

WWS 556g

Practical Approaches to Promoting Democracy and Countering Terrorism in the Middle East

Princeton University
Woodrow Wilson Graduate Program
Spring 2006
Wednesdays, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.
Venue: tbd
p.m.

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Course Description

This course will address two of the highest priorities of the Bush Administration: how can the U.S. promote democracy in Middle East countries which lag behind in this regard and simultaneously how can the U.S. construct effective partnerships with Middle East governments to fight Al Qa'ida-associated terrorism aimed at American interest. Examples will be drawn primarily from Palestine, Egypt and Yemen. We will also discuss the interagency process in Washington and in American embassies. Students will be expected to participate in practical exercises simulating the policymaking and implementation process. Students will also plan and execute a Washington trip to explore topics with practitioners. **Writing will focus on** short practical policy papers -- e.g. briefing memos, talking points, press guidance, cables -- with realistic formats and constraints.

Course Assignments and Grading

- 1) Readings should prepare students to participate effectively in class and tap expertise well beyond the professor's. For class presentations or simulations, some readings will be obligatory. Generally, students will be expected to choose from among recommended sources and encouraged to find relevant documents, papers, and first-hand experiences to enrich class discussions. Readings should develop useful concepts, ideas, examples and insights and not be viewed as items to be checked off a list.
- 2) Writing will focus on short products (1-5 pages) relevant to practical approaches. Formats will be supplied. Students will prepare:
 - Policy memos for the Secretary of State proposing initiatives to promote democracy in Palestine, Egypt or Yemen.

- Cables from diplomatic posts analyzing extremist views and support in the relevant country.
 - Public diplomacy instructions – background and talking points.
 - Briefing memo for an appearance before a Congressional committee or media program.
- 3) Trip – The class will collectively plan, organize and do a trip to Washington to meet with both government and non-government practitioners.

There will be no exams. Grades will be based on written work (40%), oral presentations/participation (40%) and trip work (20%).

Useful websites

www.ndi.org, www.state.gov/mepi, www.cfr.org

Working schedule

Week 1 (February 8) Introductions
Syllabus Review
Brief simulation and writing exercise

Week 2 (February 15)

Bush policy on Counter-terrorism and Promoting Democracy

Reading:

Bush “War on Terror” Speech at the NED, Oct. 10, 2005
Condi Rice address at Princeton University, Sept. 30, 2005
The National Security Strategy of the U.S.A.. Sept. 2002
The National Intelligence Strategy of the U.S.A. Oct. 2005

Week 3 (February 22) Counter-Terrorism – The Threat

Guest speaker from Washington

Readings:

Clarke, Richard. “American Attacked: The Sequel” The Atlantic,
January/February 2005.
Benjamin, Daniel and Steve Simon. The Next Attack.
Sims, Jennifer and Burton Gerber. Transforming U.S. Intelligence.

Week 4 (March 1) CT in Yemen

Videos and counter-terrorism efforts in Yemen

Readings:

9/11 Commission, Chapters 4, 5, 6

Patterns of Global Terror 2001-2004. U.S. Department of State.

Selected articles (to be handed out).

Week 5 (March 8) CT in Palestine

Readings:

Pape, Robert. Dying to Win.

Mamdani, Mahmoud. Good Muslim, Bad Muslim.

Roy, Sara. "Religious Nationalism and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict:

Examining Hamas and the Possibility of Reform", Chicago Journal of International Law, Sept. 2004.

Week 6 (March 15) CT in Egypt

Readings

Heikal, Mohamed Hassanein. Autumn of Fury.

Abu Rabi'a, Ibrahim. Intellectual Origins of Islamic Resurgence in the Arab World, Chapters 5, 6 and 8.

Mitchell, R. P. The Society of Muslim Brothers.

Al-Qutb, Sayyid. Milestones on the Road.

Zawahiri, Ayman. Statements and articles

Midterm tests March 13-17

Spring Recess March 18-26

Week 7 (March 29) The Challenge of Democracy in the Middle East

Readings:

Arab Human Development Reports

MENA Development Report: Better Governance for Development in the Middle East and North Africa: Enhancing Inclusiveness and Accountability. The World Bank, 2003.

Albright, Madeleine and Vin Weber. In Support of Arab Democracy: Why and How? Council on Foreign Relations Task Force Report No. 54, 2005.

Week 8 (April 5) Promoting Democracy in Yemen

Video in class: 416b program

Readings:

National Democratic Institute Report on Elections

Freedom House Reports.

Department of State Human Rights Reports.

Cook, Steven. Council on Foreign Relations study on Yemeni democracy.

(forthcoming)

Week 9 (April 12) Promoting Democracy in Palestine

Guest speaker: Kamal Abdulfattah

Readings:

Brown, Nathan. "The Palestinian Reform Agenda." United States Institute for Peace, 2004

MENA Development Report: Better Governance for Development in the Middle East and North Africa: Enhancing Inclusiveness and Accountability. The World Bank, 2003.

Palestinian National Authority. Documents.

Week 10 (April 19) Trip to Washington (Travel April 20 – 21)

Possible meetings:

State Department: Middle East Partnership Initiative and Office of Counter-terrorism

National Democratic Institute

Millennium Challenge Corporation

Freedom House

Week 11 (April 26) Promoting Democracy in Egypt

Readings:

Ibrahim, Sa'ad Ad Din. Writings.
U.S. Department of State Human Rights report.
Freedom House report.

Week 12 (May 3) Concluding exercise

Reading Period May 8-16

Spring term examinations May 17 – 27

Readings suggested for purchase

The 9/11 Commission Report. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2004.
Benjamin, Daniel and Steve Simon. The Next Attack. New York: Holt, 2005.

