Department of Political Science
POLITICS 4409G/9738B – THE U.S. AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Course Outline Winter 2015

Instructor: Dr Salim Mansur
Office Hours: Wed 2:00-3:30
Office: SSC 4160
Phone: 661-2111 x85178
Thurs 1:30-2:30
Fri: 12.00-3:00

This senior-level seminar course examines the place and importance of the Middle East in U.S. foreign policy over the last half-century and through the administrations of the U.S. presidents going back to the Truman-Eisenhower years. The focus of the discussions will be on certain key issues that mark the continuities and discontinuities of the U.S. foreign policy towards the region of immense strategic importance in international politics.

Required texts
Lawrence Freedman, A Choice of Enemies: America Confronts the Middle East.

Recommended text
Rachel Bronson, Thicker Than Oil: America’s Uneasy Partnership With Saudi Arabia.

Course requirements
- Opinion/review essay (1500 words) – due February 12 20%
- Proposal for Research Essay (500 words) – due February 26 5%
- Research essay (3500 words) – due March 19 40%
- Take home over-night assignment – due April 3 30%
- Class participation & attendance 5%

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE PREREQUISITES/ANTIREQUISITES
You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course requisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Office of the Dean, Faculty of Social Science

Notes for essays:
I. Opinion/ review essay.

Before preparing to write this essay (approximately 1500 words or 5-6 pages double-spaced), read a few opinion/review essays regularly published in a few of the major magazines and journals (e.g. Atlantic Monthly, Harper’s, The Economist, The New York Review of Books, The New York Times Book Review, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, National Interest).

Select the topic of your essay from the reading list provided, or by selecting a book on U.S foreign policy that you have read or has recently caught your interest, and discuss this topic in terms of your own thoughts on the matter and how it relates to this course.

This opinion/review essay is not a research paper. It is an essay where you reflect upon the topic you have identified, and you discuss what struck you about this topic and what thoughts or connections it might have generated in your mind. The subject could be a person, a book, or an issue of some importance that you want to relate to others.

This essay does not require any bibliography or endnotes. But if you are providing a quote then you need to provide the source as an endnote as you do for your research essays.

The only limitation for this essay is that the subject must be related to this course.

II. Research Essay.

For Research Essay choose a subject (e.g. a theme, an event, a personality) and examine it analytically and historically, assessing the importance of the subject in the literature you research and why it is important in terms of influence or consequences in terms of the U.S. relations with the Middle East.

The required length of this paper is approximately 3500 words or 15 pages, and in addition endnotes and bibliography (see examples below).

Examples of endnote and bibliographic citation:


K. Waltz, Man, the State and War (New York: Columbia University Press, 1959), p. 9

[Note: Penalty for late paper is a flat deduction of 1.0 grade point from the total grade for the assignment due.]

Graduate students will be required to present one major essay (5000 words) weighted for 70 per cent of the course mark due March 26.
Additional texts


January 8
Session 1  
*Introduction.*

W.R. Mead, *Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World*.  
Charles Krauthammer, *Democratic Realism: An American Foreign Policy for a Unipolar World*. 
January 15  
Session 2  

Middle East in U.S. foreign policy.


January 22 and 29  
Sessions 3 and 4  

Truman to Nixon-Ford Years (1944-1976).

Freedman, A Choice of Enemies, chapters 1 and 2.  

James A. Bill, The Eagle and the Lion: The Tragedy of the American-Iranian Relations, chapters 1, 2, and 3.  
H.W. Brands, Into the Labyrinth: The United States and the Middle East 1945-1993, chapters 1, 2, and 3.  
R. Bronson, Thicker Than Oil, chapters 2-6.  
Michael J. Cohen, Truman and Israel.  
Peter Grose, Israel in the Mind of America, chapters 8-12.  
Henry Kissinger, White House Years, chapters III and XIV.  
Henry Kissinger, Years of Upheaval, chapter XI.  
Michael B. Oren, Power, Faith, and Fantasy, chapters 26, 27, and 28.  
N. Safran, The Embattled Ally.  
R.W. Stookey, America and the Arab States: An Uneasy Encounter, Chapters I – IV.  
P. Terzian, OPEC: The Inside Story.  
S.P. Tillman, The United States in the Middle East: Interests and Obstacles.  

Energy Information Administration (Official Statistics from the U.S. Government),  
[http://www.eia.doe.gov]
February 5 and 12
Sessions 5 and 6  
*Carter and Reagan Years (1977-1988).*


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R.K. Ramazani, *The United States and Iran: the Patterns of Influence*.
Anwar Sadat, *In Search of Identity*.
Gary Sick, *All Fall Down: America’s Tragic Encounter With Iran*.

Feb. 26, March 5 and 12
Sessions 7, 8, and 9  
*Bush, Sr. and Clinton Years (1989-2000).*


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R. Bronson, *Thicker Than Oil*, chapters 10 and 11.
J.E. Smith, *George Bush’s War*.

Documents:

UNSCR 660 (2 August 1990);
UNSCR 678 (29 November 1990);
UNSCR 686 (2 March 1991);
UNSCR 687 (3 April 1991).

March 19 and 26
Freedman, A Choice of Enemies, Part Five.

Peter L. Bergen, The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict Between America and Al-Qaeda.
R. Bronson, Thicker Than Oil, chapters 12 and 13.
D.J. Feith, War and Decision.
George Packer, Assassin’s Gate: America in Iraq.
Norman Podhoretz, World War IV: The Long Struggle Against Islamofascism.
Lawrence Wright, The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11.

Documents:


U.S. Congress Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq (October 2, 2002).


April 2
Session 12

Final Roundtable and Take Home Assignment due Friday, April 3 (noon).