

# CET Syllabus of Record



**Program:** Middle East Studies & Internship in Amman

**Course Title:** The United States in the Arab World

**Course Code:** AM/INTR 375

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings:** International Relations / Middle East Studies

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** None

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## Description

The course explores the major themes and issues of the contemporary Arab world and US involvement within it. The course also provides extensive background material to facilitate a more complete understanding of the Arab region. The course utilizes a number of educational approaches, including case studies, independent research and group discussion.

Among the issues considered are the impact of 9/11, the occupation of Iraq and the war on terrorism on US-Arab relations, the misperceptions of Arabs and Americans of one another and the role of the United States in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the question of human rights and US economic aid, and contemporary efforts for democratization. Students are asked to reflect on major policy questions: Did US-Arab relations improve during the 1990s? Has the war on terrorism been successful? How has US policy toward the region changed as a result of September 11<sup>th</sup>? Has the US-led regime change in Iraq improved the chances of democratization and political reform in the region? Can the current US policy in the region succeed, and if so will it reduce the amount of terrorism? What was the impact of US aid on democracy, economy, stability, and political reforms in the Middle East?

## Objectives

In this course, students:

- Build a foundation for understanding the complex relationship between the United States and the Arab world that has existed since World War II.
- Expand on this understanding of US-Arab relations, not only in political terms, but also in cultural, economic, and social terms.
- Identify tools of analysis to better understand the major driving forces that have governed this region of the world.
- Compare the foreign policies of various US administrations and analyze the degree of success in achieving the desired outcomes.

## Course Requirements

The course is based on lectures, and students are expected to read the required materials in advance. Readings average 50 pages per class session. The instructor may change or adapt reading assignments

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as dictated by the intersection of topic material and current events. Students are notified of any changes in a timely manner via e-mail or at an earlier class session.

- *Attendance:* Attendance is absolutely imperative for all class sessions, since students are help responsible for all materials and topics discussed in class. The instructor takes attendance for each class session. Each student is allowed to miss one class session without suffering grade deduction. Students are also expected to attend make-up classes on mutually agreed schedules if any regularly-scheduled class sessions are canceled due to unexpected events and/or the instructor's conference travel.
- *Class participation:* Students are expected to participate actively in class discussion. The instructor may call on individual students to make comments and answer questions. The quality of participation affects students' final grades. All students are also strongly encouraged to ask questions about and make comments on essays presented by other students.
- *Review Essay and Presentation:* Each student is expected to write one short review essay (around 2-3 double-spaced pages) on readings selected from the syllabus or on subjects agreed upon by the student and the instructor. In the review essay, students should:
  - Concisely summarize the author's major arguments
  - Explain evidence and methods used to support the arguments
  - Discuss the most interesting and/or controversial points of view in the reading
  - Briefly comment on the significance and implications of the work for the general topic under discussion

The essay should be sent as an email attachment to the instructor at least 2 days before the deadline. Late papers are not accepted without a legitimate excuse. Students should provide hard and electronic copies of all papers.

Students are required to present the findings of the literature review. The presentation should be between 5-7 minutes followed by 5-8 minutes of discussion. When presenting, students should not simply read the essay. Discussion takes place immediately after the presentation and students should be ready to answer questions raised by other students and the professor.

## Methods of Evaluation

The final grade for this course is determined as follows:

- Review essay and presentation 10%
- Class participation and attendance 10%
- Midterm exam 30%
- Final exam 50%

## Primary Texts

- Peter L. Hahn, *Crisis and Crossfire: The US and the Middle East since 1945* (Potomac, 2005).
- David W. Lesch (ed.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Westview, 2007).

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- Telhami, Shibley, *The Stakes: America and the Middle East- the Consequences of Power and the Choice for Peace* (Boulder: Westview, 2004).
- Rashid Khalidi, *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East* (Beacon Press: Boston) 2004.
- Fawaz A. Gerges, *America and Political Islam: Clash of Cultures or Clash of Interests?* (Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999).

### Supplementary Texts

#### Articles

- Richard B. Parker, *The June 1967 War: Some Mysteries Explored*, Middle East Journal vol. 46, no. 2 (Spring 1992): 177-197.
- William B. Quandt, *Lyndon Johnson and the June 1967 War: What color was the Light?*, Middle East Journal vol. 46, no. 2 (Spring 1992): 198-228.
- Fred H. Lawson, *Rethinking U.S. Intervention in the Middle East* [Feature Review], Diplomatic History 23/2 (Spring 1999): 385-389.
- Rashid I. Khalidi, *The United States and the Middle East at the End of the Cold War* [Feature Review], Diplomatic History 23/2 (Summer 1999): 553-558.

#### Suggested Readings

- Dudley, William, ed., *The Middle East: Opposing Viewpoints* (Farmington Hills, Michigan: Greenhaven Press, 2004).
- Bob Woodward, *Plan of Attack* (Simon and Schuster, 2004).
- Ali A. Allawi, *The Occupation of Iraq: Winning the War, Losing the Peace*.
- Louise Fawcett (ed.), *International Relations of the Middle East* (Oxford, 2005).

#### Useful Internet Resources

- BBC (<http://news.bbc.co.uk>) BBC Middle East ([http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/default.stm)), *New York Times* ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))
- *Washington Post* ([www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com))
- National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States Report <http://www.9-11commission.gov/>
- Alternative Resources on the U.S. "War Against Terrorism" <http://www.pitt.edu/~ttwiss/irtf/alternative.html>
- ArabNet: resource for information on the Arab world in the Middle East and North Africa <http://www.arab.net>
- Speeches and transcripts, video and audio, links to full text articles, congressional research service publications and congressional hearings, executive branch documents, charts and maps: [[www.nytimes.org/pages/national/dayofterror/](http://www.nytimes.org/pages/national/dayofterror/)]
- Popular articles concerning 9/11- PBS Frontlines, <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/>

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## Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Everything Arab (one week)

- Introduction to the Arab world
- Peoples and cultures of the Middle East
- Modern history of the region

Topic 2: The Middle East in the Mind of America (one week)

- American orientalism
- The United States and political Islam

Topic 3: The United States and the Middle East: What Went Wrong? (one week)

- US relations in the Middle East after the Second World War
- US relations with Iran in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

Topic 4: US-Arab Relations during the Cold War (one week)

- The US and political Islam in the Cold War
- US foreign policy and the June 1967 War

Topic 5: The US Response to Arab Nationalism, 1958-67 (one week)

- US foreign policy changes in the light of Arab Nationalism

Topic 6: The United States and the Arab-Israeli Conflict (one week)

- Respective roles of the US presidency, the Arab League, Israel, UN Resolution 242, The PLO, and Henry Kissinger
- State Formation and the Palestinian Territories

Topic 7: Effects of the Arab-Israeli Conflict on US-Arab Relations (one week)

- Anti-Americanism in Saudi Arabia and the Arab world at large
- The United States and Palestine

Topic 9: Peace Between Egypt and Israel (one week)

- Implications of the Camp David Accord

Topic 10: The Gulf War (one week)

- Arab dilemmas in the 1990s
- The Bush Administration and "New World Order"

Topic 11: America and the Peace Process (one week)

- Implications of the Oslo Accord
- The Clinton Administration's approach to the Middle East
- Iran's role

Topic 12: September 11<sup>th</sup> and the Occupation of Iraq (one week)

- US-Saudi relations
- Middle East geostrategy and oil

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Topic 13: The United States and Political Islam (one week)

- Conflict of cultures versus a conflict of interest
- US perception of Islamic threat

Topic 14: The Future of US-Arab Relations (one week)

- The role of Iran
- Restraint as a policy