GVPT 409H, Spring 2019
International Relations of the Middle East

Mondays 2:00 – 4:45 p.m.

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Office hours: By appointment

This seminar will evaluate major issues of the international relations of the Middle East and the American role and responses to these events. The seminar will focus on several post-Cold-War cases in American foreign policy, including the 1991 and 2003 Gulf wars, policy toward Iran, American mediation in the Arab-Israeli conflict, responses to the Arab Awakening, and broader issues such as regional reform and energy.

Requirements: Beyond active participation in the seminar discussions, each student will be expected to prepare 2 short discussion essays to help kick off the seminar discussion of the readings. Please write your name and the week number at the top of your paper. In addition, each student will prepare a final research paper (around 12-15 pages) on a related topic. The last three weeks of the seminar will focus on readings that are specifically relevant to the topics of the research papers. The final research paper will be due on Monday, May 14th no later than 2pm. Please send your paper to sadat@umd.edu. Please note that your paper is not considered received until you get an acknowledgment email from the office.

The short discussion essays will each be worth 15% of your final grade (you will write two over the course of the semester) and the final research paper will be worth 70% of your final grade.

Readings: Readings are available in ELMS under the ‘Files’ tab, except for full books which are on Course Reserves at the library. Readings are also available for borrowing at the Sadat office (1105 Chincoteague Hall) during regular business hours of 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. If you encounter difficulty, feel free to contact me by email. You could also contact my administrative assistant, Brittany Kyser, at sadat@umd.edu.
READING LIST

Week 1: Introduction and Film

We will view in class the documentary “The Square” about the recent revolutionary event in Egypt.

General introductory conversation: Broad outline of seminar; What is the “Middle East?”; Issues facing American policy in the Middle East; Shadow of the Arab Uprisings

Brief conversation on current issues facing the United States in the Middle East, including ISIS, the Iranian nuclear issue, and the impact of the presidency of Donald Trump.

Week 2: The American Response to the Arab Uprisings

Read: Concluding chapter of Shibley Telhami, The World Through Arab Eyes: Arab Public Opinion and the Reshaping of the Middle East.

Brownlee, Jason, Tarek Masoud, and Andrew Reynolds, The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform, chapter 1 (“Theorizing the Arab Spring”). (Oxford University Press, 2015).


Lynch, Marc, The Arab Uprising: The Unfinished Revolutions of the New Middle East (New York: Public Affairs, 2012). (Introduction and Chapter 1)


Shibley Telhami, The World Through Arab Eyes. (Chapter 11)

Hamid, Shadi, “Islamism, the Arab Spring, and the failure of America’s do-nothing policy in the Middle East,” Brookings Markaz, October 14, 2015, access at http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/markaz/posts/2015/10/14-islamism-and-us-policy-middle-east-hamid

Week 3: ISIS and Counter-Terrorism Policy

Telhami, Shibley, The Stakes: America in the Middle East. (Chapter 1)


Cronin, Audrey K., “ISIS is not a terrorist group: Why counterterrorism won’t stop the latest jihadist threat,” *Foreign Affairs*. (March/April 2015), access at https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/isis-not-terrorist-group


Pape, Robert A., *Dying To Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*. Random House, 2005. (Chapters 1 and 2)


**Week 4: Policy toward Syria**

**Obama Policy**


**Trump Policy**


Additional readings may be provided on this developing issue.

**Week 5: Policy Toward the "Muslim World"**


Telhami, Shibley, *The Stakes: America in the Middle East*. (Chapter 2)


Shibley Telhami, *The World Through Arab Eyes*. (Chapter 7)

President Obama’s speech to the Muslim World delivered on June 4, 2009. (Watch at https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/newbeginning/transcripts/)


Week 6: Spreading Democracy in the Middle East


Telhami, Shibley, *The World Through Arab Eyes*. (Chapter 9)


“A Force for Good: America Reinvigorated in the Middle East,” Speech by Secretary of State Michael Pompeo at The American University in Cairo, January 10, 2019. [https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2019/01/288410.htm](https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2019/01/288410.htm)

Week 7: Energy Policy

Telhami, Shibley, *The Stakes*. (Chapter 5)


**Week 8: The 1991 Gulf War**


Saddam Hussein's Speech to the Arab Cooperation Council, February 26, 1990.

**Week 9: The 2003 Iraq War**


Anti-war ad in the New York Times by international relations scholars (to be distributed).

**Week 10: The Arab-Israeli Conflict: The Oslo Process and Camp David II**


Telhami, Shibley, The Stakes. (Chapter 4)

Telhami, Shibley, The World Through Arab Eyes. (Chapter 5)


**Week 11: Trump Policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**


**The Jerusalem Issue**

“Jerusalem: Center of the World,” PBS Documentary shown in class.


Lipner, Shalom, “5 reasons the Palestinian reaction to Trump’s Jerusalem announcement has been relatively quiet,” Brookings Institution’s Markaz, December 22, 2017. https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2017/12/22/5-reasons-the-palestinian-reaction-to-trumps-jerusalem-announcement-has-been-relatively-quiet/

Week 12: The Israel Lobby Debate


“Does the Israel Lobby Have Too Much Power?” (Roundtable), Foreign Policy, July/Aug 2006.


Week 13: Evangelical Attitudes Toward Israel

Possible film on evangelicals to be shown.


Week 14: American Policy toward Iran


Additional readings may be provided on this developing issue.

**Week 15: The Role of Public Opinion**


Telhami, Shibley, *The World Through Arab Eyes*. (Chapters 1-7)


Public Opinion Polls, accessed at https://sadat.umd.edu/landing/Polls

Selected polls from the UMD Critical Issues Poll will be assigned.