

# International Relations and Diplomacy of the Middle East

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## Course Description

The purpose of this course is to examine the background of current developments in the Middle East and their implications on the future of the region, as well as alternative policies towards the Middle East which were developed in the aftermath of changes in the overall global situation. The course will examine the impact of these changes on foreign policy of Middle East States and their future involvement in world politics, economics, environment and development. It will also address the rise of Islamic fundamentalism, problems in the Horn of Africa, the Palestinian question, the emergence of the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union, and their implications on the future of peace and development throughout the region.

The focus of this course will be on how key players, both on the world scene and in the Middle East, examine their policy options and interact to develop policies and responses to the challenges facing them. For the purposes of this course, the term Middle East includes all the member states of the Arab League. Questions to be examined include: Are the present policies and structures between the Middle East and the new world structures feasible, credible? Do they service freedom, justice, and democracy? Are there alternative policies that can be devised? What are the incentives and/or impediments to these alternative policies?

## Course Requirements

Class attendance and participation\* 10%  
Mid-Term Exam 25 %  
Term paper\*\* 25 %  
Final examination 40 %

\* Unexcused absences may result in a lowered final grade. \*\* The term paper should be 15 pages for undergraduates and 20 pages for graduate students. A 2-4 page typed proposal of the topic including bibliographical sources is due **October 16** following consultation with Dr. Maksoud.

Incompletes will not be given except in extreme circumstances.

## Course Reading

Bickerton, Ian J. *A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. NY:Prentice-Hall, 1995.

Esposito, John L. and John O. Voll. *Islam and Democracy*. Oxford University Press, 1996.

Gause, Gregory. *Oil Monarchies*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 1994.

Zartman, William. *Polity and Society in Contemporary North Africa*. Bolder: Westview Press.

Council on Foreign Relations. *The Casablanca Report*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 1995.

The World Bank. *A Strategy for Managing Water in the Middle East and North Africa*. World Bank: Washington, DC, 1994.

Pew Case Studies - "Making of a United Nations Security Council Resolution 242: Centerpiece of Arab-Israeli Negotiations"

*Recommended Texts:*

Center for Strategic & International Studies. "Arab-Israeli Economic, Demographic, and Military Trends and the Peace Process," November 1, 1996.

Center for Strategic & International Studies. "Major Trends in the Middle East: The Economic and Security Situation in the Middle East," September 9, 1996.

Gurr, Ted Robert. *Minorities at Risk: A Global View of Ethnopolitical Conflicts*. U.S. Institute of Peace, 1993.

Kandiyoti, Deniz (editor). *Gendering the Middle East*. Syracuse University Press.

Sidahmed, Abdel Salam and Anoushiravan Ehteshami (editors). *Islamic Fundamentalism*. Westview Press, 1996.

*Foreign Policy*, Fall 1995. Selected Readings.

Recommended Background Reading:

Abrahamian, Ervand. *Khomeinism: Essays on the Islamic Republic*. University of California Press: Berkeley, 1993.

Goldschmidt, Arthur Jr. *A Concise History of the Middle East*. Westview Press (Harper Collins), 1995.

It is also expected that students read the current issues of *Middle East Journal*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Palestine Studies*, *American-Arab Affairs* and a Daily Newspaper, either the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, or the *Christian Science Monitor*.

## Course Schedule

### 9/11/95 Guest Speaker: Dr. Samih Farsoun

(Dr. Maksoud is in Beijing at the UN Women's Conference.)

### 9/18/95 Introduction

#### The Crisis of Identity and Legitimacy: State and Civil Society

Text:

Gause. *Oil Monarchies*. Ch. 1,2,

Bickerton. *A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Ch. 1,2

Zartman. *Polity and Society in Contemporary North Africa*. Chs 1-4

Reserve: Ibrahim. *The Gulf Crisis*. Chs. 11, 13.

### 9125195 The Palestinian Question and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: Problems and Prospects for the Peace Process

Text: Bickerton. *A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Ch. 6,8,10.

Maksoud, Clovis. "Peace Process or Puppet Show?" *Foreign Policy*, no. 100, Fall 1995, p. 117-124.

Pedatzur, Reuven. "Coming Back Full Circle: The Palestinian Option in 1967." *The Middle East Journal*, vol. 49, no. 2, Spring 1995. p. 269-291.

Moughrabi, Fouad. "For A Democratic Palestine: The Role of Palestinian Opposition." *Middle East Affairs Journal*, vol. 2, no. 2-3, Winter/Spring 1995. p. 99-112.

### **10/2/95 The Peace Process: the Syrian and Lebanese tracks**

Text: Bickerton. *A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Ch. 9

Moore, James W., "Israel-Syria: So Close and Yet So Far," *Middle East Policy*, vol. III, 1994, pp. 60-82.

Satloff, Robert, "The Path to Peace," *Foreign Policy*, no. 100, Fall 1995, pp. 109-116.

### **10/9/95 The Peace Process, past successes: Jordan and Egypt**

Jarbawi, Ali, "The Triangle of Conflict" *Foreign Policy*, no. 100, Fall 1995, p. 92-108

Other Readings to be announced.

### **10/16/95 Legal, Political, and Economic Consequences of the Peace Process**

Readings to be announced.

### **10/23/95 Mid-Term Exam**

### **10/30/95 Future of Regional Organizations: Arab League**

Text:

Gause. *Oil Monarchies*. Ch. 5,6

Zartman. Ch. 9

### **11/6/95 Dual Containment: U.S. Foreign Policy towards the Middle East**

Text: Gause. *Oil Monarchies*. Chs. 7.

Zartman. *Polity and Society*. . . Ch. 11

Karabell, Zachary, *The Middle East Journal*. vol. 49, no. 1, Winter 1995. p. 28-47.

### **11/7/95 "Evaluating the Fourth World Conference on Women"**

9am- 5pm Attendance at this conference is suggested, as it allows for a gender analysis of social and economic preventive mechanisms. This symposium will discuss an integrated approach to the issues of human rights, environment and social development and how they impact women's conditions and assist in their empowerment.

### **11/13/95 North Africa and Middle East**

Text: Zartman. *Polity and Society* ... Chs. 7, 12

Gurr. *Minorities at Risk*. pp. 217-251.

### **11/20/95 Environment, Development, and Resources: Regional and Global Ramifications.**

Text:

Gause. *Oil Monarchies*. Chs. 3.

Zartman. *Polity and Society* ... Chs. 6, 8

### **11/27/95 Factors for Middle East Transformation and Change: 1) Women, 2) Human Rights, 3) Development, 4) Environment**

Text:

Gause. *Oil Monarchies*. Ch. 4

Safi, Dr. Louay. "Islam In A Global Order." *Middle East Affairs Journal*. vol. 2, no. 2-3, Winter/Spring 1995.  
p. 87-98.

Handouts from the World Bank

**12/4/95 Term paper presentations**

**12/11/95 Term paper presentations**

**12/18/95 FINAL EXAM**