Spring 2016

The Persian Gulf in the 21st Century

Maureen Quinn Ambassador
Seton Hall University

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THE PERSIAN GULF IN THE 21st CENTURY

DIPL 6510
Spring 2016
Mondays 7:35 – 9:45pm
Instructor: Ambassador (ret.) Maureen Quinn
Email: maureenquinn356@aol.com

Course Description and Objectives

This course will provide basic knowledge of the Gulf region, analyze current trends and challenges, and require critical thinking on choices for regional and non-regional policymakers and their implications for the region’s future. The course will begin with a brief discussion of the recent history of the Gulf region. It will then be divided into four sections: (1) politics and governance; (2) economic trends; (3) security, political-military issues and military issues; and (4) case studies and class presentations.

The class will be conducted as a seminar. Attendance and active student participation throughout the course is essential. Students need to complete the assigned readings before class, submit written summaries on time, and participate actively in class discussions. Students also need to stay abreast of current events in the region and can easily do so by choosing from among relevant articles in the major newspapers or magazines (New York Times, Washington Post, the Economist, etc.), the analytical articles on the web sites of major think tanks, and reporting in regional media (Al Arabiya, Al Jazeera, etc.) which are available in English.

Student Responsibilities

Class Participation (30% of course grade): Class will be conducted seminar style, so reading prior to class, submission of weekly summaries (one page type written answer to question related to weekly readings), attendance and participation in class discussions are essential.

Research Proposal, Paper and Presentation (10% for proposal, 30% for Paper and Presentation): Students are required to do in depth research on a topic of their choice regarding the Persian Gulf region. Research papers will be analytical not just descriptive. Students will prepare a fifteen page, double spaced research paper. Students should draw on at least three primary sources, as well as secondary sources and papers should be appropriately footnoted. A bibliography is required with the paper.

Students will submit their proposal and annotated bibliography on Feb. 22 for 10% of the grade. The proposal will outline in a few paragraphs (approximately three-quarters of a page) the research topic and list at least ten sources with brief summaries of the
perspectives of the sources. Three of the ten sources must be primary sources. At the end of the semester students will present their research for class discussion. Exact dates for presentations will be determined and set by the end of February. All research papers are due in final on April 25.

Take Home Final Exam (30% of grade) Questions for the exam will be given out on May 2. Questions for the exam will relate to the material and discussions from the entire semester. Exam questions are to be answered essay style, type written (double spaced), one page per question. The take home final exam is due on May 9 by email to maureenquinn356@aol.com.

Policies

The penalty for late work is one half of a letter grade per day. Laptops and other electronic devices can be used in class only for class purposes. If you have any questions on the course or these two policies, please contact the instructor.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, students at Seton Hall University who have a disability may be eligible for accommodations in this course. Should a student require such accommodation, he or she must self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 67, Duffy Hall, provide documentation of said disability, and work with DSS to develop a plan for accommodations. The contact person is Ms. Diane Delorenzo at (973) 313-6003.

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See university and school standards for academic conduct here: http://www.shu.edu/offices/student-life/community-standards/community-standards.cfm http://www.shu.edu/academics/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm.

Course Materials


The Political Economy of the Persian Gulf -- edited by Mehran Kamrava

International Politics of the Persian Gulf edited by Mehran Kamrava

The Iran Primer: Power, Politics, and U.S. Policy edited by Robin Wright Available online

The Many Faces of Political Islam: Religion and Politics in the Muslim World by
Mohammed Ayoob

Additional assigned readings will be available on line at think tank, government or other websites. Several online readings are listed below. Additional readings will be drawn from current periodicals.

Course Topics, Readings, and Assignments

January 11 – Course Introduction
Course Introduction: Discussion of Course Objectives, Strategy and Content The Middle East – considering the historical context.

January 18
School Holiday

January 25 - A Brief History of the Gulf States
Monarchy, the Secular State, and Theocracy
Making of the Modern Gulf States by Rosemarie Said Zahlan  pages 7 - 154
The Modern History of Iraq by Phoebe Marr, pgs. 113-138, handout
The Iran Primer pages 11-34 online

Section 1: Politics and Governance

February 1 – Religion and Politics Politics and Governance Class 1
Islam, Islamism, Secularism, Pluralism

February 8 – Politics and Governance Class 2
International Politics of the Persian Gulf, by Mehran Kamrava,
Chapter 2 Sovereignty and Boundaries in the Gulf States Settling the Peripheries by J.E. Petersen, pages 21-49  and
Chapter 11 Political Reform and Foreign Policy in Persian Gulf Monarchies by Katja Niethammer, pages 234 – 256
Iran Primer  – pages 35-56

Monday Feb. 15 – Politics and Governance – Class 3 - Voices from the Gulf Read the writings or listen to a speech by a leader from the region, write one page
summary, present in class why the speaker, the chosen speech is significant and what does it portend/portended for the Persian Gulf region.

Iran –
The Shah – Interview with History – Oriana Fallaci in Chapter 11
Islam and Revolution Writings of Imam Khomeini - select a chapter
A speech of former President Ahmedinejad or the speech of President Rouhani at UNGA at http://gadebate.un.org/70/iran-islamic-republic

Iraq –
Saddam Hussein from the Wilson Center Digital Archive, Sayid Ali Al Sistani, or Prime Minister Al Abadi http://gadebate.un.org/70/Iraq
Saudi Arabia
King Abdullah, King Salman, current Crown Prince or other selected leader

Arabian Gulf
any one of the Gulf Leaders speaking at the UNGA in 2015, for example http://gadebate.un.org/70/qatar

Al Qaeda in Its Own Words edited by Gilles Kepel and Jean-Pierre Milelli– Osama bin Laden, Zawahiri, or Abu Musab Al Zarqawi
DAESH – Al Baghdadi online

Section 2 - Economic Trends

Monday Feb. 22 - Economic Trends: Class I Research Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography Due
The Iran Primer - pages 95-126

Monday Feb. 29
Spring Break

March 7 - Economic Trends Class 2
The Political Economy of the Gulf, Part II Money, Banking and Demography
Page125-191

Monday March 14 – Economic Trends Class 3
The Political Economy of the Persian Gulf, Pages 195-267

Case Studies: Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Iran


Section 3 - Military, Political-Military, Security Issues

Monday March 21 – Security Trends (GCC Focus)
International Politics of the Persian Gulf - Pages, 1-20, and Pages 50-183
Ideologies, Alliances, and Underbalancing in the New Middle East Cold War by Gregory Gause on the Project on Middle East Political Science Web site link below http://pomeps.org/2015/08/26/ideologies-alliances-and-underbalancing-in-the-new-middle-east-cold-war/

Monday March 28
School Closed

April 4 – Security Trends (Iran Focus)
International Politics of the Persian Gulf - Page 184 – 233
Iran Primer – Pages 59-92
The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and Annexes, listed on the Department of State website at the link http://www.state.gov/e/eb/tfs/spi/iran/jcpoa/
How to Prevent an Iranian Bomb by Michael Mandlebaum in Foreign Affairs, November /December 2015 Issue, Pages 19-24

April 11 Security Trends Class 3 – (Iraq focus)

Section 4 – Research Presentations and Case Studies

Monday April 18
Student Research Presentations and Case
Study on Yemen– as time permits
readings to be added on Yemen, as appropriate
Monday April 25
Research Papers are due at the beginning of class
Research Presentations Continued
And Case Study on Yemen, as time permits
Readings to be added as appropriate

May 2 Take Home Final Exam Questions to be handed out at the end of class
Case Study & Class Wrap Up

May 9 - Final exam is due. Please submit your take home final exam.

Background Reading and References

A History of the Arab Peoples by Albert Hourani,


The International Relations of the Persian Gulf by Gregory Gause

Political Order in Changing Societies by Samuel Huntington

Forces of Fortune by Vali Nasr

Al Qaeda In Its Own Words edited by Gilles Kepel and Jean-Pierre Milelli

Interview with History – Oriana Fallaci, Chapter 11 Mohammed Riza Pahlavi

The Gulf Military Balance Volume 1: The Conventional and Asymmetric Dimensions By Anthony Cordesman with Bryan Cold and Garrett Bernsten