A/B
- Intermediate Arabic A/B
- Advanced Arabic A/B
- Arab Current Affairs and Media Arabic (online course)
- Introduction to Arabic Linguistics
- Introduction to Arabic Literature
- Research Essay (Arabic)
- Special Topics in Arabic
- Directed Study Project (Arabic)
- Applied Arabic
- Introductory Persian A/B
- Intermediate Persian A/B
- Advanced Persian A/B
- Elementary Turkish A/B

Arabic and Persian Online

CAIS offers Arabic and Persian online courses.

Students at ANU, as well as from universities around Australia and internationally, can apply directly to study Arabic or Persian online and seek credit for their existing program at their home university. On-campus and online students will achieve an equivalent competency in all aspects of the language and receive equal standing towards a major or minor.

The following online courses will be offered in 2019:
- Introductory Arabic A & B
- Intermediate Persian A & B
- Advanced Arabic A & B
- Current Affairs and Media Arabic
- Introductory Persian A & B
- Intermediate Persian A & B
- Advanced Persian A & B

Joel
Bachelor of Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies / Bachelor of International Relations

“Upon returning to Australia from several years of backpacking, I was incredibly conscious that my choice of university and program would be my next key defining moment. In my time abroad I had developed a great passion for the Middle East; its culture, people, and languages and as such I sought a university that would help me expand my knowledge and passion for this remarkable region. I chose to come to ANU as it was not only one of the few Australian universities to offer world-renowned degrees in Middle Eastern and Central Asian studies, but it is also the only university in Australia to teach Persian language alongside an amazing Arabic language program.

It is my hope that these two highly desirable languages, along with the specialisation offered by my Bachelor of Middle East and Central Asian studies, will place me in a prime position to leap from university straight into the field of diplomacy, ideally through the Graduate Program offered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.”
MEAS1001 Introduction to the Modern Middle East
Prof. James Piscatori
The aim of this interdisciplinary course is to acquaint students with the major historical, religious, social, economic, and political dimensions of the Middle East. It will cover topics such as the construction of identities, the place of tradition and history, the impact of imperialism, the development of nationalism, and the reasons for revolution and conflict in the region. The course will also look at the contemporary challenges of globalisation, religious radicalisation, democratisation, and transnational terrorism.

MEAS1002 Islam: History and Institutions
Dr Raihan Ismail
Students will be presented with a general outline of the history of Islam from the seventh century to the present day. The course also examines the development of the central institutions of Islam in the context of that history. Special attention will be paid to particular developments and institutions such as: the emergence of Islam; the Qur'an and basic Islamic teachings; Islamic Jurisprudence; and political institutions (e.g. the Caliphate), which have influenced the modern political debate in Muslim communities in the Middle East and beyond.

POLS2031 Politics in the Middle East
Prof. Amin Saikal
The course concentrates on the contemporary politics of the Arab world, Iran, Turkey and Israel, with some reference to Afghanistan. It examines the political development and dynamics of the major countries involved at national and regional levels. This is done in the context of four major variables - Islam, oil, the Arab-Israeli conflict and other regional disputes, and major power involvement - and the consequences of the interaction of these variables for the region in world politics.

POLS2069 Politics in Russia
Dr Kirill Nourzhanov
This course provides an introduction to the politics of Russia. It traces the evolution of Russian politics by offering a wide-range discussion of main events, figures and scholarly interpretations of Russia’s past and present. While the initial focus is on the rise and fall of communist ideology and institutions, the course examines in detail the ongoing development of political structures in post-communist Russia and the forces, both domestic and international, that shape the life of Russians today.

POLS2070 Politics in Central Asia
Dr Kirill Nourzhanov
This course covers a predominantly Muslim region, which has recently come to prominence in world politics since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Its focus is on the national politics and regional and international relations of Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, with references to other players’ role in the region. The course concentrates on selected themes concerning political and social change, economic modernisation and regional security against the backdrop of sectarian, ethnonationalist and ideological diversity, as well as outside interference and geopolitical rivalry.

MEAS2000 Iranian History and Culture
Dr Zahra Taheri
This course broadly examines the processes which have formed and transformed Iranian culture and civilization. The student will be introduced to history, politics, language, literature, art and society in Iran, ranging from ancient Persia to contemporary Iran. The course will seek to analyse a range of topics, which includes the legacy of Pre-Islamic Iran as well the history of the Islamic conquest and its impact on Iranian literature, art, and architecture. It will also provide an analysis of the socio-political aspects that came to create modern Iran, emphasising the move towards the constitutional revolution, the consequences of the fifty-year Pahlavi dynasty, and finally the developments of the domestic and foreign policies under the Islamic Republic of Iran.
Dr Kirill Nourzhanov

Following the collapse of the USSR in 1991, fifteen former Soviet republics emerged as sovereign states. All of them have struggled to evolve working political systems and maintain sovereignty and internal cohesion. The newly independent states have been under pressure from Russia, China and the USA competing for geopolitical influence and, in a number of cases, control over extensive energy resources. Most of them have experienced economic decline, armed conflicts, terrorism, civil violence, organised crime and separatism of minority groups. Emphasis will be placed on the issues of great power rivalry, ethno-nationalism, and conflict management. The course will discuss security dilemmas at multiple levels, ranging from state policies to sub-state actors and transnational issues.

MEAS2002: Turkish History: Ottoman State to Modern Turkey TBA

At its peak in the sixteenth century the Ottoman state spread across three continents. European colonial penetration and the rise of nationalism undermined the vitality of the Ottoman state and the empire came to an end after the First World War. The Turks, however, reunited and founded a new modern state after the war of independence. Turkey today acts as a bridge between the East and the West. From a geo-strategic perspective it is one of the most important countries in the post-cold war world. The course aims to provide an in-depth coverage of the process of state building in Turkey from the Middle Ages to the present; to comprehend the factors that played a role in the rise, stagnation and collapse of an empire; to analyse the factors that led to internal conflicts and strife in a heterogeneous society; and to reach a better understanding of nationalist movements.

MEAS2003: Modern Turkey: History, Culture and Regional Relations
TBA

Westerners prior to the foundation of Modern Turkey referred to the Ottoman State as Turkey. The word Turkey was used for a geographical region that fell between the Balkans and Arabia, but with no clear-cut boundaries. The Balkans and Arabia as well as much of North Africa were once the Ottoman lands with a continuing Ottoman heritage and culture. WWI marked the end of the Ottoman Empire. The Turks under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, later the founder of modern Turkey, fought the War of Liberation, securing the boundaries of the modern Turkish Republic. Ataturk was declared the first president of Turkey. The new modern state was founded following the western model and started to act as a bridge between the East and the West.

MEAS2105 The Political Economy of the Middle East
Dr Jessie Moritz

The aim of this course is to analyse and explain the dynamics of political economy in the contemporary Middle East. There is a focus on how political actors and social forces influence, and in turn are influenced, by political economy structures and development strategies. Institutions, international actors, social forces, and others are all examined, and various theoretical approaches assessed. Focused discussions cover Islamic economic approaches, the politics of economic reform, the globalization debate, specific development models, and the political economy of the Arab uprisings.

MEAS3002 Gender and Culture in Iran and the Middle East
Dr Zahra Taheri

This course will explore women’s cultural contribution to the modern Iran and the Middle East. During the last three decades, women have played a significant role in the making of culture, through cinema, music, literature and art in the region. To introduce students to the region, this course will also provide background of the
social history of the Middle East and Iran. Women have become the leaders of various artistic movements, and in today’s Middle East literature, cinema, music, visual and performing arts are inspired by a growing female presence. This course will focus on the role of women, as novelists, playwright, movie directors, and musicians.

MEAS2004 Turkish Politics and Foreign Policy
TBA

This course introduces students to the study of Turkish politics and foreign policy after the proclamation of Republic in 1923. The course will provide an overview of Turkish political parties and their ideologies against the background of sociological and cultural transformation of Turkish society. Students will analyse the Turkish case and explore issues such as the Ottoman legacy, power of bureaucracy and army, civilian-military relations, national identity, Islamism-post-Islamism debate, ethnic resistances to Turkish nation-building and current foreign policy positions of Turkey with surrounding regions and international organisations. The aim of the course is to provide students a research-led professionally oriented approach to the Turkish politics and foreign policy.

MEAS3001 Gallipoli: History and National Imagination
TBA

This course details the Gallipoli naval and military campaigns, the historical and political contexts in which they were fought, and the impact that the campaign has had on later generations. Turkish, British, French, German, Russian, Australian and New Zealand perspectives are considered, and current archaeological controversies as well as representations of Gallipoli in popular culture are examined.

BUSI2024 Dynamics of Business in the Middle East
Dr Jessie Moritz

This course provides an overview of business issues, processes and debates in the Middle East. Specific topics include the political and economic factors shaping the business environment, the cultural issues that impact on business, and specific strategies in cross-cultural marketing and sales, the management of political risk, human resource management, logistics, finance and e-business.

BMECA (HONS) SUBJECTS

Students enrolling in a BMECA Honours program are able to take courses from the following list.

MEAS4111 Islam, The West and International Terrorism
MEAS4112 Dynamics of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
MEAS4116 Authoritarianism, Democratisation and Protest in the Muslim Middle East
MEAS4001 Special Topics in Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies
MEAS4109 Energy and Security in Central Asia and the Caucasus
MEAS4113 The Gulf Strategic Environment
MEAS4100 Oil, Religion, Politics and Conflict in the Middle East
MEAS4102 Islamic Radicalism
MEAS4114 Geopolitics of Central Asia
MEAS4115 Islam in World Politics
MEAS4117 Islam in Central Asia
MEAS4121 Approaches to the Study of Modern Muslim Societies

To see the course descriptions go to postgraduate courses on pages 20-24.
At its peak in the sixteenth century the Ottoman state spread across three continents. European colonial penetration and the rise of nationalism undermined the vitality of the Ottoman state and the empire came to an end after the First World War. The Turks, however, reunited and founded a new modern state after the war of independence. Turkey today acts as a bridge between the East and the West. From a geo-strategic perspective it is one of the most important countries in the post-cold war world. The course aims to provide an in-depth coverage of the process of state building in Turkey from the Middle Ages to the present; to comprehend the factors that played a role in the rise, stagnation and collapse of an empire; to analyse the factors that led to internal conflicts and strife in a heterogeneous society; and to reach a better understanding of nationalist movements.

MEAS8102
Islamic Radicalism
Dr Kirill Nourzhanov

This course is aimed at developing a better understanding of Islam, Islamic movements, Islamic revivalism or Islamism in a variety of settings. Specifically, it is a course about how to think about Islamic radicalism as a conglomeration of context-specific policies, projects, ideals, institutions, and movements that have their origin in Muslim societies’ response to ‘modernity’. It is designed to introduce students to major theoretical perspectives on Islamism, and its practical manifestations in individual countries (not confined to the Arab World), as well as in the regional and global arena.

MEAS8105 (2003): Special Topic: Europe & The Middle East
Convener: Prof. Amin Saikal
Lecturer: Stephanie Wright

This course examines the formation of Europe and the Middle East as conceptual categories and socio-political realities from the eighteenth century to the present day. It explores some of the major theories and concepts that have framed scholarly approaches to the study of Europe and the Middle East. It will consider how the identities of the European ‘West’ and the Middle ‘East’ have been constituted through their mutual opposition, as well as their entanglement with other ideas, such as civilisation, progress, and reason. It examines the contested place of ‘Europe’ and ‘Europeans’ in the history of the Middle East from Napoleon’s invasion of Egypt (1798) to Algerian independence (1962). It will ask how this period gave rise to new concepts of cultural, racial, and/or civilizational difference between Europe and the Orient even as it witnessed the growing integration of these regions through the movement of ideas, institutions, technologies, and people. It will consider how this history might inform understandings of contemporary issues in European-Middle Eastern relations, such as the refugee crisis and the rise of the far-right from the UK to Egypt.
“The program has been fantastic. The professors are all very enthusiastic about the subject matter. All of them have such a wealth of experience and information of the region having studied there and travelled there numerous times.”
development approaches, the potential of various development “models”, and others.

MEAS8109: Energy and Security in Central Asia and the Caucasus
Dr Kirill Nourzhanov

Energy in the form of oil and gas is the most plentiful and valuable natural resource of the Caspian Sea and its vicinity. The opening up of the region’s hydrocarbon reserves represents one of the most significant consequences of the Soviet Union’s collapse in 1991. Potential benefits from energy development to national and commercial entities are enormous, but so are the challenges stemming from the expansion of global economy, international and intra-regional competition, and the internal political dynamics of the Caspian states. The region is at the crossroads: from its current volatile situation, it could evolve either as an area of crisis, or as a zone of stability. The dynamics of energy development will be crucial for determining the actual outcome.

MEAS8111: Islam, the West and International Terrorism
Prof. Amin Saikal

This course examines the changing relations between the ‘domain of Islam’ and ‘the West’, more specifically the United States, against the backdrop of the events of September 11, 2001, and its aftermath. It does so in both historical and contemporary terms. Its inquiry focuses mainly on three main issues: the nature of Islam and its relations with the West in history, the rise of the United States to globalism since World War II and its role in the Muslim domain, and the problems with US and Muslim approaches in dealing with the phenomenon of international terrorism.

MEAS8112: Dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Prof. James Piscatori

The central focus of this course will be the forces of continuity and change in the Palestinian-Israel conflict, and the challenges facing efforts to sustain a viable peace process. The course will examine the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from four angles:
• the search for security and identity within national frameworks;
• peace negotiations
• external forces, and the Palestinian and Israeli leaderships;
• political dynamics since the demise of the Oslo Peace Process.

MEAS8113: The Gulf Strategic Environment
Prof. James Piscatori

The Gulf is a critical source of global traded energy supplies, as well as possessing a range of specific security dynamics and challenges, yet it also has very weak security architecture and is a highly penetrated sub-region. This course looks at the Gulf as a unique and specific sub-region, and examines the forces for continuity and change, the interaction of domestic and external actors and dynamics in shaping its security environment, the role of major external actors, and the prospects for stability or instability in the sub-region in the future.

MEAS8114: Geopolitics of Central Asia
Dr Kirill Nourzhanov

This course examines the roots of contemporary geopolitical thought, focusing on the British, continental European, American, and Russian contributions. It will examine practical manifestations of geopolitics during World War II and the Cold War before moving to an analysis of contemporary conflicts in Eurasia’s southern Muslim belt through the prism of great power rivalry involving China, Russia, the USA, and other regional actors. The course includes a survey of modern critical approaches within the discipline of geopolitics, which go beyond the Realist paradigm in explaining conflictual and associative patterns of behaviour.
MEAS8115: Authoritarianism, Democratisation and Protest in the Muslim Middle East
Prof. James Piscatori
This course covers the international politics of the Muslim world, with a special emphasis on the Middle East since 1945. Classical and modern Islamic thought on war and peace serves as the backdrop to a consideration of a number of themes. These include the compatibility of Islam and nationalism, the significance of Islamic transnationalism, the role of the pan-Islamic ideal, the impact of radical networks, and the effects of globalisation. The course examines modern historical & political trends to larger concerns and theories of international relations.

MEAS8116: Islam and Democracy
Prof. James Piscatori
This course examines in detail the debates over the democratisation of Muslim societies. It begins by an examination of modern Islamic thought and considers diverse views of the state, authority, pluralism, and citizenship. It assesses the importance of political culture and structural factors to the emergence of democracy. In doing so, it critically examines essentialist and exceptionalist assumptions about Middle Eastern and Muslim societies, the role of elections, the position of Islamist movements, the constraints on democratic consolidation, and the possibilities of ‘exporting’ democracy. While the course is organised thematically, examples are drawn from a number of specific cases and democratic theory is invoked in order to relate the specificity of Muslim societies to broader debates.

MEAS8121: Approaches to the Study of Modern Muslim Societies
Prof. James Piscatori
This course covers the major approaches and controversies in the study of modern Muslim societies and emphasises methods of analysis and critical thinking. While dealing with broad themes such as colonialism, nationalism, social change, and globalisation, the course evaluates the social and political significance of theological debates and normative change in Islam. In the process a range of the major works on modern Islam, drawn principally from the social sciences and history but also including the literature on Orientalism and its critics, are categorised and evaluated.

MEAS6503: Modern Turkey: History, Culture and Regional Relations
TBA
Westerners prior to the foundation of Modern Turkey referred to the Ottoman State as Turkey. The word Turkey was used for a geographical region that fell between the Balkans and Arabia, but with no clear-cut boundaries. The Balkans and Arabia as well as much of North Africa were once the Ottoman lands with a continuing Ottoman heritage and culture. WWI marked the end of the Ottoman Empire. The Turks under the leadership of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, later the founder of modern Turkey, fought the War of Liberation, securing the boundaries of the modern Turkish Republic. Ataturk was declared the first president of Turkey. The new modern state was founded following the western model and started to act as a bridge between the East and the West.

MEAS6504 Turkish Politics and Foreign Policy
TBA
This course introduces students to the study of Turkish politics and foreign policy after the proclamation of Republic in 1923. The course will provide an overview of Turkish political parties and their ideologies against the background of sociological and cultural transformation of Turkish society. Students will analyse the Turkish case and explore issues such as the Ottoman legacy, power of bureaucracy and army, civilian-military relations, national identity, Islamism-post-Islamism debate, ethnic resistances to Turkish nation-building and current foreign policy positions of Turkey with surrounding regions and international organisations. The aim of the course is to
MEAS8117: Islam in Central Asia  
Dr Kirill Nourzhanov

This course explores the historical, political, social and cultural aspects of the evolution of Islam in Central Asia from the 8th century to the present. It investigates the reasons and mechanisms of Islam's expansion in the region as well as its dynamic interactions with local religious traditions and ways of life. Rather than reducing Islam to a homogenous, static, and dogmatic creed, the course analyses diverse Muslim identities and practices across time and space, and how different communities of believers have adapted Islam's common patterns and denominators to survive in the frequently challenging environment. By the end of the semester, students should be able to appreciate how sixty million Muslims in Central Asia follow their faith in terms of ritual, intellectual discourse, politics, and daily life.

MEAS8118: Islam in Australia  
Convenor: TBA

This course presents an overview of Muslims in Australia and assesses the relative importance of such factors as ethnicity, immigration, and legal status on their social and political roles. It compares Muslims in Australia to Muslims in other societies of the West, such as Europe, and places the Australian experience of 'minority Islam' into the larger picture of the modern Islamic experience. It deals with questions of multiculturalism, interpreting religious traditions and local contexts, the demands of citizenship, the importance of communal institutions, the experiences of Muslim women in a liberal society, and Australian media representations of Muslims and Islamic issues.

MEAS8124 Islamic Banking: Debates and Development  
Convenor: Dr Jessie Moritz

This course provides a detailed background on the religious foundations, history, and political economy of the emergence of modern Islamic Banking, as well as introducing basic ideas and common products in Islamic Finance. The course focuses particularly on the conceptualisation and debate over *riba* (usury), and the divide between Islamic theology and ideals of Islamic Banking in practice, all while emphasising the diversity of Muslim thinking on Islamic Banking. The course takes a qualitative approach to understanding these issues, and does not require prior knowledge of quantitative techniques.

MEAS8126 Contemporary Issues in Islamic Banking  
Convenor: TBA

Building on the course Introduction to Islamic Banking, this course considers a range of issues in contemporary Islamic banking that may include: modern financial innovations in the West and their impact on Islamic financial systems; the economics of non-positive interest rates; financing of higher education in Islamic countries; and income-contingent loans and Islamic banking. The course takes a qualitative approach to understanding these issues and does not require prior knowledge of quantitative techniques.

MEAS8127 Islam and Sectarianism in the Middle East  
Dr Raihan Ismail

This course will familiarise students with Islamic sectarianism in the Middle East. The growing sectarian tension and conflict between Sunni and Shia Muslims has come to define much of the region's political landscape. The course aims to examine the complexities of sectarianism in the Middle East and extends to looking at the nature of the theological divisions between the two sects, Shia identity in various countries in the Middle East, and power politics in the region.
APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Coursework Degrees

Domestic Students

Students enrolling at ANU should start their search on the ANU web page: www.anu.edu.au/study/apply

Domestic students (citizens and permanent residents) can apply for admission to the BMECAS and MMECAS through the Universities Admissions Centre (UAC).

Contact UAC:
W uac.edu.au
T + 61 2 9752 0200

If your academic qualifications alone do not meet the admission requirements and admission is being sought on the basis of a combination of academic qualifications and relevant work experience, you need to attach a supporting statement and upload your application.

Lodge your application with UAC, paying particular attention to UAC’s requirements for supplying academic transcripts.

For further information on programs available you may wish to check the ANU website: programsandcourses.anu.edu.au/

International Students

Postgraduate Coursework applications are made online for admission to the MMECAS at: www.anu.edu.au/study/apply

Please attach to your completed application form:

Copies of full academic transcripts (originals will need to be sighted prior to enrolment).

Evidence of English language proficiency (or education in English) in accordance with Admission Requirements.

Details of work experience and a supporting statement where admission is sought on the basis of a combination of an academic qualification and relevant work experience.

There is a $75 fee for online international applications.

Applications and supporting documents must be lodged by 15 December for commencement in February/March the following year, OR by 15 April for mid-year entry.

You may seek further information about the ANU at the Australian Education Centre in your home country: aei.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx or students.anu.edu.au/for/international/

Research Degrees

Domestic & International Students

Applicants enrolling in either an MPhil or PhD should, in the first instance, contact the Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies to ascertain the suitability of their candidature.

Applicants are asked to submit a sample of written analytical work and an outline of their thesis proposal and copies of full academic transcripts to assist with this process.

All applicants will be asked to show evidence of English language proficiency.

All enquiries for Higher Degrees by Research at CAIS should be sent to:

HDR.CAIS@anu.edu.au

Applicants proceeding to the next level of enrolment can apply online.

Application for both domestic and international students: www.anu.edu.au/study/apply/anu-postgraduate-research-domestic-and-international-applications

CAIS is home to a diverse body of research scholars. To view the topics of current and past scholars go to: cais.cass.anu.edu.au/people
FEES & SCHOLARSHIPS

English Language Requirements

International applicants should note that the University requires evidence of an adequate standard of English. Unless undergraduate studies were undertaken in English in Australia, Canada (if English was the language of instruction), New Zealand, the UK or the USA, international students will normally be required to produce evidence of:

- an IELTS overall band score of 6.5 together with a score of at least 6.0 in all components or
- a minimum TOEFL score of 570 and a Test of Written English (TWE) score of 4.

TOEFL – internet based test A score of 80, with a minimum of 20 in Reading and Writing and 18 in Speaking and Listening

ANU English Language Policy: anu.edu.au/study/apply/english-language-requirements

For the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), contact any IPD Education Australia office or your nearest British Council office: ielts.org/default.aspx

For the American Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): ets.org/toefl/contact/region12

The ANU institution code #0506.

Fees and Financial Assistance

Tuition fees are adjusted annually and are calculated on a per course basis. The Domestic Tuition Fee is applicable to Australian and New Zealand students. All other students pay the International Student Fee.

For current fees please consult: www.anu.edu.au/study/scholarships-fees

Higher Education Loan Program Fee-Help

The Australian Government loans facility for eligible students who are enrolled in fee-paying graduate courses.


Other Opportunities

Please also refer to the funding opportunities listed at:

anu.edu.au/sas/scholarships/

Scholarships

ANU PhD Scholarships

The closing date each year for applications is 31 August for international students or 31 October for domestic students, for the main round of scholarships commencing in Semester 1 (February) of the following year. There is a minor round of mid-year scholarship, applications for which must be received by 31 May. Applications for scholarships are made on the admission form. To apply go to: students.anu.edu.au/scholarships/gr/

International Applicants

There are a number of scholarships available to International students. For a list go to the web link: anu.edu.au/graduate/scholarships/international_only.php

Applicants may be eligible to apply for funding opportunities offered through the Australian Government or other organisations.

Please refer to: www.studyassist.gov.au/ for further information and eligibility criteria for scholarships offered by the Australian Government.
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Graduate Studies Advisor - Coursework
Dr Huda Al-Tamimi

Undergraduate Advisors
Dr Zahra Taheri and Dr Raihan Ismail

Senior Administrator & PG Advisor
Janja Peric

Administrator
Lira Seo