

INTL 4490 Maymester

American Foreign Policy and the Middle East

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1-3 and by appointment

Class Meetings: daily 9:30 – 12:15 Caldwell 105

The purpose of this class is to introduce students to the process and content of US foreign policy making using the case study of policy towards the Middle East, and to present a basis for understanding current Middle East policy.

The Middle East has historically been of great strategic and moral importance to the United States, and it has taken on even greater importance after the September 11, 2001 attacks and the recent war in Iraq. The course also aims to provide tools for critically approaching US Middle East policy, so that students/citizens may make informed opinions on foreign policy issues.

The course will incorporate historical perspectives on American involvement in the Middle East as well as engaging policy debates relevant to US foreign policy as a whole. Topics will include in-depth analyses of the US war in Iraq, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the evolution of the Bush Doctrine, the controversy over American treatment of prisoners overseas, the US-led War on Terror, and domestic influences on foreign policy.

Requirements

Summary

Quizzes (3)	30%	150 points
Review Papers (2)	30%	150 points
Participation	15%	75 points
Final Exam	25%	125 points

Grading

The course consists of 500 points. The point total at the end of the semester determines the final grade as follows:

466 or more	A
450 – 465	A-
436 – 449	B+
416 – 435	B
400 – 415	B-
386 – 399	C+
366 – 385	C
350 – 365	C –
300 – 349	D
>300	F

Be Aware: There will be NO EXTRA CREDIT in this class.

Quizzes

There will be a map quiz covering major geographical features of the Middle East. There will also be (2) periodic quizzes over content. These are listed in the syllabus though I reserve the right to change the date if necessary.

Review Papers

You will write two short review papers discussing scholarly political science articles. In them, you will discuss the theoretical contribution the papers make to the discipline and assess their scholarly merit. You will also discuss their relevance to the course. More detailed guidelines will be posted on WebCT.

Final Exam

The final exam will be a closed-book, comprehensive exam covering the course material (both readings and lectures). It will be held during the exam period.

Participation

Your participation grade will be based on your participation in class discussion/activities and the WebCT discussion forums. Classes will frequently combine lecture and discussion, and may involve in-class activities. I am expecting each student to come to class prepared to discuss that day's readings and current events. In addition, the WebCT discussion board will be open for written discussion of current events related to class. I expect each student to post substantial, thoughtful additions to the forum at least once a week. (more is better) Proper rules of conduct apply to both in-class and WebCT discussions.

Course Management

Be sure to have access to a reliable computer and printer as well as the internet. Important announcements will be posted on WebCT and/or emailed to students' UGA mail accounts. Grades, course information, important links and supplemental readings will also be posted on WebCT.

Administrative policies

1. Make up exams and quizzes are not allowed for unexcused absences. For legitimate emergencies - such as illness/injury - and other excused absences, inform the instructor as soon as possible, preferably before the exam or quiz. Documentation may be required.
2. The review papers must be turned in by the end of the scheduled class period. Fifteen minutes after the end of this period, essays will be considered late and will be docked a full grade for each day the essay is late.
3. If you believe an error or incorrect judgment has been made in grading an exam, essay, assignment or quiz, you may appeal to the instructor *in writing*, but the entire exam/quiz/essay will be regarded and a new grade assigned, *which may be lower than the original grade*. Such appeals to the instructor must be made no later than **3 days** after the grades are posted/returned.
4. All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Consult the university's academic honesty policy at http://www.terry.uga.edu/phd/documents/culture_of_honesty/

5. Cheating or plagiarism constitutes grounds for course failure. DON'T DO IT! (see above on "A Culture of Honesty.")
6. Students failing at the time of requesting withdrawal will receive a WF.

Reading Materials

Books

Brands, H.W. 1994. *Into the Labyrinth: The United States and the Middle East, 1945-1993*. McGraw-Hill.

Callahan, Patrick. 2004. *Logics of American Foreign Policy: Theories of America's World Role*. Pearson/Longman.

Carter, Jimmy. 2007. *Palestine: Peace not Apartheid*. Simon & Schuster.

Kamrava, Mehran. 2005. *The Modern Middle East: A Political History since the First World War*. University of California Press.

Ricks, Thomas E. 2006. *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq*. Penguin Books.

National Geographic. *Atlas of the Middle East*. (recommended)

Articles/Chapters

Available at the main library reserve desk and/or WebCT (<http://webct.uga.edu>).

Current Events

You must have access to national newspaper carrying foreign affairs news, such as the Financial Times, the New York Times, the Washington Post, or the Christian Science Monitor. Most are available for free on-line. It is expected that you will keep up to date on foreign policy issues.

Schedule

Note: Instructor may make changes in schedule or readings as needed

Tue May 13 *Welcome and Introduction*

Conceptual Tools

Foreign Policy-Making Models

Wiarda Ch. 2 "Models of American Foreign Policy-Making"

Wed May 14 *Hegemonism*

Callahan Ch. 1 & 2

Realism + Isolationism

Callahan Ch. 3, 4

Liberalism + Liberal Internationalism

Callahan Ch. 5, 6

Nye (Economist) 2002 "The New Rome Meets the New Barbarians"

Thur May 15 *Radical Anti-Imperialism*

Callahan Ch. 7

Comparing Logics

Callahan Chapter 8

Walt 2004 "The Imbalance of Power"

MAP QUIZ IN CLASS

The Middle Eastern Historical Context

- Fri May 16 ***The Middle East before 1950***
Kamrava Ch. 1, 2, + 72 - 88
Recommended: NPR series
 NPR *The Mideast: A Century of Conflict* entire ([listen or read](#))
 NPR *The Middle East and the West* entire ([listen](#))
The Beginnings of US Involvement in the Middle East
Brands Ch. 1 pp. 1-30, Ch. 2 part 1 (pp. 31-35)
Film: The 50 Years War (Part 1 Land Divided 1947-56)
Recommended:
Kamrava Ch. 3 (except pp. 72-88, above; skim section on Maghreb)
- Mon May 19 ***The Era of Arab Nationalism***
Brands Ch. 2 parts 2-5 (pp. 35-68) Ch. 3 parts 1,4 (pp. 69-72, 87-94)
The US and the Middle East, 1956-1967
Brands Ch. 4 parts 1-2 (pp. 102-123)
Film: The 50 Years War (Part 2 The Six Day War 1967)
- Tue May 20 ***The Arabs Strike Back: the 1970s***
Brands Ch. 4 parts 3-4, Ch. 5 part 1 (pp. 123-140)
The Road to Camp David
Brands Ch. 5 part 3 (pp. 143-152)
Film: The 50 Years War (Part 4 Peacemaking 1970-79)
- Wed May 21 ***The Iranian Revolution***
Brands Ch. 5 part 4 (pp. 153 – 165)
Kamrava Ch. 5
The 1991 Gulf War
Brands Ch. 6 parts 4-7 (pp. 183-214)
Kamrava Ch. 6 pp. 169-192

The Iraq Imbroglia

- Thurs May 22 ***The Inter-war period and buildup to 2003***
NYT Feb 3, 2003 “Keeping Saddam in a Box”
WP March 18, 2003 “Legality of War is a Matter of Debate”
NYT Oct 3, 04 “How the White House Embraced Disputed Arms Intelligence”
The 2003 War and Early Insurgency
Fiasco Part I
Resource:
US Senate Intelligence Committee Report on Pre-War Intelligence
([full report](#) – 521 pages; [executive summary](#) – 30 pages)
HISTORY/CONCEPTUAL TOOLS QUIZ IN CLASS
- Fri May 23 ***Post-war Iraqi Politics***
Fiasco Part II

Recommended:

Time Feb 22, 2007 “Behind the Sunni – Shi’ite Divide”

Film: Bush’s War (Frontline)

Review Paper #1 due

Mon May 26 **Memorial Day – no class**

Tue May 27 ***Post-War Iraqi Politics, continued***

Fiasco Part III

Class debate: “Should the US have attacked Iraq?”

Debate resource: <http://www.usiraqprocon.org/>

Wed May 28 ***The Media and the Iraq War***

AAS April 6, 2003 “Conflict is a Hard Sell, Marketing Experts Say”

Herman, “The Media’s Role in US Foreign Policy”

Recommended:

NYRB Feb 26 2004 “Now They Tell US”

AT Oct 4, 2003 “We Report, You Get it Wrong”

CSM March 25, 2003 “World and America Watching Different Wars”

Film: Control Room (86min)

The US and the Palestinian – Israeli Peace Process

Thur May 29 ***The US and the Peace Process: The Oslo Era and its Failure***

Peace Not Apartheid Ch. 4-9, recommended 1-3

Film: Elusive Peace: Israel and the Arabs

IRAQ QUIZ IN CLASS

Fri May 30 ***The Breakdown of the Oslo Process***

Peace Not Apartheid Ch. 10-17

[NYRB Aug 9, 2001, Agha and Malley “The Tragedy of Errors”](#)

Film: Straddling the Fence

Resources:

[Road Map Text](#)

[Israel’s 14 Reservations to Road Map](#)

[Sharon’s Disengagement Plan](#)

[Bush Letter to Sharon](#)

The War on Terror

Mon June 2 ***War on Terror: Detention, Interrogation or Torture?***

NYT Oct 24, 2004 “After Terror, A Secret Rewriting of Military Law”

NYT May 21, 2004 “Justice Memos Explained How to Skip Prisoner Rights”

Recommended:

WP Nov 2, 2005 “CIA Holds Terror Suspects in Secret Prisons”

NYT June 30, 2006 “High Court Rejects Detainee Tribunals”

WP July 12, 2006 “US Shifts Policy on Geneva Conventions”
[Newsweek May 24, 2004 “The Roots of Torture”](#)
Film: The Torture Question (Frontline)

Tue June 3 ***Interest Groups and the Peace Process***
Walt and Mearsheimer “The Israel Lobby”
Recommended: Uslaner “All Politics Are Global”
Course Wrap-up
Review Paper #2 due

Final Exam: Wed June 4, 9:30AM