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Spring 2007

DIPL 6510 The Persian Gulf in the 21st Century

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THE PERSIAN GULF IN THE 21st CENTURY

DIPL 6510

Spring 2007

Mondays 6:15pm – 8:25pm

Instructor: Ambassador Maureen Quinn (retired)

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Course Description and Objectives

This course will provide basic knowledge of the Gulf region, analyze current trends and challenges and require critical thinking on implications for the region's future and choices for regional and non-regional policymakers. The course will begin with a brief discussion of the recent history of the Gulf region. The course will then be divided into four sections: (1) politics and governance, (2) economic trends, (3) military, political-military and nuclear issues and (4) case studies and class presentations. While world leaders focus on the war in Iraq, the challenge of a potential nuclear threat in Iran and the price of oil, the course will cover the political, economic and military trends underlying the current situation and the challenges the region poses for local, regional and world powers. The final few weeks of the course will be devoted to student presentation of their research work and depending on class size/time permitting, case studies of policy issues.

Students will actively participate throughout the course. Thus, students need to complete the assigned readings before class and participate actively in its seminar style discussions. Students need to stay abreast of current events in the region and can easily do so by reading any of the major newspapers or magazines regularly, many of which are available on line (New York Times, Washington Post, the Economist, etc.). In addition, students can access websites of the Gulf English language media outlets, as well as the BBC and similar sites.

Course Materials

Islam A Short History by Karen Armstrong, 2002 Modern Library Paperback Edition, ISBN 0-8129-6618-x

The J Curve A New Way to Understand Why Nations Rise and Fall by Ian Bremmer, 2006 Simon & Schuster, ISBN-13 978-0-7432-7471-5, ISBN-10: 0-7432-7471-7

Thicker than Oil America's Uneasy Partnership with Saudi Arabia by Rachel Bronson, 2006 Oxford University Press, ISBN-13: 978-0-19-516743-6, ISBN-10: 0-19-516743-0

The Making of the Modern Gulf States by Rosemarie S. Zahlan, 1999 Ithaca Press, ISBN-10 0863722296, ISBN-13 978-0863722295

Oil and Politics in the Gulf: Rulers and Merchants in Kuwait and Qatar by Jill Crystal, 1995 Cambridge University Press, ISBN 10:0521466350, ISBN-13 978-0521466356

The Modern History of Iraq by Phebe Marr, 2003 Westview Press, ISBN 0813336155

Chapters of the above books will be used in the course. The books are available at libraries and in major, regular and on-line bookstores. Many assigned readings will be available on line at think tank, government or other websites. See below. Additional readings will be drawn from current periodicals.

Student Responsibilities

Class Participation (20% of course grade): Class will be conducted seminar style, so reading prior to class, 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 primary and secondary resources and papers should be appropriately footnoted.

Students will submit their proposal and annotated bibliography on Feb. 12 for 10% of the grade. The proposal will outline in one paragraph the research topic and list at least ten sources with brief summaries of the perspectives of the sources. In the month of April students will present their research topic for class discussion. Class discussion should give students the opportunity to enhance the final submission of their work. Exact dates for presentations will be determined and set by the end of February. All research papers are due in final on April 16.

Take Home Mid-Term Exam (20% of grade) Questions for the exam will be given out on February 19 and will relate to the materials covered and discussed in class prior to the mid-term. This take home mid-term is due on Feb. 26th at the beginning of class. Exam questions should be answered essay style, type written (double spaced). Each question should be answered in about one –page, type written double spaced.

Take Home Final Exam (20% of grade) Questions for the exam will be given on April 23. Questions for the exam will relate to the material and discussions from the mid-term to the end of the course. Exam questions should be answered essay style, type written (double spaced), one page per question. The take home final exam is due on April 30.

Grades will be lowered on any materials that are submitted late.

Course Policies

The penalty for late work is one half letter grade per day. Cases of cheating or plagiarism will be handled through the Whitehead School of Academic Integrity Policy. Students with disabilities should contact the Disabilities Support Services Office for special accommodations. All electronic devices will be turned off during class.

If you have any questions on the course or these policies, please contact the instructor.

Course Topics and Readings

Monday Jan. 8

Introductions/Discussion of Course Objectives, Strategy and Content

Monday Jan. 15

Recent History of the Gulf

Readings:

Islam by Karen Armstrong pgs. 1-37

New York Times Week in Review Sunday December 17, 2006, pg. 7,

“Refresher Course for Congress: Telling Sunni from Shiite”

Thicker than Oil by Rachel Bronson pgs 14-59 pgs 140-167

Transcript of the Emerging Shia Crescent Symposium, Understanding the Shia, Cause for Concern, Implications for US Policy in the Middle East June 5, 2006 on

www.cfr.org/publication 10866 (Read Part 1 *Understanding the Shia*)

Oil and Politics in the Gulf by Jill Crystal pgs. 1-14, 100-110, 171-186

Section 1: Politics and Governance

Monday Jan. 22

Politics and Governance

Readings:

State Department Annual Human Rights Report (most recent report for the year 2005) on each country in the region available on-line at www.state.gov Read sections on ability of people to change their government, key structures of government and role of the judiciary

Transcript of the Emerging Shia Crescent Symposium, Understanding the Shia, Cause for Concern?, Implications for US Policy in the Middle East June 5, 2006 on

www.cfr.org/publication 10866 (Read Part 2 *Cause for Concern*)

The Modern History of Iraq by Phebe Marr, pgs. TBD

New York Times Week in Review Sunday December 17, 2006 “How Iran’s Leader Keeps the West Off Balance”

Makings of the Modern Gulf States by Rosemarie Zahlan Pgs. 1-32

Monday Jan. 29

Rule of Law, Democracy, Transnational Political Issues

Readings:

Transcript of the Emerging Shia Crescent Symposium, Understanding the Shia, Cause for Concern, Implications for US Policy in the Middle East June 5, 2006 on

www.cfr.org/publication/10866 (Read Part 3 *Implications for US Policy*)

On www.ceip.org – Read the *Arab Bulletin* on elections and democracy in Kuwait, Bahrain and UAE December 2006

“Can Democracy stop Terrorism?” by F. Gregory Gause *Foreign Affairs*, Sept./Oct. 2005 III available online at www.foreignaffairs.com

Monday Feb. 5

Stability and Instability

Readings:

Chapters on Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq in *The J Curve* by Ian Bremmer pg. 58-125

Making of the Modern Gulf States by Rosemarie Zahlan pgs. TBD

Oil and Politics in the Gulf by Jill Crystal pgs. TBD

Section 2 - Economic Trends

Monday Feb. 12

Economic Trends: Part I

Research Paper Proposal and Annotated Bibliography Due

Readings:

Economic Trends Reports from the Department of Commerce available at (Focus on Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait)

US Dept. of Energy *International Energy Outlook 2006* Chapter 3 on Oil on line at www.eia.doe.gov and Country Analysis Briefs for the Gulf Countries (Focus on sections

on background, oil and gas on Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait) also at www.eia.doe.gov “Saving Iraq from Its Oil,” *Foreign Affairs* by Nancy Birdsall and Arvind Subramanian July/August 2004

Monday Feb. 19

Economic Trends: Part II

Mid-Term Exam Questions Given Out at the end of class

Readings:

Economic Trends Reports from the Department of Commerce (Focus on Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the UAE and Iran

US Dept. of Energy *International Energy Outlook 2006* Chapter 4 on Natural Gas on line at www.eia.doe.gov and Country Analysis Briefs for the Gulf Countries (focus on

Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, the UAE, Iran - on sections on background, oil and gas on above named countries)
New York Times Article by Thomas Friedman "The Fast Eat the Slow" February 2, 2001 online at www.nytimes.com
On www.gcc-sg.org Read the *Economic Agreement of the Gulf Cooperation Council* adopted 31 December 2001
Additional reading on the GCC to be assigned

Monday Feb. 26

Take Home Mid-term Exam Due at the Beginning of Class

Arabic Media, Role of the Media

Readings:

"What the Muslim World is Watching," by Fouad Ajami, Sunday New York Times, November 18, 2001
"The War Inside the Arab Newsroom," by Samantha Shapiro, New York Times Magazine, January 2, 2005
Watch the DVD of the *Control Room* (documentary of Al Jazeera)

March 5

NO CLASS

Section 3 Military, Political-Military. Security Issues and the Nuclear Issue

Monday March 12

Internal and External Security threats

Readings:

Iran's Developing Military Capabilities By Anthony Cordesman on line at www.csis.org
Saudi Internal Security: A Risk Assessment Terrorism and the Security Services – Challenges and Developments Working Draft, May 30, 2004 by Anthony Cordesman and Nawaf Obaid at www.csis.org*** also serves as background for class on the Gulf and terrorism

Fact Sheet on Militaries in the region TBD

Monday March 19

Terrorism and the Gulf

Readings:

"Can Democracy stop Terrorism?" by F. Gregory Gause in *Foreign Affairs*, Sept./Oct. 2005 III available online at www.foreignaffairs.com
Combating Terrorism Center at West Point – www.ctc.usma.edu/imagery reading TBD
Islam by Karen Armstrong pgs 141-187
State Department Annual Report on Terrorism Country Sections on Each Gulf Country at www.state.gov

Monday March 26
Nuclear Issue

Readings:

Iran's Developing Military Capabilities 12/8/04 Articles by Anthony Cordesman
Available at www.csis.org

Testimony Given at Hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on May 17, 2006 and May 18, 2006 on Iran's Political/Nuclear Ambitions and US Policy Options and

Testimony Given at Hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on September 19, 2006 on Responding to Iran's Nuclear Ambitions: Next Steps (the testimony of the experts are on the web at www.senate.gov (Foreign Relations Committee Hearings)

Speeches and Letters to America by Iran's President Ahmedinajad available online from major media outlets

Fact Sheet on International Standards TBD

Section 4 – Research Presentations and Case Studies

Monday April 2
Student Research Presentations/Case Studies Discussion

Tentative Case Study Discussion on Issue regarding energy policy

Monday April 9
Student Research Presentations/Case Studies Discussion

Tentative Case Study Discussion on an issue involving the Region and Relations with the US

Monday April 16
Research Papers are Due at the beginning of class.
Case Studies Discussion

Tentative Case Study Discussion Involving Iran and/or Iraq

Monday April 23d
Take Home Final Exam Questions Handed Out at the end of class
Class Wrap Up/Trends and Challenges/Case Studies Lessons Learned

Monday April 30
Final exam is due. Please submit your take home final exam.