

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

**Course Outline Winter 2015**

Instructor: Dr Salim Mansur  
Office: SSC 4160  
Phone: 661-2111 x85178

Office Hours: Wed 2:00-3:30  
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:

C.R. Mohan, "India and the Balance of Power," in *Foreign Affairs* (July/August 2006), p. 17.

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**

- Fouad Ajami, The Foreigner's Gift: The Americans, the Arabs, and the Iraqis in Iraq.  
 G.W. Ball and D.B. Ball, The Passionate Attachment: America's Involvement With Israel, 1947 to the Present.  
 Mitchell Bard, The Arab Lobby.  
 Peter L. Bergen, The Longest War: The Enduring Conflict between America and Al-Qaeda.  
 James A. Bill, The Eagle and the Lion: The Tragedy of American-Iranian Relations.  
 H.W. Brands, Into the Labyrinth: The United States and the Middle East 1945-1993.  
 Rachel Bronson, Thicker Than Oil: America's Uneasy Partnership With Saudi Arabia.  
 L. Carl Brown, International Politics and the Middle East.  
 Michael J. Cohen, Truman and Israel.  
 Peter Grose, Israel In The Mind Of America.  
 Robert D. Kaplan, The Arabists: The Romance of an American Elite.  
 Henry Kissinger, White House Years.  
 Henry Kissinger, Years of Upheaval.  
 Michael B. Oren, Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1976 to the Present.  
 Norman Podhoretz, World War IV: The Long Struggle Against Islamofascism.  
 W.B. Quandt, Decade of Decisions: American Policy Towards the Arab-Israeli Conflict 1967-1976.  
 W.B. Quandt, Camp David: Peacemaking and Politics.  
 Avi Shlaim, War and Peace in the Middle East: A Concise History.  
 Gary Sick, All Fall Down: America's Tragic Encounter With Iran.  
 Robert W. Stookey, America and the Arab States: An Uneasy Encounter.  
 Alan R. Taylor, The Superpowers and the Middle East.  
 E. Tivnan, The Lobby: Jewish Political Power and American Foreign Policy.  
 Saadia Touval, The Peace Brokers: Mediators in the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1948-1979.  
 U.S. Government, The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.
- 

**January 8****Session 1*****Introduction.***

- W.R. Mead, Special Providence: American Foreign Policy and How It Changed the World.  
 R. Kagan, The World America Made.  
 H. Kissinger, World Order, Introduction, Chapters 7, and 8.  
 H. Kissinger, White House Years, Chapter III, pp. 54-70.  
 Charles Krauthammer, Democratic Realism: An American Foreign Policy for a Unipolar World.

**January 15**  
**Session 2**

*Middle East in U.S. foreign policy.*

- R.N. Haass, "The New Middle East," in *Foreign Affairs*, (Nov.-Dec. 2006).  
 B.R. Kuniholm, "Retrospect and Prospects: Forty Years of U.S. Middle East Policy," in *Middle East Journal*, vol. 41, no. 1, winter 1987, pp. 7-25.

**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.  
 Kubursi, A.A. and S. Mansur, "The Political Economy of Middle Eastern Oil," in R. Stubbs & G.R.D. Underhill (eds.), Political Economy and the Changing Global Order, pp. 313-27.  
 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.  
 Saadia Touval, The Peace Brokers: Mediators in the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1948-1979, chapter 9.
- 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).*

Freedman, A Choice of Enemies, Part One and Part Two.

---

James A. Bill, The Eagle and the Lion: The Tragedy of American-Iranian Relations, chapters 7 and 8.

H.W. Brands, Into the Labyrinth, pp. 143-195.

R. Bronson, Thicker Than Oil, chapters 7-9.

Shireen T. Hunter, Iran and the World, pp. 46-78.

Charles A. Kupchan, The Persian Gulf and the West, chapters 4 and 6.

R.K. Ramazani, The United States and Iran: the Patterns of Influence.

W.B. Quandt, Decade of Decisions: American Policy Towards the Arab-Israeli Conflict 1967-1976.

Anwar Sadat, In Search of Identity.

Gary Sick, All Fall Down: America's Tragic Encounter With Iran.

Saadia Touval, The Peace Brokers: Mediators in the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1948-1979, chapter 10.

**Feb. 26, March 5 and 12**  
**Sessions 7, 8, and 9**

*Bush, Sr. and Clinton Years (1989-2000).*

Freedman, A Choice of Enemies, Part Three and Part Four.

---

H.W. Brands, Into the Labyrinth, pp. 196-213.

R. Bronson, Thicker Than Oil, chapters 10 and 11.

L. Freedman and E. Karsh, The Gulf Conflict 1990-1991: Diplomacy and War In the New World Order.

D. Ross, The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for the Middle East Peace, chapters 24 and 25.

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**

**Sessions 10 and 11*****Bush, Jr. Years (2001-2008).***

Freedman, A Choice of Enemies, Part Five.

---

Fouad Ajami, The Foreigner's Gift: The Americans, The Arabs and The Iraqis In Iraq.

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.

David M. Malone, The International Struggle Over Iraq: Politics in the UN Security Council 1980-2005.

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:

The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1441 (2002).

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

U.S. Congress Iraq Liberation Act of 1998.

“A Performance-Based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” U.S. Department of State 2003, (<http://www.bitterlemons.org/docs/roadmap3.html>).

**April 2**  
**Session 12**

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