

Spring 2015

The Modern Middle East: US Involvement

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Seton Hall University

School of Diplomacy

DIPL 6501: The Modern Middle East: U.S. Involvement Hossein Hafezian, PhD

Spring 2015

Wednesdays 07:35-09:45PM

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Office Hours:

Wednesdays 06:00-07:30PM

McQuaid 107

Course Objectives:

U.S. involvement in the Middle East began in early 1800s, but it was not until the World War II that the Middle East became a priority for U.S. administrations. The creation of the state of Israel further reinforced U.S. involvement in the Middle East political equations and international relations. The United States is currently the most influential foreign power in the Middle East, but it is far from the most popular. A history of U.S. involvement in the Middle East during the Cold War, its special relations with Israel and its efforts at forging alliance with certain Middle Eastern countries are among the topics to be discussed in this course. Challenges to U.S. hegemony in the region particularly the impact of the September 11th events including American military intervention in Afghanistan and Iraq and disputes over Iran's nuclear program will be also examined in the course, exploring prospects for future U.S. ties with the Middle East in the next decade.

Required Textbook:

David W. Lesch and Mark L. Haas (eds.), *The Middle East and the United States*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2013, Fifth Edition.

Recommended:

Mehran Kamrava, *The Modern Middle East: A Political History since the First World War*, Berkley: University of California Press, 2013.

Mehran Kamrava, *The International Politics of the Persian Gulf*, Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2011.

The 9/11 Commission Report

The above books, as assigned, are required reading for the course. Additional reading assignments will be added during the course of the semester due to the changing nature

of certain topics including the Syrian crisis, the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) as well as Iranian nuclear issue.

Course Requirements:

Students will be graded on the following basis:

- 1) Class Participation (20 percent of course grade): Students are expected to attend all class sessions, to read all assigned materials prior to class, and to take part actively in discussions.
- 2) A term paper of 12-15 pages with at least ten references (not including the textbooks), on a topic to be approved beforehand by the professor. Due April 29 and counts 40 percent of the final grade. Students will present their research topic in class in 10 minutes followed by five minutes of discussions by the other students.
- 3) Take home final exam for which essay type questions will be provided on April 29 and must be received by May 6. It will cover the entire course, lectures and readings, counting 40 percent of the final grade. Students can choose three out of five questions and write 2-page essay for each.

Disability Services Statement

“Students at Seton Hall University who have a physical, medical, learning or psychiatric disability, either temporary or permanent, may be eligible for reasonable accommodations at the University as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In order to receive such accommodations, students must identify themselves at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), provide appropriate documentation and collaborate with the development of an accommodation plan. The DSS phone number is 973-313-6003.

For further information, please go to: <http://studentaffairs.shu.edu/dss/>.”

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty.

All forms of dishonesty whether by act of omission, including but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and knowingly furnishing false information to the University are prohibited and may elicit University sanctions of suspension or expulsion. See University and school statements for academic conduct here: <http://www.shu.edu/offices/community-development/community->

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Dates	Topics	Readings
1/14	Introductory Notes	Introduction (Lesch)
1/21	History of U.S. Involvement in the M.E. Chaps. 16, 1 & 2 (Lesch) Chaps. 1 & 2 (Kamrava, 2013)	
1/28	U.S.-Soviet Rivalry in the M.E. in the Cold War Era Chaps. 7, 9 & 10 (Lesch)	
2/4	U.S. and Arab-Israeli Wars Chaps. 11, 12 & 13 (Lesch) Chap. 4 (Kamrava, 2013)	
2/11	U.S. and Arab-Israeli Peace Process Chaps. 14 & 15 (Lesch) Chap. 9 (Kamrava, 2013)	
2/18	U.S. and Iran: 1953 Coup and the Shah Chaps. 3, 4, & 17 (Lesch)	
2/25	U.S. and Revolutionary Iran: The Nuclear Challenge Chap. 23 (Lesch) Chap. 5 (Kamrava, 2013)	
3/4	U.S. and Turkey: A Reliable Ally? Chap. 21 (Lesch)	

- 3/11 **Spring Break**
- 3/18 **U.S. and Egypt: From Pan-Arabism to Revolution**
Chaps. 5, 8 (Lesch)
Chap. 3 (Kamrava, 2013)
- 3/25 **U.S., September 11th and War in Afghanistan**
Chap. 22 (Lesch)
The 9/11 Commission Report
- 4/1 **U.S. and Persian Gulf Wars**
Chaps. 19 & 20 (Lesch)
Chap. 6 (Kamrava, 2013)
- 4/8 **U.S. and Persian Gulf States**
Chap. 18 (Lesch)
Chap. 4 & 6 (Kamrava, 2011)
- 4/15 **U.S. and Islamic Fundamentalism: The Al-Qaeda**
Chaps. 24, 25 & 26 (Lesch)
- 4/22 **U.S., the Syrian Crisis and ISIS**
- 4/29 **Prospects of U.S. Involvement in the M.E. in the 21st Century**
Chaps. 27 & 28 (Lesch)
Chap 11 (Kamrava, 2013)
- 5/6 **Final Exam Due**