

Spring 2008

# U.S. Involvement in the Middle East

S. Azmat Hassan Ambassador

## **U.S. Involvement in the Middle East**

DIPL 4187

Spring 2008

5:45 pm. – 8:15pm

On Mondays

NU 104

Instructor: Ambassador S. Azmat Hassan (Ret.)

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:00-5:00 p.m., or by appointment

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### **Course description and objectives.**

The course will commence with an in depth study of “American Orientalism: The United States and the Middle East since 1945” by Douglas Little. The book provides an analytical and interpretive approach to U.S. involvement in the Middle East. The second book used for the course will be David W. Lesch’s “The Middle East and the United States.” (Third Edition). I will give my own insights on U.S. involvement in the Middle East based on my postings in Syria, United Arab Emirates, Morocco and as Additional Secretary in charge of the Middle East Division in Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry.

In addition, I will circulate articles from newspapers and magazines relevant to the course. I also expect students to share materials they have found relevant with me, for possible circulation to the class. I shall also focus on current problems and issues faced by the U.S in the Middle East including the US involvement in Iraq. The careful reading and absorption of the material will advance the understanding and comprehension of students.

### **Course strategy.**

The best strategy for students to do well on the course is to complete all reading assignments beforehand, come punctually to class and listen attentively to my lectures. **Regular** class attendance is very important as is the taking of good notes **by hand** of my lectures. The use of laptops is not

allowed. I want an interactive class asking questions and if necessary, making brief comments.

Class participation will count towards the grade. If any points discussed in the class are not clear to any student, he/she should not hesitate to approach me either after the class or during office hours. I can also be reached by email. I hope that by the end of the course all the students will have a good grasp of the Middle East, its history and political evolution and trends for future evolution. Students will also have acquired insights into major aspects of US involvement in the Middle East.

### **Course Materials.**

#### Compulsory Reading:

1. American Orientalism, by Douglas Little
2. The Middle East and the United States: A Historical and Political Reassessment by David W. Lesch. (Third Edition)

#### Background Reading:

1. The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World by Avi Shlaim.
2. What Went Wrong by Bernard Lewis.
3. The Arabists by Robert Kaplan
4. Deadly Deception by Paul Findley.
5. Covering Islam by Edward Said.

### **Course Activities.**

- Lectures
- Examination
- Term Paper
- Paper Presentation
- Class Discussions

### **Course requirements and grading:**

1. There will be a final examination based on essay type questions which will constitute 40% of the grade.

2. A well-developed research paper which will constitute 40% of the grade. The research paper will make an in depth analysis of the topic selected. The paper should not be less than 12 pages and no more than 16 typed double-spaced pages, **excluding** the cover page and the bibliography. The page numbering should begin from the first page of the text. The paper should contain footnotes at the bottom of the page on the same page where the reference has been made. The topics will be proposed by the student and approved by the Instructor. The topic encapsulated in a one paragraph outline, should be selected and submitted to me in writing by **Monday, February 25**. An approved topic cannot be changed. If a paper is submitted on any topic other than the one approved, it will receive 0 points and result in the student failing the course. **The paper is due on Monday, April 7**. If the papers are not submitted by the deadline, **2 points per every late day** will be deducted from the grade. If the paper has not been submitted **within 7 days** of the expiry of the deadline, **i.e by the end of the day on April 14**, the student will get **0 points** and forfeit 40% of the grade which unfortunately means failing the course. Please submit the paper in **hard copy only**. Papers submitted by email will not be considered by me.
3. Class presentation, participation throughout the course and regular attendance will constitute 20% of the grade. Each student will make a short presentation based on his/her research paper. This presentation can only be made after the students have submitted their papers. There will be a class discussion on the presentations. Attendance of all students is **mandatory** at the class presentations. Absentee students will be penalized

### **Plagiarism:**

Students may please note that plagiarism will not be tolerated. The Whitehead School of Diplomacy takes serious note of students who indulge in plagiarism. If it is established by me that a student has copied material from any source and tried to pass it as his or her own work, the paper will get 0 points resulting in the student failing the course. Moreover students will be subject to administrative action by the School.

### **General Comments:**

I expect all students to perform to the maximum of their ability. Cultivation of good study habits will contribute to the achievement of this goal. These are punctuality and regularity in attendance, concentration in class, taking of lecture notes by hand, regular and methodical study, and turning in the research paper on time and not trying to do a rushed last minute job. Regular attendance will be **counted** towards class participation.

Absence from the final examination will result in 0 points for the examination and thereby failing the course. Dates for the final examination cannot be changed. All students are requested to make their travel plans after taking their final examination.

### **Course Schedule and Readings:**

Week 1: January 14 - General introduction about the parameters of the course. Explanation of the syllabus, grading, readings. The importance and significance of U.S involvement in the Middle East. How the course will improve the students' comprehension of the US in the Middle East.

Week 2: January 21 - Little pages 1 – 42

Week 3: January 28 - Little pages 43 - 115

Week 4: February 4 - Little pages 117 - 192

Week 5: February 11 - Little pages 193 - 266

Week 6: February 18 - Little pages 267- 328

Week 7: February 25 - Introduction and US-Iran relations - Lesch pages 1 to 75

Week 8: March 3 - The Cold War in the Middle East- Lesch pages 100 to 184

Week 9: March 10 - War & Peace, War & Peace - Lesch – pages 191 to 287

Week 10: March 17 - The Gulf crisis and War – Lesch – Pages 291 to 368

Week 11: March 24 : No Class: Spring Break

Week 12: March 31 - Retrospective and Reassessment – Part 1 – Lesch – pages 397 to 457

Week 13: April 7 - Retrospective and Reassessment – Part 2 – Lesch – pages 459 to 500

Week 14: April 14 - US involvement in Iraq – motivations and consequences. Lecture by Ambassador Hassan

Week 15: April 21 - Class presentation and discussion

Week 16: April 28 - Class presentation and discussion

Week 17: April 30 – May 6. Final Examination. The date of the final examination is Monday, May 5 from 5:45 pm – 7.45 pm in the normal classroom.

**Good luck on your course!**