## AREA STUDIES AND IR: A REGIONAL SYSTEMS APPROACH

## *COURSE INFORMATION*

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| *COURSE NAME* | *AREA STUDIES AND IR: A REGIONAL SYSTEMS APPROACH* |
| Course Code |  |
| Course Type | Optional |
| Level of Course | Undergraduate |
| Year of Study | 4th |
| Term | Winter |
| ECTS Credits | 5 |
| Name of Instructor | Konstantinos Zarras |
| E-mail | kzarras@uom.edu.gr |
| Office Hours | Fridays, 16:00-18:00 |
| In-Classroom Study | 3 hours per week |
| Out-of-Classroom Study | 1 hour per week |
| Objective of the Course | At the end of the course students will be expected a) to gain a basic understanding of the field of Area Studies in International Relations and b) to deepen their knowledge of regional phenomena through the application of Regional Systems theory as an analytical tool. |
| Course Contents | This course is structured around two main axes: a) a theoretical analysis of the relationship between Area Studies and International Relations that will conclude with the presentation of a Regional Systems Theory and b) the application of this theory in various case-studies. The course aims at introducing students to the core concepts associated with a Regional/Area Studies approach in IR. In this perspective, we will first cover distinct analytical frameworks (Regional Security Complex Theory, Regional Systems, Regional Orders) that are being applied on the study of international phenomena at the regional level. In what follows, a special focus will be placed upon the Regional Systems Theory, which will be employed as the theoretical tool for the study of regions during the lectures. The second part of the course is oriented towards the study of specific regional systems (Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, East Asia and South America among others), as well as of inter-regional security dynamics, pivotal powers and external penetration. The course will conclude with a comparative analysis of different Regional Systems. |
| Recommended Readings | Mainly lecture notes and handouts distributed by the instructor  Further reading:  Barry Buzan & Ole Wæver, Regions and Powers: The Structure of International Security (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), 2003  T. V. Paul (ed.), International Relations Theory and Regional Transformation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012.  More selected readings will be linked on the <https://openeclass.uom.gr/> course site of the University. |
| Teaching Methods | Seminar |
| Assessment Methods | 30% Article Review  30% Written Assignment  30% Policy Memo  10% Quiz |
| Language of Instruction | English |
| Course Schedule |  |
|  | **Theme I: Theory** |
| 1. Week | Introduction to Area Studies and IR. Core concepts |
| 2. Week | Regional Systems Theory |
|  | **Theme II: Case studies** |
| 3. Week | The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regional system: historical evolution. |
| 4. Week | The MENA regional system at the era of the Arab Uprisings: continuities and transformations. |
| 5. Week | Inter-regional Security Dynamics: MENA’s interactions with the Horn of Africa and the Sahel regions. |
| 6. Week | The post-Soviet area through a Regional Systems theoretical prism: the cases of Central Asia and the Caucasus. |
| 7. Week | Pivotal States in Regional Systems Theory: the case of Turkey. |
| 8. Week | The South Asian Regional System: India vs Pakistan. |
| 9. Week | The East Asian Regional System: the rise of China. |
| 10.Week | Inter-regional Security Dynamics and the emergent Indo-Pacific region. |
| 11.Week | The South American Regional System. |
|  | **Theme III: Comparative Analysis and Conclusions** |
| 12.Week | Comparative analysis of Regional Systems |
| 13.Week | Concluding remarks and debate |