GVPT 409H, Spring 2017
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 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.

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) 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

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

Week 2: The New Context of American policy

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.


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

Week 3: Approaches to Understanding American Policy in the Middle East


Week 4: The American Response to the Arab Awakening


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)
Week 5: ISIS and Counter-Terrorism Policy

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

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](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/isis-not-terrorist-group)


Week 6: Energy Policy

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


Week 7: 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 8: The Israel Lobby Debate**


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


**Week 9: Evangelical Attitudes Toward Israel**

Possible film on evangelicals to be shown.


Telhami, Shibley, “Evangelical Republicans Favor Pro-Israel Policies At Odds With Majority of Americans, Including Non-Evangelical Republicans,” University of Maryland, (November 2015),


Week 10: The 1991 Gulf War


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

Week 11: The 2003 Iraq War

Week 12: American Policy toward Iran


Additional readings may be provided on this developing issue.
Week 13: Spreading Democracy in the Middle East


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


Week 14: The Arab-Israeli Conflict: The Oslo Process and Camp David II


Telhami, Shibley, *The Stakes*. (Chapter 4)

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

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](https://sadat.umd.edu/landing/Polls)