

## The International Politics of the Middle East, POLI 4059

Fall 2010  
1:30-3:00 TTh, 116 Stubbs Hall

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**Course Objectives:** This course examines contemporary security conditions in the greater Middle East region, including conventional arms balances, weapons of mass destruction, guerrilla war, terrorism, and economic and political conditions affecting security. It focuses primarily, though not exclusively, on threats to US security interests in the region.

**Readings:** All readings listed below are available in electronic form either online or through the Moodle webpage for this class, which also contains the class handouts and powerpoints. For help with Moodle, see <http://www.lsu.edu/its/elearning/students.htm>. The background readings listed below are essential for understanding most of the subsequent readings. Read them before the semester starts. I will not cover them in class.

**Grades:** You will have a midterm exam (Thursday, October 14), a final exam (Tuesday, December 7, 12:30-2:30), and a term paper (due Thursday, November 18). The best two of your three grades will each count for 40% of your final grade; the worst will count for 20%. Exams will consist of definitions and essay questions. They will not be cumulative. I give makeups only under exceptional circumstances and only with *prior* permission from me.

### Term Paper:

Your term paper can be on almost any topic related to security in the greater Middle East, including one of the region's many wars or other crises, a regional guerrilla or terrorist group, security conditions affecting a particular country, or issues affecting past or present US security. *Do not* choose a topic covered extensively in class lectures or readings. Your paper must go well beyond what is covered in class readings. If you have any doubt about the suitability of a topic, see me before you start.

You must submit a one-paragraph (i.e., at least five sentences) summary of your proposed paper by Thursday, September 16, along with its title, the names of at least six books, articles, or websites you plan to use, and your email address. I will not grade this, but you must get my approval on it before starting your paper.

Your paper must be 13-17 double-spaced pages in length, including notes and/or bibliography. I will grade it mainly on the depth and insightfulness of your analysis, though I will also consider its organization, quality of sources, and writing style (for native English speakers only). Your paper should be factual and analytical, *not* opinionated. At least four of your sources must have been published in 2005 or later. The paper is due on Thursday, November 18, with *no exceptions*. Late papers will receive at least one letter grade off. See my handout "Guidelines for Writing Term Papers" for tips on finding sources and organizing and writing your paper.

**Schedule of Readings** (read in the order listed):

### **Background Readings**

- Colbert C. Held, *Middle East Patterns: Places, Peoples, and Politics, Fourth Edition* (Boulder: Westview Press, 2006), ch. 8, pp. 217-264.
- "Indo-Pakistani Relations" and "Civil War in Afghanistan," *Wikipedia*. (Also look at interesting links within these articles.)
- "U.S. Policy in the Middle East," in *The Middle East, Eleventh Edition* (Washington: CQ Press, 2007), pp. 159-214.

### **I. Conventional War and Military Balance**

- Janice Gross Stein, "War and Security in the Middle East," in Louise Fawcett (ed.), *International Relations of the Middle East, Second Edition* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 208-227.
- F. Gregory Gause, "The International Politics of the Gulf," in Louise Fawcett (ed.), *International Relations of the Middle East, Second Edition* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), pp. 272-289.
- Geoffrey Kemp and Robert E. Harkavy, *Strategic Geography and the Changing Middle East* (Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 1997), chs. 5-6, pp. 157-227.
- Anthony H. Cordesman, *The Middle East Military Balance* (Washington: CSIS, 2005).

### **II. Weapons of Mass Destruction: Nuclear Weapons**

- David Ochmanek and Lowell H. Schwartz, *The Challenge of Nuclear-Armed Regional Adversaries* (Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2008).
- "Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," *Wikipedia*.
- Avner Cohen, "The Last Taboo: Israel's Bomb Revisited," *Current History* 104(681), April 2005, pp. 169-175.
- "Iran – Nuclear Overview" and "Libya – Nuclear Overview," Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies. (Skim the Libya article.)
- Mark Fitzpatrick, "Is Iran's Nuclear Program Intended Solely for Civilian Purposes?" *Gulf Research Center Security & Terrorism Research Bulletin*, Issue 7, December 2007, pp. 18-21.
- Abdullah Toukan and Anthony H. Cordesman, *Options in Dealing With Iran's Nuclear Program* (Washington: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2010), pp. 50-56.
- Sumit Ganguly, "Nuclear Stability in South Asia," *International Security* 33(2), Fall 2008, pp. 45-70.

- Nicole Stracke, “Nuclear Development in the Gulf: A Strategic Or Economic Necessity?” *Gulf Research Center Security & Terrorism Research Bulletin*, Issue 7, December 2007, pp. 4-10.
- Morten Bremer Maerli, Annette Schaper, and Frank Barnaby, “The Characteristics of Nuclear Terrorist Weapons,” in Russell D. Howard and James J. F. Forest (eds.), *Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008), pp. 110-124.
- James M. Acton, M. Brooke Rogers, and Peter D. Zimmerman, “Beyond the Dirty Bomb: Re-thinking Radiological Terror,” *Survival* 49(3), Autumn 2007, pp. 151-168.

### III. Weapons of Mass Destruction: Chemical and Biological Weapons, Missiles

- “Chemical Warfare,” “Chemical Weapons Convention,” “Biological Warfare,” and “Biological Weapons Convention,” *Wikipedia*. (Skim these.)
- Leonard A. Cole, “WMD and Lessons from the Anthrax Attacks,” in Russell D. Howard and James J. F. Forest (eds.), *Weapons of Mass Destruction and Terrorism* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2008), pp. 88-99.
- *Iran’s Nuclear and Missile Potential* (New York: The EastWest Institute, 2009).
- “Missile Technology Control Regime,” *Wikipedia*.
- Kathleen J. McInnis, “Extended Deterrence: The U.S. Credibility Gap in the Middle East,” *The Washington Quarterly* 28(3), Summer 2005, pp. 169-186.
- “Arrow Missile,” “Barak SAM,” “David’s Sling,” “Iron Dome,” “MIM-104 Patriot,” *Wikipedia*. (Skim these.)
- Abdullah Toukan and Anthony H. Cordesman, *Options in Dealing With Iran’s Nuclear Program* (Washington: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2010), pp. 5-21.

### IV. Asymmetric Threats: Guerrilla War

- Donald M. Snow, *National Security for a New Era, Third Edition* (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2009), ch. 11, pp. 293-319.
- David Kilcullen, “Counter-insurgency Redux,” *Survival* 48(4), Winter 2006-07, pp. 111-130.
- Seth G. Jones, “The Rise of Afghanistan’s Insurgency: State Failure and Jihad,” *International Security* 32(4), Spring 2008, pp. 7-40.
- *Dangerous But Not Omnipotent: Exploring the Reach and Limitations of Iranian Power in the Middle East* (Santa Monica: RAND Corporation, 2009), pp. 81-128.

### V. Asymmetric Threats: Terrorism

- Donald M. Snow, *National Security for a New Era, Third Edition* (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2009), ch. 12, pp. 320-351.
- “History of Terrorism,” “Hezbollah,” and “ Hamas,” *Wikipedia*.
- Bruce Riedel, “Al Qaeda Strikes Back,” *Foreign Affairs* 86(3), May/June 2007.
- Assaf Moghadam, “Motives for Martyrdom: Al-Qaeda, Salafi Jihad, and the Spread of Suicide Attacks,” *International Security* 33(3), Winter 2008/09, pp. 46-78.
- Paul R. Pillar, “Counterterrorism After Al Qaeda,” *The Washington Quarterly* 27(3), Summer 2004, pp. 101-113.
- Matthew Levitt and Michael Jacobson, *The Money Trail: Finding, Following, and Freezing Terrorist Finances* (Washington: Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 2008), pp. 1-47.

## **VI. Domestic Political Aspects of Security**

- Donald M. Snow, *National Security for a New Era, Third Edition* (Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2009), ch. 13, pp. 352-381.
- John R. Schmidt, "The Unraveling of Pakistan," *Survival* 51(3), June/July 2009, pp. 29-54.
- Yezid Sayigh, "Inducing a Failed State in Palestine," *Survival* 49(3), Autumn 2007, pp. 7-40.
- *Securing Tyrants or Fostering Reform? U.S. Internal Security Assistance to Repressive and Transitioning Regimes* (Santa Monica: RAND Corporation, 2006), pp. xi-xxii, 1-22.
- *More Freedom, Less Terror? Liberalization and Political Violence in the Arab World* (Santa Monica: RAND Corporation, 2008), pp. xiii-xxvi.
- *Building Moderate Muslim Networks* (Santa Monica: RAND Corporation, 2007), pp. xi-xxiv.

## **VII. Economics and Security**

- "Middle Eastern Oil and Gas," in *The Middle East, Eleventh Edition* (Washington: CQ Press, 2007), pp. 141-158.
- Caitlin Talmadge, "Closing Time: Assessing the Iranian Threat to the Strait of Hormuz," *International Security* 33(1), Summer 2008, pp. 82-117.
- Rose Gottmoeller, "The Evolution of Sanctions in Practice and Theory," *Survival* 49(4), Winter 2007-8, pp. 99-110.
- Michael Jacobson, "Sanctions Against Iran: A Promising Struggle," *The Washington Quarterly* 31(3), Summer 2008, pp. 69-88.

## **Guidelines for Writing Term Papers**

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### **General Points**

Before writing your paper, plan out its overall structure: the general theme, the order in which you will present various issues, the relative emphasis you will give to each issue, whether you have enough information on the issues you will cover, the main conclusions you will draw, etc. The best way to do this is to develop a detailed outline of the paper before you start writing. Keep your paper focused on a single theme. Include only material that is essential for developing this theme. A little effort at the planning stage will save you a lot of time later and help you write a better paper.

For an excellent guide to writing a research paper, see <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>, especially “The Writing Process” and “General Academic Writing.” Include a separate cover page giving the title, your name, the date, and the class name and number. Break your paper up into separate sections with section titles. Include a proper introduction and conclusion, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/728/01/>. Organize your paper to flow smoothly from one section to another. Express your ideas clearly. Each paragraph should express a single idea and should not be too long, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/606/01/>. Avoid run-on sentences. Use proper writing style, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/>, “Grammar and Mechanics.” Quote only when necessary, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/563/01/>. Cite your sources and any quotations correctly, using either MLA or Chicago style, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> or <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>. If you use endnotes or a bibliography, put them on a separate page. Do not plagiarize, as explained in <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>. Proofread your work, using a dictionary or [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com) when necessary. Be sure your paper is neat and clean. Keep an extra copy. For help with your writing, see a tutor or use the Grammar Garage at the LSU Writing Center, [www.lsu.edu/writingcenter](http://www.lsu.edu/writingcenter). *Remember*: good ideas are wasted if they are not clearly presented.

### **Sources**

The best places to look for source material are the LSU library catalog and the databases at [www.lib.lsu.edu/databases](http://www.lib.lsu.edu/databases), especially International Political Science Abstracts and LexisNexis Academic. The reference librarians in Middleton Library can help you use these sources. Internet searches also can be useful, though quality and reliability vary greatly. Once you have found a few good sources, use them to find others, e.g., by continuing to search with the same keywords, looking in other issues of the same journal or magazine, looking at footnotes or the bibliographies of books and articles, looking near a book in the stacks, or using the library catalog to search for other books with the same subject classification (usually listed in the library

catalog entry and on the front or back page of a book). *Do not* cite class readings or lectures, local newspapers, Wikipedia, or other encyclopedias, though you can use them for general information.

The types of source material you need depend on what type of paper you are writing. If the paper is about a current or very recent topic, the most useful sources usually are good national newspapers and magazines, like *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *The Economist*. Local newspapers (e.g., the *Morning Advocate*) generally are *not* useful for international topics. If your topic is more than a few years old, books and journal articles probably are more helpful. For the Middle East the main journals are *Middle East Journal*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, *Journal of Near East and South Asian Affairs*, *Middle Eastern Studies*, *Middle East Report*, *Middle East Policy*, and *Journal of Palestine Studies*. For security topics see *International Security*, *Survival*, *Orbis*, and *Security Studies*. Journals focusing on current issues also may be useful, including *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Washington Quarterly*, and *Current History*. Most of these are available at [www.lib.lsu.edu/epubs/ejournals.html](http://www.lib.lsu.edu/epubs/ejournals.html). See also the following websites: [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com), [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com), [cnn.com](http://cnn.com), [news.bbc.co.uk](http://news.bbc.co.uk), [crisisgroup.org](http://crisisgroup.org), [globalsecurity.org](http://globalsecurity.org), [gulf2000.columbia.edu](http://gulf2000.columbia.edu), [etown.edu/vl/mideast.html](http://etown.edu/vl/mideast.html), [mepc.org/resources/resources.asp](http://mepc.org/resources/resources.asp), [rand.org/pubs/online/national\\_security](http://rand.org/pubs/online/national_security), <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>, [cns.miis.edu/stories/index.htm](http://cns.miis.edu/stories/index.htm), [cdi.org](http://cdi.org), and [lib.utexas.edu/maps](http://lib.utexas.edu/maps). And see me or the reference librarians in Middleton for help in finding material.