

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
POLITICAL SCIENCE 405K
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Spring 2007
TR 10:11:15 a.m.
WRI- C235

Prof. Mehran Tamadonfar
Office: WRI 225 & 212
Office Hours: TR 8-9:30 a.m.
 MW 8a.m.-12 p.m.
 and by appointment
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PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

This area study course in International Relations is designed to :

1. Present a framework for the study of international relations of the Middle East.
2. Examine domestic, regional, and global determinants of external policies in this region.
3. Analyze the Great Powers' interests and policies (strategic, military, economic, etc.) in this region.
4. Study intraregional problems including the Arab-Israeli imbroglio, the intra-Arab conflicts, and the growing Iran's influence.

Class lectures and discussions will mainly focus on the current dynamics of politics in this region. In view of the war in Iraq and recent developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, I will be spending a great deal of time on the origins, dynamics, and implications of these conflicts. To follow my lectures, all students should read and be thoroughly familiar with their required reading assignments before attending each lecture session. Students might also find it helpful to follow current events in the Middle East by watching news programs, reading newspapers, etc.

TEXTS:

1. Required:

1. Noam Chomsky & Gilbert Achcar, 2007, *Perilous Power, The Middle East and U.S. Foreign Policy*, Boulder and London: Paradigm Publishers.
2. Fred Halliday, 2005, *The Middle East in International Relations: Power, Politics and Ideology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
3. Gilles Kepel, 2004, *The War for Muslim Minds, Islam and the West*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
4. Rashid Khalidi, 2006, *The Iron Cage, The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*, Boston: Beacon Press.

2. Recommended:

1. Jimmy Carter, 2006, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
2. Dougherty & Pfaltzgraff, 1990, *Contending Theories of International Relations*, 3rd. ed., New York : Harper & Row, Publishers. (**On reserve at the lied Library**)

COURSE CONDUCT AND EVALUATION POLICY:

All students are **required to attend** lecture sessions regularly and **participate in discussions** effectively. Tardiness and non-attendance could result in the student being administratively dropped from the course. All students are expected to take their exams on the scheduled dates. Failure to take the exams on those dates will result in failing grades, unless the student has a legitimate and compelling excuse. Those with such excuses will be given **oral make up exams. Under no circumstances the tape recording of the lectures is allowed.** Students are expected to read their assignments before attending lectures. The tests cover both **reading assignments and lecture materials.**

Course grades will be determined as follows:

1. Attendance and participation10% of the grade.
2. First written exam on **Feb. 15** 30% of the grade.
3. Second written exam on **April 3** 30% of the grade.
4. A Final exam on **May 8 (10:10 a.m.)**30% of the grade.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Note: The following topics and times are subject to minor changes, if necessary, to accommodate your interests and needs.

January 16	Introduction and overview
January 18, 23 & 25	The Middle East in International Politics: A Framework for Analysis -Utopianism and Realism - General Systems Theory - Image Theory Required Reading: - Khalidi, Introduction - Halliday, Part I. Suggested Reading: - Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, Chapters 1,3&4.
Jan. 30, Feb. 1 6, 8 & 13	Determinants of Foreign Policy: -Domestic: Land, people, Culture, Religion, Economy, etc. -Regional: Historical, Ideological and Political Schisms -Global: Oil, Imperialism, globalism Required Reading: - Halliday, Part II, Part III (6, 7 & 8) - Chomsky, Chapter 2
Feb. 15	FIRST WRITTEN EXAMINATION

**Feb. 20, 22,
27 & March 1&
6**

Great Powers' Interests and Policies

- The Politics of Oil
- Geostrategic Issues
- Military Necessities

Required Reading:

- Halliday, Part III (9)
- Chomsky, Chapter 3

**March 8, 20, 22,
27 & 29**

Crisis and Conflict: Norm or Exception?

- The Arab-Israeli Imbroglio and the Palestinian Issue
- Intra-Arab Conflicts and Regional Instability
- Ethnic Conflicts

Required Reading:

- Kepel, Chapter 1
- Khalidi, Chapters 1-6
- Chomsky, Chapter 5

Recommended Reading:

- Carter, Chapters 1-17

April 3

SECOND WRITTEN EXAMINATION

**April 5, 10,
12 &17**

The U.S. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan:

The American Dilemma:

- The roots of the wars
- The U.S. and the Islamists
- Regional and Global implications of Saddam's downfall and the resurrection of the Taliban

Required Reading:

- Kepel, Chapters 2, 5-7
- Chomsky, Chapter 4 and Epilogue

**April 19, 24&
26**

Terrorism in Regional and Global Perspectives:

- Islam, Nationalism and Terrorism
- Countering the terrorists: Are we on the right path?

Required Reading:

- Chomsky, Chapter 1
- Kepel, Chapters 3 and 4

May 1

Concluding Remarks

- Halliday, Part IV

May 3

Review Session

May 8

FINAL EXAMINATION (10:10 A.M.)

Note: I will honor any and all university system rules and regulations including rules pertaining to religious observances, academic dishonesty, and disabilities. Please see the disability statement below:

“ If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the learning Enhancement Services (LES) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The LES is located in the Reynolds Student Services complex in Room 137. The phone number is 895-0866 (TDD 895-0652) and www.drssc@cmail.nevada.edu.”