RSS AY20 Middle East A

Regional Security Studies: The Middle East

AY 2020

Room 2011

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Course Description

With enduring civil wars in Syria, Libya, Iraq, and Yemen; increasing geopolitical tensions in the Gulf; stalemated Israeli-Palestinian relations; as well as the ongoing war on terror, the Middle East continues to have a central role in US foreign policy. The purpose of this course is to study the current and future security challenges facing this region, including the potential regional proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian dispute and the wider struggle that quarrel has in part engendered between Israel and its Arab neighbors, continuing disputes over the proper role of religion in politics, intense domestic turmoil, terrorism, and a fragile regional economy responding to the demands of globalization. This course will examine these regional security issues, linking them to the recent history of the area, intra-regional competition, domestic political pressures, and American interests and policies. The course will also look at current efforts to ease some of these problems, evaluating their chances for success and the role the United States is playing and may be asked to play in the future in reducing threats in this region—a region that already consumes much of America’s attention and resources.

RSS Course Objective: facilitate comprehension of regional political, military, economic, and cultural (PMEC) contexts enabling students to analyze the interplay between these factors, and evaluate the complex international issues that challenge regional and US security.

RSS Desired Learning Outcomes

1. Describe the role that political, military, economic, and cultural factors play in shaping national policies in a region.
2. Assess US national security policies in a region

Suggested Resources

Here is a list of resources that may help you further your knowledge of the region we will be studying in this course. This list is meant to be suggestive, not exhaustive.

Journals (all available through the AU Library):

*International Journal of Middle East Studies Journal of Palestine Studies Mediterranean Quarterly Middle Eastern Studies*

*Middle East Journal Middle East Policy*

*Middle East Quarterly*

AU Library also maintains recent research guides on topics like Iran—Options for U.S. Strategy, the Syrian Civil War, and Terrorist Organizations in Action. They also have older, but still useful bibliographies on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Islam, the Persian Gulf, Iraqi Reconstruction, the Middle East, the Middle East Peace Process, as well as numerous ones related to terrorism, U.S. military operations, and wars in the region. These are useful resources for those starting research in these areas. Also useful is a reference book entitled *The Middle East and North Africa*, 59th edition, (London: Routledge 2013), which is part of the Europa Regional Survey of the World [Ref: 915.6 M627].

Newspapers: In addition to a major American newspaper that covers international affairs, such as the *New York Times*, you may also want to examine some of the newspapers of the countries we will be visiting. The following are all available, in English, on the web:

*Al-Ahram Weekly*: <http://english.ahram.org.eg/>

*Daily News Egypt*: <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/>

*Egypt Today*: <https://www.egypttoday.com/>

*Ha’aretz*: <http://www.haaretz.com/>

*The Jerusalem Post*: <http://www.jpost.com>

*Yedioth Ahronoth*: <http://www.ynetnews.com>

*Ma’an News Agency*: <http://www.maannews.com/>

*Palestine Chronicle*: <http://www.palestinechronicle.com/>

*Palestine News Network*: <http://english.pnn.ps/>

For more regionally focused news sources see Al-Jazeera’s English website at <http://www.aljazeera.com/>. Al Jazeera also has an excellent iPad app. The Foreign Broadcast Information Service--housed in the Open Source Center (<https://www.opensource.gov>) provides a compilation and translation of media sources from around the world that is an invaluable source of information on regional politics. This is accessible over the web with the proper password.

Course Plan

Class One

The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and The Creation of the Modern Middle East

Ian J. Bickerton and Carla L. Klausner, *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, pp. 1-72

[text].

Class Two

Identity Politics in the Middle East

Malcolm Kerr, “Trial and Error: The United Arab Republic, 1958-1961” *The Arab Cold*

*War: Gamal ‘Abd Al-Nasir and His Rivals*, pp. 1-25.

Raymond W. Baker, “The Paradox of Islam’s Future” *Political Science Quarterly* 127,4

(Winter 2012/2013): 519-566.

Marc Lynch, “The New Arab Order: Power and Violence in Today’s Middle East”

*Foreign Affairs* 97,5 (September/October 2018): 116-126.

Class Three

The Arab Uprising and Its Aftermath

Marc Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, pp. 47-163 [text].

Class Four

U.S. Policy toward the Middle East

Mara Karlin and Tamara Coffman Wittes, “America’s Middle East Purgatory: The Case

for Doing Less” *Foreign Affairs* 98,1 (January/February 2019): 88-100.

Brett McGurk, “Hard Truths in Syria: America Can’t Do More with Less, and it

Shouldn’t Try” *Foreign Affairs* 98,3 (May/June 2019): 69-84.

Phillip H. Gordon, Michael Doran, and Jon B. Alterman, “The Trump Administration’s

Middle East Policy: A Midterm Assessment” *Middle East Policy* 26,1 (Spring 2019): 5-30.

Peter Hays Gries, “How Ideology Divides American Liberals and Conservatives over

Israel” *Political Science Quarterly* 130,1 (2015): 51-78.

**Class Five**

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Wars

Paul Scham, “Competing Israeli and Palestinian Narratives” in Joel Peters and David

Newman, eds., *The Routledge Handbook on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* (New York: Routledge, 2013): 33-44.

Ian J. Bickerton and Carla L. Klausner, *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, pp. 73-174

[text].

Class Six

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Rise and Fall of the Peace Process

Ian J. Bickerton and Carla L. Klausner, *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, pp. 203-

209, 218-230, 251-270, 292-307, 369-377, 412-419, 435-439, 473-474, 493-499 [text].

Efraim Karsh, “Why the Olso Process Doomed Peace” *Middle East Quarterly* 23,4 (Fall

2016): 1-17.

Rashid I. Khalidi, “Historical Landmarks in the Hundred Years’ War on Palestine”

*Journal of Palestine Studies* 47,1 (Autumn 2017): 6-17.

Class Seven

Gulf Security Issues

Ray Takeyh, “The Iran-Iraq War: A Reassessment” *Middle East Journal* 64,3 (Summer

2010): 365-383.

Paul R. Pillar, “The Paradox of Persian Power” *National Interest* 155 (May/June 2018):

29-39.

Frederick W. Kagan. “Can We Pursue a Victory Strategy Against Iran?” 146,2

*Commentary* (September 2018): 22-30.

Mark N. Katz, “The Gulf and the Great Powers: Evolving Dynamics” *Middle East Policy*

24,2 (Summer 2017): 102-109.

Guy Freedman, “Iranian Approaches to Deterrence: Theory and Practice” *Comparative*

*Strategy* 36,5 (2017): 400-412.

Ehud Yaari, “How Iran Plans to Destroy Israel” *The American Interest* 11,1

(September/October 2015): 33-39.

Class Eight

Israel/Palestine: A Country (or Countries) Study

Ilan Pappé, *Israel*, pp. 67-118. [text]

Khaled Elgindy, “Lost in the Chaos: The Palestinian Leadership Crisis” *Washington*

*Quarterly* 38,4 (Winter 2016): 133-150.

Khaled Hroub, “A Newer Hamas? The Revised Charter” *Journal of Palestine Studies*

46,4 (Summer 2017): 100-111.

Class Nine

Egypt: A Country Study

Robert Springborg, *Egypt*, pp. TBD. [text]

Class Ten

SAF/IA Day: Theater Security Cooperation Planning, COCOM VTC’s

& Field Study Preparation

David S. Sorenson, “Field Studies in the Near East” pp. 1-38.

Class Eleven

Post-Field Study Synthesis

No Readings