

# The Changing Geo-political and Geo-economic Dynamics in the Contemporary West Asia/Middle East

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## Overview

The Middle East (West Asia) has always been the focus of intense political and academic debates. The region is the birthplace of three major global religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam), it holds massive hydrocarbon resources, is a major player in the global counter-terrorism efforts and has been the center of international policies to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In the last few years the region has witnessed significant economic and strategic changes. These include the civil wars in Syria, Libya, and Yemen, the rise and fall of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, the establishment of the so-called Islamic State in parts of Syria and Iraq, the collapse of oil prices, and the signing of an agreement between Iran and global powers to end the dispute over the nuclear program.

These key changes have important regional and global ramifications. Millions of people from South Asia work in the Gulf and send remittances home. The collapse of oil prices has impacted their employment and indeed their life. The lack of central authority in parts of Iraq, Syria, and Libya has attracted terrorist organizations and is seen as a major global threat. The successful negotiation between Iran and global powers provides an important chapter in the history of nuclear non-proliferation, but its full implications are yet to be assessed.

Given these key changes and their regional and global ramifications, it is imperative to examine the major socio-economic and political forces that drive developments in the Middle East.

## Objectives of the Course

The primary objectives of the course are as follows:

1. To introduce students and researchers to the main economic and strategic challenges in the Middle East
2. To provide a comprehensive understanding of the regional and global energy markets
3. To examine counter-terrorism strategies
4. To enhance understanding of non-proliferation efforts
5. To analyze economic and security implications for South Asia

## Lecture-wise course plan: (January 30 – February 04, 2017 /12.5 hours)

<b><u>30 JANUARY 2017 (MONDAY)</u></b>	
<b>Lecture 1</b> : (10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)	<b>Introduction: The Modern Middle East</b>
Tea/Coffee Break (11:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon)	
<b>Lecture 2</b> : (12:00 noon – 1:15 p.m.)	<b>The Arab Spring: Roots and Consequences</b>
<b><u>31 JANUARY 2017 (TUESDAY)</u></b>	
<b>Lecture 3</b> : (10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.)	<b>The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Conflict Management</b>
Tea/Coffee Break (11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.)	
<b>Lecture 4</b> : (11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)	<b>Iran: The Rising Power</b>
<b><u>1 FEBRUARY 2017 (WEDNESDAY)</u></b>	
<b>Lecture 5</b> : (10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.)	<b>Egypt: The Declining Power</b>
Tea/Coffee Break (11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.)	
<b>Lecture 6</b> : (11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)	<b>Syria: The Civil War</b>
<b><u>2 FEBRUARY 2017 (THURSDAY)</u></b>	
<b>Lecture 7</b> : (10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.)	<b>Energy Security</b>
Tea/Coffee Break (11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.)	
<b>Lecture 8</b> : (11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)	<b>Counter-terrorism Strategies</b>
<b><u>3 FEBRUARY 2017 (FRIDAY)</u></b>	
<b>Lecture 9</b> : (10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.)	<b>Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction</b>
Tea/Coffee Break (11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.)	
<b>Lecture 10</b> : (11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)	<b>The Middle East: The Way Forward</b>
<b><u>4 FEBRUARY 2017 (SATURDAY)</u></b>	
<b>Examination and Evaluation of participants</b> : (10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon)	
Lunch Break (12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.)	
<b>Takeaways and Distribution of Certificates</b> : (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)	

<b>Modules</b>	<b>A: Duration :</b> January 30 – February 04, 2016 <b>B: Venue :</b> Conference Hall, First Floor, Imarat Ibn-Khaldun, Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central University), New Delhi 110025, INDIA				
<b>Who Can Attend</b>	<p><b><i>Number of participants for the course will be limited to SEVENTY.</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Students (graduates and above) and faculty/researcher from an academic/research institution and interested in knowing about various geo-political and geo-economic dynamics in contemporary West Asia (Middle East)—a region crucial from India’s perspective—as well as broader global affairs.</li> <li>▪ Independent researchers, journalists, NGO executives and practitioners from diplomatic circles and interested in understanding about one of India’s most important neighbouring region, i.e. West Asia (Middle East).</li> </ul>				
<b>Fees</b>	<p>The participation fees for taking the course is as follows:</p> <p><b>Academic/Research Institutions: `</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">• Faculty members :</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;">Rs. 1,500/-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>• Students (including foreign students studying in India) :</td> <td style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;">Rs. 750/-</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Research Organisations/ NGO/ Industry (up to 5 representatives) :</b> Rs. 10,000/</p> <p><b>Participants from abroad :</b> USD 100</p> <p><i>The above course fee includes all reading materials, stationary kit, refreshments and certificates.</i></p>	• Faculty members :	Rs. 1,500/-	• Students (including foreign students studying in India) :	Rs. 750/-
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<b>How to Register for the Course</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Desirous participants are required to first register online at the GIAN portal &lt;<a href="http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/GREGN/index">http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/GREGN/index</a>&gt;. This is one-time registration. Those who have registered earlier for other course(s) can skip this process.</li> <li>➤ Log into your GIAN account; click the ‘Course Registration’ tab; check the appropriate check box mentioned against this Course from the list of courses; click 'Save' and 'Confirm Courses' buttons to register and make your application for the Course. Subsequent to this you will receive a confirmation mail from the organisers.</li> <li>➤ Upon receiving confirmation mail from the organisers, you will be required to pay registration fee for the course (as indicated above). The registration fee is to be made by demand draft in favour of ‘<b>THE REGISTRAR, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA</b>’, payable at <b>NEW DELHI</b>, and deposited in the office of the Centre for West Asian Studies by 5 pm on <b>30 November 2016</b>. Demand draft may also be sent through the post to ‘The Director, Centre for West Asian Studies, Second Floor, Imarat Ibn-Khaldun, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi 110025.  <i>(Those who have already submitted their Course Fee/DD at the CWAS, JMI, are confirmed participants of this course)</i></li> </ul>				

## The Foreign Faculty



**DR. GAWDAT BAHGAT** is professor of National Security Affairs at the National Defense University's Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Study. He is an Egyptian-born specialist in Middle Eastern policy, particularly Egypt, Iran, and the Gulf region. His areas of expertise include energy security, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, counter-terrorism, Arab-Israeli conflict, North Africa, and American foreign policy in the Middle East.

Bahgat's career blends scholarship with national security practicing. Before joining NESA in December 2009, he taught at different universities. Bahgat published ten books including *Alternative Energy in the Middle East* (2013), *Energy Security* (2011), *International Political Economy* (2010), *Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East* (2007), *Israel and the Persian Gulf* (2006), and *American Oil Diplomacy* (2003). Bahgat's articles have appeared in *International Affairs*, *Middle East Journal*, *Middle East Policy*, *Oil and Gas Journal*, and *OPEC Review*, among others. His work has been translated to several foreign languages.

Bahgat served as an advisor to several governments and oil companies. He has more than 25 years of academic, policy and government experience working on Middle Eastern issues. Bahgat has contributed to CNN, BBC, Washington Post and Al-Jazeera. He has spoken at Tufts University, Columbia University, London School of Economics, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Swiss Foreign Ministry, Yildiz Technical University in Istanbul, Qatar University, Kuwait University, Oman Diplomatic Institute, Griffith University (Australia), India School of Business (Hyderabad, India), Institute of Military-Aeronautic Sciences (Florence, Italy), University of Viterbo (Rome, Italy), and Institute for International Political Studies (Milan, Italy).

Further details about Prof. Bahgat can be seen at <http://www.nesa-center.org/faculty/>

## The Host Faculty



**DR. SUJATA ASHWARYA** is Assistant Professor at the Centre for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. She obtained her higher education from the University of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University. She was awarded fellowships for research at the Rothberg International School, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel; Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (MSH) and Centre d'Etudes et des Recherches Internationales (CERI), Paris, France; and the Schusterman Centre for Israel Studies, Brandeis University, USA. She was also affiliated as a

researcher at the Faculty of World Studies, University of Tehran, Iran. Her research interests include India's West Asia policy, politics and foreign policy of Iran, Iraq and Israel, politics of energy, and issues relating to democratization in the region. Her books, *Civil Society, Democracy and State in West Asia* (edited) and *Essays on Iran and Israel: An Indian Perspective* were published in 2010 and 2014 respectively.



**DR. MUJIB ALAM** is Assistant Professor at the Academy of International Studies (AIS), Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He holds MPhil and PhD degrees in West Asian studies, specializing in Turkish studies, from New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University. Previously he completed his bachelor's and master's in Political Science from Utkal University and Aligarh's Muslim University respectively. He has worked as an HERMES Post-doctoral fellow (2005-06) at the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales and Maison des Sciences de l'Homme,

Paris, France. His research specializations include contemporary Turkish politics and foreign policy, the role of military and Islam in Turkish politics and society, West Asian Politics and IR, and conflict & peace studies of West Asia. His publications include *Turkey's Multi-Regional Role in the 21st Century* (edited; 2015), *Turkey's Role in Central Asia and the Caucasus* (Monograph, 2005) and *Global Politics of the Iraq Crises and India's Options* (co-edited; 2004).

### Course Co-ordinators

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