Master of Art in Political Sciences
Program code: 136010

INTRODUCTION

The Department of **Political Science** (College of Social Sciences) offers a graduate program that leads to the degree of Master of Political Science. The program aims at developing the student's research ability, and in-depth knowledge so as to be capable of analyzing various political phenomena using scientific inter-disciplinary approaches. It provides the student with the knowledge and experience necessary to grasp political problems associated with Kuwait and in particular its national security. The program offers both thesis and non-thesis options.

According to the University Council decision dated 4/2/2007, Thesis students admitted with effect from September 2007 are exempted from the comprehensive examination.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

33 (33) TOTAL COURSE CREDITS

9 (12) BASIC COURSES (3 credits each)

1360-501 Theories of International Relations
1360-502 Theories of Comparative Politics
1360-503 Research Methods in Political Science
1360-593 Project (for non-thesis option)

15 (21) ELECTIVE COURSES (3 credits each)

Student (thesis track) should obtain 15 credits, and student (non-thesis track)should obtain 21 credits in one of the following fields of Specializations.

I. International & Strategic Studies (3 credits each)

1360-510 Contemporary International Issues
1360-511 Security Issues of the G.C.C. Countries
1360-512 Diplomacy and Public International Law
1360-513 Management of International Crises
1360-514 Neo-Regionalism
1360-515 Energy Crises and Global Politics
1360-516 Kuwait’s Foreign Policy
1360-517 International Economic Relations
1360-518 International Strategic Analysis
1360-519 Special Topics in International and Strategic Studies

II. Comparative Politics (3 credits each)

1360-520 The Political System of Kuwait
1360-521 Arabian Gulf Governments and Politics
1360-522 Regional Political Studies
1360-523 Democratic Transformation in Developing Countries
1360-524 Contemporary Political Movements
1360-525 Middle Eastern Issues
1360-529 Special Topics in Comparative Politics

Courses offered in both Tracks *

1360-530 Globalization
1360-531 Politics of the Environment

Note:

*Students of the two tracks are free to choose one of the above two courses.
**Students who enroll in one of the two fields of specialization are allowed to take one of the courses offered in the other track if that serves his/her field of specialization.
***With the approval of the Program Director, students may take up to 3 credit hours with graduate courses from outside the Program of Political Science if that serves his/her field of specialization.

9 COMPULSORY COURSES

1360-597 Thesis (0)
1360-598 Thesis (0)
2000-599 Thesis (9)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

1360-501: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
CR: 3

This course explores the role of theory in understanding international political phenomena with emphasis on major paradigmatic debates in international relations as well as the theoretical development of the field. The course also focuses on major theories of international relations, such as power theory, systems theory, conflict theory and dependency theory from a critical comparative perspective.

1360-502: THEORIES OF COMPARATIVE POLITICS
CR: 3

The course examines the role of theory in understanding political phenomena as well as tracing the theoretical development in the field of comparative politics. Special emphasis is placed on major theories in comparative politics, such as elite theory, group theory, decision-making theory, class theory and systems theory. The course discusses how to evaluate and apply these theories.

1360-503: RESEARCH METHODS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE
CR: 3

This course highlights the significance of research methodology in understanding political phenomena. It also deals with the basic concepts of research methodology as well as showing the essence of theory building. In addition to this, the course puts considerable emphasis on quantitative and qualitative research methods as well as research design. The student will be trained how to use the internet and other information

technology tools as well as how to compile data that is related to the field of Political Science. It will also include the development of a research proposal.

1360-510: CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES
CR: 3

The course analyses concepts such as "international issue", "crisis", and "conflict", discerning the major characteristic features of these concepts as well as identifying the major differences between them. Furthermore, the course shows techniques usually employed in analyzing international issues and how to apply these techniques on traditional, as well as present-day global issues like arms control, population and refugees, regional and ethnic conflicts, the environment and global security.

1360-511: SECURITY ISSUES OF THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL (G.C.C.) COUNTRIES
CR: 3

The major objective of this course is to study the security environment of the Arab Gulf region as well as discerning the strategies of the G.C.C. countries with regard to building a regional security system. Also, the course scrutinizes policies followed by these countries in pursuance of their security, in addition to assessing the stances of great powers towards the Gulf security.

1360-512: DIPLOMACY AND PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW
CR: 3

The primary focus of this course is to define the notion of diplomacy, tracing its development as well as identifying its major characterizing features in addition to emphasizing the skills required for negotiation and bargaining. The course also observes the latest developments in the field of International Law, which has witnessed the shift from inter-state relations to a broader outlook that encompasses human relations and the emergence of humanitarian international law and the rules that deal with human rights, in particular those of children, women and the environment.

1360-513: MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL CRISES
CR: 3

The course provides a comprehensive analysis of the concepts of international crisis and international crisis management, as well as other related concepts like conflict and conflict management, and the strategies proposed for international crisis management. Special emphasis is placed on the analysis of actual cases of international crisis management, especially those that took place in the post-cold war era..

1360-514: NEO-REGIONALISM
CR: 3

The course focuses on arrangements which radically altered the global environment in the aftermath of the Cold War, and which are apparent in the formation of new international organizations like the World Trade Organization and institutions that are affiliated with it. The course also traces the development of 'neo-regionalism', well exemplified in the creation of new regional entities like APEC, IORC and the Euro-Mediterranean Initiative, with the ultimate objective of analyzing their impact on global politics.

1360-515: ENERGY CRISIS AND GLOBAL POLITICS
CR: 3

This course provides a comprehensive analysis of the global oil crisis, focusing mainly on the historical development of the global oil market, giving considerable emphasis to the parameters of that market, exemplified by the oil-producing countries, international oil companies and oil-consuming countries. Special emphasis is placed on the significance of Arab oil in the international market. Also, the course focuses on nuclear energy and the restrictions imposed on it in global terms to prevent its utilization for non-peaceful purposes.

1360-516: KUWAIT'S FOREIGN POLICY
CR: 3

The course provides a critical analysis of foreign policy literature with an emphasis on Kuwaiti foreign policy, focusing mainly on the objectives of this policy as well as the instruments employed to realize its objectives. Special emphasis is placed on political forces that influence the foreign policy formulation process. Also, the course evaluates the impact of oil and economics on Kuwaiti foreign policy, as well as highlighting major external challenges that Kuwait has been facing since its foundation as an independent state.

1360-517: INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS
CR: 3

This course deals with major economic issues which have a political dimension, such as the role

of the economic factor in political decision-making, inter-state trade relations, economic organizations, economic competition, the relationship between politics and technology, international economic inter-dependence, models of political and economic development which are followed in developed countries, and North-South relations, and globalization. The course also aims to develop the student's analytical skills in matters concerning the linkage between politics and economics from an international perspective.

1360-518: INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC ANALYSIS
CR: 3

The course provides a comprehensive analysis of the concept of strategy; tracing its origin and its application in international relations as well as assessing the development of international strategic thought. Much emphasis is also placed on theories of strategic analysis in the arena of international relations; such as deterrence theory, bargaining theory, game theory and war theory. The student will be trained in the bases of international strategic analysis in a comparative perspective, with a major focus being directed at the post-cold war era.

1360-519: SPECIAL TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL AND STRATEGIC STUDIES
CR: 3

The main objective of this course is to study specialized topics in the field of International and Strategic Studies which are not addressed by the other courses.

1360-520: THE POLITICAL SYSTEM OF KUWAIT
CR: 3

The course discerns the major domestic and external factors that led to the formation of the Kuwaiti political system, in addition to highlighting the major obstacles that it encountered in its historical development. The primary focus will be aimed at the study of the major political forces and their ideological trends; the relationship between the legislature and the executive; major challenges that are currently facing the Kuwaiti political system such as internal security, development, and political participation. Also, the course assesses the system's ability to achieve its goals.

1360-521: ARABIAN GULF GOVERNMENTS AND POLITICS
CR: 3

The course provides an in-depth analysis of the politics of the six Gulf Cooperation Council countries in addition to Iraq and Iran. It presents two levels of political analysis. The first, at the state level, identifies factors that motivate the politics of each country. The second is at the regional level, where the major area of study is geo-politics and its role in shaping the politics of the region's countries. Also, the course scrutinizes inter-state relations between the Gulf Countries as well as the formulation of their policies. The course further attempts to explore the prospects of cooperation and conflict between the Gulf Countries, and various efforts exerted to maintain the region's stability.

1360-522: REGIONAL POLITICAL STUDIES
CR: 3

The course examines internal and external factors that have contributed to the formation of political systems as well as highlighting major challenges currently facing these systems, like capitalist and democratic transformation, and the linkage between them, globalization and security, regional integration models, and their impact on the future of these systems. Also the course examines the relationship of the regional states with the major powers.

1360-523: DEMOCRATIC TRANSFORMATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
CR: 3

The course analyses comprehensively the issue of democracy in developing countries, primarily emphasizing the major characterizing features of these countries, and assessing their experience in nation-building. The course also focuses on democratic transformation, observing to what extent these countries are capable of building a viable democratic systems and dealing with major obstacles encountered in that process

1360-524: CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL MOVEMENTS
CR: 3

This course studies the phenomenon of the contemporary political movements, particularly those that have emerged during the era of unipolarity as well as the ones that had already been existed. It also treats the extent of political

and ideological changes that have happened to these movements as results of the radical changes sustained by the reality of the international region. It, likewise, compares between these movements themselves, on all grounds and investigates the internal regional and international factors, which not only led to their appearance but also affect on them. In the same context, the course studies the impact of these movements on the values and awareness of the political community and on the existing political regimes as well as the attitudes of these regimes towards these movements.

1360-525: MIDDLE EASTERN ISSUES
CR: 3

The course provides a comprehensive analysis of the term 'Middle East', tracing its origin as well as assessing the developmental process of the countries that comprise it. The course puts much emphasis on major challenges currently faced by the Middle Eastern countries, notably nation-building, capitalist and democratic transformation, and Islamic resurgence. The course also focuses on major regional issues that affect stability, as well as the international initiative of building a new Middle Eastern regional system.

1360-529: SPECIAL TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS
CR: 3

The course focuses mainly on issues and topics in the field of comparative politics which are not addressed in other courses.

1360-530: GLOBALIZATION
CR: 3

The course provides a comprehensive analysis of the concept globalization tracing its origin as well as its developments. In addition to that the course debates the basic issues highlighted by this concept: whether globalization is a historical phenomena or a contemporary one? To what extent is globalization connected with the international changes that occurred at the beginning of 1990's? Whether the benefits generated by globalization are evenly divided? What are the instruments of globalization? The course also focuses on the major paradigmatic debates regarding globalization and the impact they had on developing countries as well as the means used by these countries to deal with it.

1360-531: POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT
CR: 3

This course provides a comprehensive analysis of the issue of environment, tracing its origin and its development as well as showing the interest it stimulates in the contemporary literature whether at the level of international organizations or academic studies. The course also focuses on the major environmental hazards such as pollution, desertification, global warming, environmental degradation, and the impact that has on global environmental and in particular the environment of developing countries. In addition to that the course debates the global strategies that deal with these problems and who are globally responsible for these problems. The course finally scrutinizes the concept of environmental security and the linkage it has with national security.

1360-593: PROJECT
CR: 3

The student undertakes an independent project on a research topic of theoretical and/or experimental focus under the supervision of a faculty member listed in the supervisory list of the College of Graduate Studies. The objective is to provide the student with an opportunity to integrate and apply the knowledge gained throughout the course of study in a practical problem. The student must document the project in a scientific report following standard research writing guidelines and give a public presentation to the project examination committee.

1360-597: THESIS
CR: 0

1360-598: THESIS
CR: 0

2000-599: THESIS
CR: 9