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School of Diplomacy and International
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Fall 2013

DIPL 6500 The Modern Middle East: US Involvement

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Recommended Citation

Quinn, Maureen Ambassador, "DIPL 6500 The Modern Middle East: US Involvement" (2013). *Diplomacy Syllabi*. 173.

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The Modern Middle East: US Involvement – DIPL 6500

Fall 2013 Thursdays 7:35 – 9:45 pm, Room DH 82

Instructor: Ambassador Maureen Quinn

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Office Hours, - by appointment before and after class

Course Description and Objectives

This course will investigate the role of the United States in the modern Middle East and cover key events involving the U.S. in the region from World War II to the present. Course topics will include the U.S. role in the Arab-Israeli conflict, U.S. involvement in the Arabian Peninsula, and U.S. relations with Iran. The course will cover the influence of domestic interests on U.S. foreign policy and the foreign policy strategy and tactics of the United States.

Students are expected to participate actively throughout the course. Thus, students need to complete assigned readings before class, submit written summaries on time, attend and participate in class discussions. Students need to stay up to date on current events involving the U.S. in the Middle East and can do so by reading major newspapers or magazines (New York Times, Washington Post, and/or online news sites with coverage of/from the region, for example Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya, the Jerusalem Post, Haaretz, Al Ahram Online). It is recommended that students read both western and regional media.

Course Materials

The Israeli -Arab Reader by Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin, Editors

The Middle East and the United States Fifth Edition– David W. Lesch, Editor

The International Relations of the Persian Gulf – Greg Gause

The Iran Primer – Robin Wright

Thicker Than Oil by Rachel Bronson

The above books, as assigned, are required reading for the course. Additional reading assignments are listed below or will be added during the course of the semester. Some readings will be from online resources.

Other resources relevant to the course

From Beirut to Jerusalem by Tom Friedman

The Arabists by Robert Kaplan

The 9/11 Commission Report

Student Responsibilities

Class Participation (30% of grade): Class will be conducted seminar style, so reading prior to class, attendance and participation in class discussions are essential. One page double spaced written summaries are required most weeks (see below). Class presentations/assigned discussions of topics in a panel format will also be required.

Research Paper (40% of grade): Students are required to prepare an original research paper regarding a future oriented policy toward the Middle East for the U.S. The research can draw on a historical example as the basis for a policy recommendation, use data to support a policy, or analyze the pros and cons of a specific **U.S. foreign policy choice involving the Middle East**. Research papers will have a thesis, facts and analysis to support the research's conclusions. Students will prepare a 15 page, double-spaced, type-written paper. A bibliography will be attached and the paper will be footnoted as necessary. **Students will present their research topic in class and are expected to participate in discussions on each others' research.**

Students will submit the type-written, **policy related research proposal and annotated bibliography on Sept. 26**. The proposal will include a one page summary of the proposed policy topic and an annotated bibliography of at least **ten** sources (not including the books required for the course). Two or more sources will be **primary sources** -- meaning official government documents, speeches or statements by government leaders, bilateral or multilateral agreements, United Nations resolutions, etc. and each of the ten sources will be annotated (meaning each source will be explained in a few sentences). Students will be graded on the **research proposal (10% of the grade)**. Students will give an oral presentation on the research, which will be scheduled in a panel format in November. **Final written research papers are due on Nov. 21st.**

Take Home Final Exam (30% of the grade): Questions for the exam will be given out on Dec. 5. The final exam is due on Dec. 12. Exam questions should be answered essay style and type written, double spaced. Each answer should be one to two pages maximum.

Course Policies

Grades will be lowered on material submitted late by a half letter grade per day. While laptops may be used to take notes, any disruptive electronic devices should be turned off during class.

Readings

Aug. 29 - Introduction to the Course, Review of Syllabus, Course Requirements Sources, Strategy, and Tactics of US Foreign Policy in the Middle East

Sept. 5 – Written Summary Required – Saudi Arabia/Iran/Israel/US

Thicker Than Oil – Pages 1- to the top of page 70, Prologue, Oil, God and Real Estate, Dropping Anchors in the Middle East

The Middle East and the US (Fifth Edition) Pages 55-78 (US and Iran)

The Arab-Israeli Reader – The Balfour Doctrine pg. 16 and State of Israel Proclamation of Independence pg. 81 -83

Sept. 12 – Written Summary Required/Panel Topic Discussion
Egypt, Pan-Arabism, Suez, Baghdad Pact, Regional Economic Policies

US and the Middle East Pgs. 33-50, 79-105, 128-144

Thicker than Oil – 70-105

The International Journal of Middle East Studies, Vol. 25, Issue No. 4, 1993

“The Making of a Special Relationship 1957-68,” (ONLINE)

Sept. 19 – Written Summary Required/Panel Topic Discussion

1967 War/1973 US involvement in Israeli-Palestinian Relations

The Middle East and the US Pgs. 177-216 (Chapter 11 -1967 Arab-Israeli War, Chapter 12 - Flawed Strategies)

The Arab-Israeli Reader -- United Nations Resolutions—242 and 338, pg.-116,& pg.152

Thicker Than Oil – 106-139

The Making of UN Security Council Resolution 242 by David Korn Available online from Georgetown University Institute for the Study of Diplomacy GUID No. 450 18pgs (bring to class)

Sept. 26 -- Research Proposal Due

US and Israel, US and the PLO, Camp David I Accord

Camp David: A Case of International Bargaining (42 pages) –bring to class by Shibley Telhami - Available online -- from –

Georgetown University Institute for the Study of Diplomacy GUID No. 445

The Arab Israeli Reader - Saunders’ Testimony on US Policy & Peace 11/12/75, pg. 203,

Egyptian Pres. Anwar Sadat: Peace with Justice Nov. 1977 pg. 207-215, and

the Palestinian Dec. 77 Plan and Arab League Declaration -- Dec. 1977 pg. 215-218

Oct. 3 – Written Summary Required/Panel Topic

1979 - Iranian Revolution, Mecca attack, Soviets Invade Afghanistan; Iran, Iraq

The Iran Primer – Carter & Reagan Administrations, pgs.129-135,

Thicker than Oil – 140 - 190

The International Relations of the Persian Gulf – pages 1-87 (Iranian Rev. & Iran vs.Iraq)

Oct 10 Written Summary Required/Panel Topic

Gulf War I

Thicker Than Oil – Page 191 – 203

The International Relations of the Persian Gulf - 88-120 (Gulf War 1)

The Iran Primer – 136-138

Oct 17 – Written Summary Required/Panel Discussion

Madrid Conference, Oslo, Saudi Arabia and the US during the Clinton Administration

Thicker Than Oil Pages - Pages 204-231 Parting Ways

The Israeli-Arab Reader - Israel and PLO Declaration of Principles - pgs. 413 – 418,
Israel & Jordan Washington Agreement – pg. 467 - 470
US and the Modern Middle East – 244-259 (Madrid/Oslo to Camp David)

Oct. 24 – Written Summary Required/Panel Presentation
Summit Diplomacy – A Case Study

The International Relations of the Persian Gulf Pg. 121-135 (Iraq Sanctions Era)

The Iran Primer – 139-141

The Israeli-Arab Reader from Reflections on Oslo pg. 527 to 580

Excerpt from Madeline Albright's Madam Secretary "Fruitless Quest" Pages 473-492

Oct. 31 – Written Summary Required/Panel Topic Discussion
Bush and the Arab-Israeli issue, Bush and terrorism

The Middle East and the US – Pages 261-288, 456-506 (US, Liberals, Islamists and Al Qaeda)

Thicker Than Oil – 232- 262 (September 11 and Beyond)

9/11 in Retrospect, George W. Bush's Grand Strategy Reconsidered by Melvyn P. Leffler in Foreign Affairs, September/October 2011

Nov. 7 - Bush, Iraq, Iran, Written Summary Required/Panel Presentation

The International Relations of the Persian Gulf – pg. 136-250 (Iraq War)

The Iran Primer – pg. 142- 145

The US and the Middle East – pages 434-455 (Iran 1997-2008)

Nov. 14 – Written Summary Required

Iran – sanctions and negotiations, the nuclear issue

The Iran Primer – 11--92 (Iran's leadership, economy, military, Iran – nuclear issue)

The Iran Primer – 146-148 (Obama and Iran)

New York Review of Books, For a New Approach to Iran by William Luers, Thomas R. Pickering, & Jim Walsh, mid August 2013 (optional)

Who is Khamenei? The Mind of Iran's Supreme Leader by Akbar Ganji in Foreign Affairs September/October 2013

Nov. 21 – Research Paper Due

Continuity and contrast from Bush to Obama in the Middle East and the Arab Awakening

Speeches in Cairo: Secretary Rice Speech in 2005 and President Obama Speech in 2009 –

US and the Modern Middle East – Pages 507-518 (New US Policies)

Scoring Obama's Foreign Policy, in Foreign Affairs, May/June 2012

Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving

Dec. 5 – Research Presentations in Panels

Dec. 12 – Final Exam Due