COURSE SYLLABUS

Middle East and North Africa Diplomacy

Global Diplomatic Forum E-learning Course

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Disclaimer and Acknowledgements

Please familiarise yourself carefully with the Disclaimer and Acknowledgements documents made available on this course's platform prior to commencing the course for more information about the terms and conditions of use of the Global Diplomatic Forum on-line learning environment and acknowledgement of those organisations and associated experts for their authorisation to use text, audio and visual transcripts, webcasts and photographic imagery.

Course Presentation

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has a complex diplomatic landscape with a long history of conflicts, alliances, and shifting alliances. Diplomacy in the MENA region involves a range of actors, including states, international organizations, non-state actors, and individuals. While there are several issues that shape diplomacy in the MENA region, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the war in Syria, the conflict in Yemen, tensions between Iran and its Gulf neighbours, and the fight against terrorism, the region offers a variety of opportunities in various fields, including business, energy, education, culture, tourism, and development.

Participants in the online course will gain a deeper understanding of the key aspects of diplomacy in the MENA region, giving them a competitive edge and the necessary foundations for success in both academic and professional pursuits.

The MENA region plays a critical role in global geopolitics due to its energy resources, strategic location, political instability, religious and cultural significance, and international relations. Developments in the region have the potential to impact the global economy, security, and stability, making it a region of great interest to policymakers and analysts around the world.
 The online course is well-structured, compact, and a practical program that provides diplomats, policymakers, and students with valuable knowledge and tools to engage with different issues and opportunities that shape the region.

Developed and delivered by leading experts who will share their expertise and experiences with participants in an engaging platform, the course follows the latest trends for diplomatic education and aims to train the next generation of diplomatic leaders to succeed in a 21st Century diplomatic environment.

Join us on this exciting journey to become a master of diplomatic communication

Course Outline and Contents

The format of the online course on Middle East and North Afrca Diplomacy consists of a comprehensive set of online modules available to diplomats, professionals, students and trainee diplomats.

The Online Course is a practical course that covers topics focusing on different aspects, stakeholders, channels and practices that constitutes the framework of Diplomacy in the Middle Eas and North Africa. Through six modules and delivered by a world-leading authority in the region's geopolitics, the online course aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the region.

Module 1:
Introduction to Diplomacy in the MENA Region
(Week 1)

1. understanding of the Middle East and North Africa significance
2. Insight into the region's geopolitical and geoeconomic .
3. Insight into issues likely to shape the region's future.

Module 2:
Governance in the MENA Region
(Week2)

1. An understanding of the governance crisis that has wracked the Middle East in past decades.
2. The social unrest that shaped the second decade of the 21st century and is likely to figure prominent in years to come

Module 3:
Security in the MENA region
(Week 3)
1. security in the Middle East in a world in which power is being rebalanced and alliances are shifting
2. The security issues confronting the Middle East and North Africa as a region as well as individual states with diverging concerns.
3. The security options or lack thereof available to Middle Eastern and North African states.

Module 4:
Regional Integration in the MENA region
(Week 4)

1. Regional Integration in region : Opportunities and Challenges
2. Cases Studies : Arab Maghreb Union, the Arab League and Gulf Cooperation Council

Module 5:
Soft Power in the MENA Region
(Week 5)

1. The role of religion in Middle Eastern and North African politics and geopolitics.

2. The debate abou what constitutes moderate Islam.
3. An understanding of shifting balances of power in the Muslim world in which Middle Eastern states encounter competition from non-Middle Eastern Muslim-majority states.

Module 6:
Diplomatic Opportunities in the MENA Region
(Week 6)

1. MENA Region to Region Opportunities : Europe, Africa and ASEAN
2. Peace Opportunity : Middle East Peace Process
3. Big Projects opportunities : Belt and Road Initiative and New Mideast Corridor

The Course Outcome

Upon completion of the course, participants will be able to :

- Understand of the background of the diplomatic dynamism in the region
- Develop in-depth knowledge of the stakeholders and actors in the region
- Capitalise on opportunities presented in the region through diplomacy
- Comprehend the main levers driving diplomacy of the Region.
- Enhance career advancement opportunities with up-to-date skills and knowledge related to a key region in international politics.
- Grasp the framework of Modern Diplomacy in the region

Learning Objectives

Module	Learning objectives At the end of each module, the participants will be able to:
Module 1 (week 1) **Introduction to Diplomacy in the MENA Region**	• Possess the tools to analyse and put in perspective the Middle East and North Africa's potential. • Determine what the risks and pitfalls linked to the region • Assess different approaches and proposed solutions to the region's issues
Module 2 (week 2) **Governance in the MENA Region**	• Possess the tools to analyse and put in perspective social unrest in the Middle East and North Africa • Determine what the risks and pitfalls are of a failure to embrace reform in much of the region as well as of the lack of political reform in the Gulf. • Assess different approaches and proposed solutions

Module 3 (week 3) **Security in the MENA region**	• Analyse and put in perspective debates about Middle Eastern and North African security and the policies pursued by countries in the region as well as by external power. • Determine what the security risks and pitfalls are in the Middle East and North Africa. • Assess different approaches and proposed solutions.
Module 4 (week 4) **Regional Integration in the MENA region**	• Understand the historical conext and framework of regional integration projects in the region • Determine the main challenges and pitfall for each integration project in the region • Assess different approaches and proposed solutions to the region's attempts for further cooperation
Module 5 (week 5) **Soft Power in the MENA Region**	• Possess the tools to analyse and put in perspective debates about religion in general, and Islam in particular, in the Middle East and North Africa. • Determine what constitutes moderate Islam. • Dstinguish between social and religious reform.
Module 6 (week 6) **Diplomatic Opportunities in the MENA Region**	• Understand the different type of Diplomatic Opportunities for the region • Visualise the different directions for the region in the coming decades • Relate the future of the region to different opportunities and regions

Methodology

The course will be delivered via the [e-Learning platform](#) (instructions on using this platform will be emailed to you with course invitation to the platform). This didactic tool will allow the students to view the course contents and thus achieve the course's learning objectives through a self-paced learning routine supported by various multimedia content (hosted and linked videos and podcasts), optional and required readings, discussion boards, assessments, and a wealth of other materials. Designed to fit the busy schedules of full-time professionals specifically to diplomatic personnel, participants will acquire knowledge through multi-faceted methodology comprising traditional reading materials, external sources of information in form of videos and podcasts, interactive discussion board allowing for communication with other participants and experts alike and webinars with guest lecturers.

The course content and materials will be available online (see Course Outline and Contents section for more details). The course is divided into 6 modules

All four modules contain the same structural elements:

- Contents
- Learning Objectives
- Lesson Material (text, video, documents, and lexicon terms)
- Assessment
- Discussion Board

Grading Policy and Course Completion

Students are eligible for a course certificate upon successful course completion. Successful completion requires:

- **At least 70% passing grade on EACH of the four module-based assessments** (7 out of 10 questions answered correctly); you may take each assessment **three times** (questions will be randomly drawn from a predefined question bank and therefore the content of assessment will change with each attempt);

Before moving to the next module, you should:

(a) carefully go through all of the core module texts,

(b) take the module-based assessments, and

(c) participate in the weekly Discussion Board forums. (optional)

(d) you will be also encouraged to read/view/listen to the optional external links to further develop your knowledge on the given module's topic (e.g. links to articles, webinars, podcasts or websites and additional documents).

Global Diplomatic Forum's e-learning Committee is responsible for the final decision regarding certificates in consultation with the module leaders (experts). Global Diplomatic Forum reserves the right to award certificates of completion only to those participants who will be deemed "eligible" through the aforementioned pre-requisites. Global Diplomatic Forum urges all participants to take a clear note of the above requirements. Should you require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Global Diplomatic Forum Team.

Study Planning

Below table provides guidance on which parts of the course are deemed mandatory.

Activity	Mandatory
Interactive Course	Yes
External Links and Readings	No, though highly recommended
Module Assessments	Yes
Discussion Forums	Yes

The distinctive feature of this learning course is that it is an entirely **online based** learning experience. As such it can not only be accessed from any part of the world but also at any point of time (within allocated availability period specified above in the Course Outline and Contents section) thus creating a true self-paced learning environment. Upon start of the course, training materials will be gradually made available to you through Global Diplomatic Forum's partner portal - FutureLearn. The course contents will also provide links to external web resources such as references, documents and multimedia.

The Global Diplomatic Forum's team will be at your disposal to provide guidance and help you participate and **contribute actively** to the discussion forums, which are an important learning opportunity of this course. You will also be able to communicate with the course manager who will moderate the discussion board as well as answer module related questions (through both the posts on the Discussion Board and e-mail).

The online training provides numerous **advantages** over traditional learning methods. Particularly it allows for:

- the adjustment of the schedule and pace of your learning according to your specific requirements
- complete freedom in choice of the study location - as long as you are able to access internet connected computer
- expanding your network through engaging in discussion with fellow participants and module leaders
- having lectures with the world's leading experts

Online courses require more self-discipline and pro-active preparation in order to successfully meet the course's requirements and learning objectives.

Another important characteristic of the online course that needs to be duly noted is that it is asynchronous. What that effectively means is that the interaction between course participants and module leaders will take place intermittently and may incur a time delay – thus it is imperative to establish a course study routine that suits best individual work schedule, family commitments, internet connection speed, etc.

Learning Content

The complete set of modules and respective course materials **will be made available instantaneously on the FutureLearn portal. Modules and materials will be released on a weekly basis and will become available to participants regardless of successful completion of previous module and passing the assessment.** Learning materials are organised as follows:

The course matdrial constitutes the core mandatory learning activity. The various module lessons contain main course text as well as links to external websites (e.g. with relevant articles, publications etc.) documentation, videos and podcasts, questions and case studies. All modules have few lectures with the module leader and a guest lecturer. The course and individual module contents have been designed to be accessible and approachable by wide demographic of participants, regardless of their level of knowledge on the topic providing opportunity to both acquire the basics and further elaborate on existing expertise.

Technical Support

For any technical issue or coordination matter, you may contact the Global Diplomatic Forum Team by sending a message through the FutureLearn platform.

You may also contact us by email. Email support is available 24/7. Given the global scope of the course emails will be answered within 24 hours.

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