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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International  
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Fall 2012

## DIPL 6501 The Modern Middle East: US Involvement

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## **The Modern Middle East: US Involvement – DIPL 6501**

Fall 2012 Thursdays 4:00 – 6: 10 pm

Instructor: Ambassador Maureen Quinn

Email: [maureenquinn356@aol.com](mailto:maureenquinn356@aol.com),

Office Hours, - by appointment before and after class

**As corrected September 3, 2012**

### 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 – 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). Some 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, use data to support a policy or analyze the pros and cons of specific **U.S. foreign policy choices 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 Oct. 4**. 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 Dec. 6.**

Take Home Final Exam (30% of the grade): Questions for the exam will be given out on Dec. 6. The final exam is due on Dec. 13. 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 30-** Introduction to the Course, Review of Syllabus, Course Requirements Sources, Strategy, and Tactics of US Foreign Policy in the Middle East

**Sept. 6 – 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. 13 – 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

**Sept. 20 – 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  
The International Journal of Middle East Studies, Vol. 25, Issue No. 4, 1993  
“The Making of a Special Relationship 1957-68,” (ONLINE)  
Thicker Than Oil – 107-139

**Sept. 27\_ -- Written Summary Required/Panel Discussion**  
**US and Israel, US and the PLO, Camp David I Accord**  
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  
The International Relations of the Persian Gulf - Pg. 1-44  
Article to be added

**Oct. 4 – Research Proposal Due**  
**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 45-87 (Iranian Rev. & Iran vs.  
Iraq)

**Oct 11 Written Summary Required/Panel Topic**  
**Gulf Was 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 18 – Written Summary Required/Panel Discussion**  
**Madrid Conference, Oslo**  
Thicker Than Oil Pages - Pages 204-231  
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. 25 – Written Summary Required/Panel Presentation - Summit Diplomacy**  
The International Relations of the Persian Gulf Pg. 121-135 (Iraq Sanctions Era)

Thicker Than Oil Pages - Pages 204-231 (Parting Ways)

The Iran Primer – 139-141

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

**Nov. 1 – 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)

**Nov. 8 - 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. 15 – Obama and the Middle East Written Summary Required**

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

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

**Nov. 22 – Thanksgiving**

**Nov. 29 – Research Presentations**

**Dec. 6 – Research Papers Due**

US Policy and the Arab Awakening

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

Online Reading –

NYT Op-Ed by Tom Friedman “A Festival of Lies,” March 25, 2012

“ Post Assad Syria, Opportunity or Quagmire” by Patrick Clawson,

Strategic Forum, National Defense University

**Dec. 13 – Final Exam Due**