

(26 July 2009)

**WWS 555A Topics in International Relations:  
U.S. Policy & Diplomacy in the Middle East Since 1945**  
Fall Semester 2009

The Middle East historically has been of profound strategic importance to the United States and American interests. This seminar will explore the content and process of U.S. foreign policy and diplomacy in the Middle East since 1945. The seminar will explore several case studies to examine the degree to which the U.S. has been successful in implementing strategies to achieve its vital national interests. Throughout the course, the seminar will be attentive to the domestic political environment in which American Middle East policy and diplomacy operate, and will look at the interplay among politics, policy and diplomacy.

Students will prepare a policy research paper (about 25 pages in length) that analyzes closely an issue in U.S. Middle East policy. This paper, due at the end of the semester, will account for 75 percent of the grade. The analysis of the reading and lectures and class discussion - which will account for 25 percent of the grade - will address the following questions:

- What happened and why?
- What was the local, regional and international environment?
- Who were the major internal and external players?
- What were the interests and policies of the U.S. and others?
- What policy/diplomacy tools did the U.S. employ?
- Were there alternatives to the policy course pursued by the U.S.?

Schedule and Readings:

Material to be purchased is marked with an asterisk. Following are recommended as supplementary and background readings:

1. Rashid Khalidi, *Sowing Crisis: The Cold War and American Dominance in the Middle East* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2009)
2. Patrick Tyler, *A World of Trouble: The White House and the Middle East – From the Cold War to the War on Terror* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009)
3. Yezid Sayegh and Avi Shlaim, eds., *The Cold War and the Middle East* (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 2003)
4. Lawrence Freedman, *A Choice of Enemies: America Confronts the Middle East* (New York: Public Affairs, 2008)
5. Kenneth Pollack, *A Path Out of the Desert* (New York: Random House, 2008)

**September 21 U.S. Policy since 1945: Interests, Processes, Trends and Origins of Soviet American Rivalry**

Reading:

1. Peter Hahn, *Crisis and Crossfire: The United States and the Middle East since 1945* (Wash, DC: Potomac Books, 2005), 1-18
2. Rashid Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2004), 74-117
3. President Harry S Truman's address before a Joint Session of Congress, March 12, 1947 – The "Truman Doctrine"
4. X, "The Sources of the Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs*, July 1947
5. J.C. Hurewitz, "Origins of the Rivalry," *Proceedings of the Academy of Political Science*, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Mar., 1969), 1-17.
6. John C. Campbell, "The Soviet Union and the United States in the Middle East," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 401 (May, 1972), 126-135.

**September 28 Crisis in Iran: U.S., Great Britain and Mossadegh**

Reading:

1. \* Richard Cottam, W., *Iran and the United States: A Cold War Case Study* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1988), 55-155
2. James A. Bill, *The Eagle and the Lion: The Tragedy of American-Iranian Relations* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988), 51-97
3. Richard W. Cottam, "The United States, Iran and the Cold War," *Iranian Studies*, 3:1, 2 – 22
4. Mark J. Gasiorowski, "The 1953 Coup d'Etat in Iran," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 19, No. 3. (Aug., 1987), 261-286.
5. \* Case Study: The United States, Great Britain and Mossadegh. David Painter, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, Case 332

**October 5 The Arab-Israel Conflict**

Reading:

1. Hahn, 19-35, 47-69
2. Steven L. Spiegel, *The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict: Making America's Middle East Policy, from Truman to Reagan* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1985), 16-93.
3. Fred H. Lawson, "The Truman Administration and the Palestinians," in Michael W, Suleiman, ed., *U.S. Policy on Palestine from Wilson to Clinton* (Normal, IL: Association of Arab-American University Graduates, 1995), 59-80.
4. Deborah J. Gerner, "Missed Opportunities and Roads Not Taken: The Eisenhower Administration and the Palestinians," in Suleiman, 81-112.

**October 12 \* Case Study: Suez Crisis, 1956, Michael Fry, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, Case 126**

Reading:

1. Ray, Takeyh, *The Origins of the Eisenhower Doctrine: The U.S., Britain and Nasser's Egypt, 1953-1957* (NY: St. Martin's Press, 2000), 124-159
2. President Dwight D. Eisenhower Message to Congress, January 5, 1957 – The "Eisenhower Doctrine"

**October 19                    The 1967 Arab-Israel War**Reading:

1. \* William B. Quandt, *Peace Process: American Diplomacy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict since 1967* (Washington/Berkeley: Brookings Institution Press and University of California Press, 2001), 23-52
2. Michael Oren, *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), 305-327
3. Richard B. Parker, *The Politics of Miscalculation in the Middle East* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993), 3-122
4. Zaki Shalom, "Lyndon Johnson's Meeting with Abba Eban, 26 May 1967: An Introduction," *Israel Studies*, Volume 4, Number 2, 221-236
5. Speech by President Lyndon B. Johnson, 19 June 1967
6. United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 (22 November 1967)

**October 26                    The 1973 Arab-Israel War**Reading:

1. Quandt, *Peace Process*, 55-244.
2. Henry Kissinger, *Years of Upheaval*, (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1982), 450-545

**November 2                    No class – Mid-semester break****November 9                    The Iranian Revolution, 1979**Reading:

1. Cottam, *Iran and the United States*, 155-271
2. Gary Sick, *All Fall Down: America's Tragic Encounter with Iran* (NY: Penguin Books, 1986), TBD
3. \* Case Study: The Fall of the Shah of Iran, Gregory F. Treverton and James Klocke, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, Case 311

**November 16                    Lebanon, 1982**Reading:

1. Efraim Inbar, "Great Power Mediation: The USA and the May 1983 Israeli-Lebanese Agreement," *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (Feb., 1991), 71-84.
2. Zeev Schiff, "The Green Light-Lebanon", *Foreign Policy* 50 (1983), 73-85
3. George Ball, "America in the Middle East: A Breakdown in Foreign Policy," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol 13, No. 3 (Spring 1984), 3-15
4. John Kelly, "Lebanon 1982-1984" in Jeremy R. Azrael and Emil A. Pavin, *U.S. and Russian Policymaking With Respect to the Use of Force* (Santa Monica: Rand Corporation, 1996)
5. Richman, Sheldon L., "The United States in Lebanon: A Case for Disengagement," *Cato Policy Analysis*, No. 35, April 3, 1984
6. \* Case Study: The Reagan Administration and Lebanon, David M. Kennedy and Richard N. Haass, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, Case 340

**November 23 Gulf War, 1990-1991**Reading:

1. Readings from Micah Sifry and Christopher Cerf, eds., *The Gulf War Reader: History, Documents, Opinions* (NY: Times Books, 1991)
2. \* Case Study #1: Prelude to War: US Policy Toward Iraq 1988-1990, Zachary Karabell and Phillip Zelikow, Kennedy School of Government Case Program, Harvard University, C16-94-1245.0
3. \* Case Study #2, Getting to No: The Diplomacy of the Gulf Conflict, Parts 1, 2 and 3, Martin Staniland, Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, Georgetown University, Case 449

**November 30 Peace Process: Madrid, Oslo, Geneva and Camp David II**Reading:

1. Quandt, *Peace Process*, 290-380
2. \* Case Study: The Oslo Channel: Getting to the Negotiating Table, Kirsten Lundberg, Kennedy School of Government Case Program, Harvard University, C113-98-1333.0
3. Indyk, Martin, Robert Malley, Aaron David Miller and Dennis Ross, "Lessons of Arab-Israeli Negotiating: Four Negotiators Look Back and Ahead," Moderator: Edward S. Walker, Jr., April 25, 2005
4. \* Daniel Kurtzer and Scott Lasensky, *Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East* (Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2008)

**December 7 The Iraq War, 2003-**Reading:

1. \* Readings from Micah Sifry and Christopher Cerf, eds., *The Iraq War Reader: History, Documents, Opinions* (NY: Times Books, 2003)
2. \* *The Iraq Study Group Report*, James A. Baker III and Lee H. Hamilton, Co-Chairs (NY: Vintage Books, 2006).

[http://www.usip.org/isg/iraq\\_study\\_group\\_report/report/1206/iraq\\_study\\_group\\_report.pdf](http://www.usip.org/isg/iraq_study_group_report/report/1206/iraq_study_group_report.pdf)

**December 14 U.S. Interests, Policies and Diplomacy in the Middle East – A Look Ahead**Reading:

1. Richard Haass, "The New Middle East," *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2006
2. Michael C. Hudson, "To Play the Hegemon: Fifty Years of U.S. Policy toward the Middle East," *The Middle East Journal* (Summer 1996)
3. Sheldon L. Richman, "'Ancient History': U.S. Conduct in the Middle East since World War II and the Folly of Intervention," *Cato Institute Policy Analysis*, No. 159, August 16, 1991