

Centre for West Asian Studies

School of International Studies

Jawaharlal Nehru University

Course Level	B.A.	
Course Code	101WA	
Course Title	Introduction to the Gulf	
Course Type	General Elective	
Semester	Monsoon	
Course Teacher & Contact Details	Dr. Md. Muddassir Quamar Room No. 232, SIS I mmquamar@jnu.ac.in	Dr. Lakshmi Priya Room No. 332, SIS I lakshmi@jnu.ac.in
Credits	04	
Contact Hours	Four per week	
Class Schedule & Room No.	To be notified	
Tutorial (For Difficulties and Discussion)	To be notified	
Teaching Method	Classroom lectures, group discussion, and presentations	
Evaluation	Assignment I (Term Paper) (25 %) Assignment II (Presentation) (25 %) End Semester Examination (50 %)	
Course Objective: The course seeks to introduce the evolution of the modern Persian Gulf region and its broad political and socio-economic challenges. It would discuss the evolution of the Arab states as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran and their political systems and challenges. It will provide a broad view of the role of Islam in the Gulf region and the role of oil in the social welfare contract. It will also look the position of minorities in the region and the role of sectarianism and external interference. The final segment will highlight the importance of the region for India.		
Learning Outcomes: On the completion of the course, the students would have the following Learning Outcomes (LOs)		
Unit 1	LO1	Analyse domestic politics of the region
Unit 2	LO2	Comprehend the social processes and social structures in the Gulf
Unit 3	LO3	Analyse economic changes
Unit 4	LO4	Analyse India's interests and challenges in the Gulf region
Course Content:		
Unit 1: States and Political Systems		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Ottoman and British Empires • Evolution of city states, sheikhdoms and modern states • Monarchy, republics and constitutional development • Revolutions, civil wars and social upheavals 		
Readings:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agwani, Mohammed Shafi (1978). <i>Politics in the Gulf</i>, New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House. • Kamrava, Mehran (2020). "Politics in the Persian Gulf." In Mehran Kamrava (ed.), <i>Routledge Handbook of Persian Gulf Politics</i>, New York and Oxon: Routledge, pp. 1–3. • Quamar, Md. Muddassir (2022). "Introduction." In Md. Muddassir Quamar (ed.), <i>Politics of Change in Middle East and North Africa since Arab Spring: A Lost Decade?</i> New Delhi: KW Pub, pp. 1–14. 		

- Zahlan, Rosemary Said (2016). *The Making of the Modern Gulf States: Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman*, New York and Oxon: Routledge, pp. 1–23.

Unit 2: Social and Cultural Dimensions

- Demographic profile
- Islam and its Role
- Tribalism and Gender issues
- Minorities, Sectarianism and ethnic conflicts
- Popular Culture

Readings:

- Agwani, Mohammed Shafi (1987). *The Gulf in Transition*, New Delhi: South Asian Pub.
- Al-Zo'by, Mazhar and Biro Basken, (2014), *State-Society Relations in the Arab Gulf States*, Berlin: Gerlach Press. (Chapter 1).
- Dietl, Gulshan, (1997). "Changing Profile of the State in the Gulf region", *India International Centre Quarterly*, 24(1), 144–161.

Unit 3: Oil and Development

- Discovery of oil and modernization
- Rentier economy;
- Human resource development;
- Economic diversification

Readings:

- Hameed, Sameena (2022). "Introduction." In Sameena Hameed (ed.), *Youth Bloom in GCC*. New Delhi: KW Pub, pp. 1–19.
- Moritz, Jessie (2020). "Rentier Political Economy in the Oil Monarchies," In Mehran Kamrava (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Persian Gulf Politics*, New York and Oxon: Routledge, pp. 147–71.
- Sim, Li-Chen (2020). "Global Energy Markets and the Persian Gulf." In Mehran Kamrava (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Persian Gulf Politics*, New York and Oxon: Routledge, pp. 172–87.
- Ulrichsen, Kristian C. (2016). *The Gulf States in International Political Economy*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 1–11.

Unit 4: Gulf in International Relations

- Engagements with major powers: The US, China and others
- Strategic Challenges and Conflicts
- Gulf in the World Economy
- India's relations with the Gulf

Readings:

- Gause III, F. Gregory (2010). *The International Relations of the Persian Gulf*, New York: Cambridge University Press. (Chapters 1 & 7).
- Kumaraswamy, P. R. et al. (2025), *Persian Gulf 2024-25: India's Relations with the Region*. New Delhi: Sage, pp. 1–58 (Chapter 1).
- Lawson, Fred H. (2020), "Security Dilemmas and Conflict Spirals in the Persian Gulf." In Mehran Kamrava (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Persian Gulf Politics*, New York and Oxon: Routledge, pp. 373–87.