

PLSC/MMES 121: International Relations of the Middle East

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DRAFT Syllabus

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Course Description

This course explores the multiple causes of insecurity in the Middle East and North Africa, a region of paramount geostrategic interest, whose populations have suffered from armed conflicts both within and across national borders. The first half of the course interrogates traditional security concepts like war, terrorism, and revolution, as well as the political, economic, and social contexts which give rise to these phenomena. The course then turns to foreign policy analysis in case studies of the region's major states. Previous coursework in international relations and/or Middle East politics or history recommended but not required.

Course Objectives

The goals of this course are to introduce you to core concepts in international relations, familiarize you with the unique history and political challenges of the Middle East and North Africa region, and develop your ability to critically evaluate claims about foreign policy both orally and in writing. You should complete the course feeling comfortable discussing current events in the Middle East through multiple theoretical lenses.

Required Books

- Raymond Hinnebusch and Anoushiravan Ehteshami, eds., *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States*, 2nd ed. (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2014), ISBN: 978-1-62637-029-6, \$28.50.
- Marc Lynch, *The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East* (New York: Public Affairs, 2016), ISBN: 978-1-61039-609-7, \$27.00.

Class Schedule

Week 01, Aug. 29: Introduction

No reading assignment. Start reading for next week!

Week 2, Sept. 3–5: Making the Middle East State System

- Eugene Rogan, “The Emergence of the Middle East into the Modern State System” in Fawcett, *International Relations of the Middle East*, chap. 2, 40 pgs.
- Michael Barnett, *Dialogues in Arab Politics: Negotiations in Regional Order* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), chap. 7, “The End of the Arab States System?” 23 pgs.
- Hinnebusch and Ehteshami, *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States*, chap. 2, The Middle East Regional System, 38 pgs.

Week 3, Sept. 10–12: Orientalism & Foreign Influence

Map quiz at beginning of lecture

- Zachary Lockman, *Contending Visions of the Middle East: The History and Politics of Orientalism*, 2nd ed. (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009), chap. 6, 32 pgs.
- Ian Lustick, “The Absence of Middle Eastern Great Powers: Political ‘Backwardness’ in Historical Perspective,” *International Organization*, 1997, 27 pgs.
- Stephen Kinzer, *Overthrow: America’s Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*, First edition (New York, NY: Times Books, February 6, 2007), chap. 5, 17 pgs.

Week 4, Sept. 17–19: War

- Chaim Kaufmann, “Threat Inflation and the Failure of the Marketplace of Ideas: The Selling of the Iraq War,” *International Security* 29, no. 1 (2004): 5–48, 40 pgs.
- Etel Solingen, “Pax Asiatica versus Bella Levantina: The Foundations of War and Peace in East Asia and the Middle East,” *American Political Science Review* 101, no. 4 (2007): 757–80, 19 pgs.
- Nader Hashemi and Danny Postel, eds., *Sectarianization: Mapping the New Politics of the Middle East* (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, March 15, 2017), chap. 1-3, 36 pgs.
- Michael T. Hoffman and Elizabeth R. Nugent, “Communal Religious Practice and Support for Armed Parties: Evidence from Lebanon,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61, no. 4 (2017): 869–902, 27 pgs.

Week 5, Sept. 24–26: Terrorism

- Daniel Byman, “Terrorism After the Revolutions: How Secular Uprisings Could Help (or Hurt) Jihadists,” *Foreign Affairs* 90, no. 3 (2011): 48–54, 7 pgs.
- Deniz Aksoy, David B. Carter, and Joseph Wright, “Terrorism in Dictatorships,” *Journal of Politics* 67, no. 3 (2012), 15 pgs.
- Barak Mendelsohn, *The Al-Qaeda Franchise: The Expansion of Al-Qaeda and Its Consequences* (Oxford University Press, December 1, 2015), chap. 4, “Explaining al-Qaeda’s Franchising Strategy,” 23 pgs.

- Martha Crenshaw, “Transnational Jihadism & Civil Wars,” *Daedalus* 146, no. 4 (2017): 59–70, 17 pgs.
- Martin Chulov, “Isis: The inside Story,” *The Guardian*, November 12, 2014

Week 6, Oct. 1–3: Nuclear Security & The Arab Spring

Nuclear security

- Alexandre Debs and Nuno P. Monteiro, *Nuclear Politics: The Strategic Causes of Proliferation* (New York: Cambridge University Press, December 15, 2016), 131–75, 44 pgs.
- Eric S. Edelman, Andrew F. Krepinevich, and Evan Braden Montgomery, “The Dangers of a Nuclear Iran: The Limits of Containment,” *Foreign Affairs* 90, no. 1 (2011): 66–81, 15 pgs.
- Kenneth N. Waltz, “Why Iran Should Get the Bomb: Nuclear Balancing Would Mean Stability Comment,” *Foreign Affairs* 91 (2012): 2–5, 4 pgs.
- International Crisis Group, *The Iran Nuclear Deal at Two: A Status Report*, Middle East Report 181 (International Crisis Group, January 16, 2018), 25 pgs.

The Arab Spring

- Jason Brownlee, Tarek E. Masoud, and Andrew Reynolds, *The Arab Spring: Pathways of Repression and Reform* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014), chap. 3, “Breakdowns and Crackdowns,” 34 pgs.
- Eva Bellin, “Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring,” *Comparative Politics* 44, no. 2 (2012): 127–49, 17 pgs.

Week 7, Oct. 8–10: After the Uprisings

Military responses

- Derek Lutterbeck, “Arab Uprisings, Armed Forces, and Civil–Military Relations,” *Armed Forces & Society* 39, no. 1 (2013): 28–52, 19 pgs.
- Hicham Bou Nassif, “Generals and Autocrats: How Coup-Proofing Predetermined the Military Elite’s Behavior in the Arab Spring,” *Political Science Quarterly* 130, no. 2 (2015): 245–75, 31 pgs.

New Wars & Midterm Review

- Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, chap. 1-2, 74 pgs.

Week 8, Oct. 15: MIDTERM EXAM IN CLASS

10/18: October Recess (No Class)

Foreign Policy Case Studies

Week 9, Oct. 22–24: Palestine & Israel

- Fawcett, *International Relations of the Middle East*, chap. 12, “The Arab-Israeli Conflict,” 27 pgs.

- Joel Beinen and Lisa Hajjar, *Primer on Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (Middle East Research and Information Project, 2014), 16 pgs.
- Perry Cammack, Nathan J. Brown, and Marwan Muasher, *Revitalizing Palestinian Nationalism: Options Versus Realities* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2017), 5–26.
- Diana B. Greenwald and Mark Tessler, “Palestinians don’t trust institutions: What that means for peace 50 years after the Arab-Israeli War,” *The Washington Post*, 8 Jun. 2017, 3 pgs.

Week 10, Oct. 29–31: Egypt

- Hinnebusch and Ehteshami, *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States*, chap. 3, Egypt, 29 pgs.
- Jason Brownlee, *Democracy Prevention: The Politics of the US-Egyptian Alliance* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012), chap. 1, “Peace before Freedom,” 28 pgs.
- Hicham Bou Nassif, “Wedded to Mubarak: The Second Careers and Financial Rewards of Egypt’s Military Elite, 1981–2011,” *The Middle East Journal* 67, no. 4 (2013): 509–30, 21 pgs.
- Chams El-Dine, “Egypt: From Military Reform to Military Sanctuarization” in Albrecht et al., *Armies and Insurgencies in the Arab Spring*, chap. 9, 18 pgs.

Week 11, Nov. 5–7: Iran & Iraq

- Hinnebusch and Ehteshami, *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States*, chap. 10, Iran, 28 pgs.
- Ariane M. Tabatabai and Annie Tracy Samuel, “What the Iran-Iraq War Tells Us about the Future of the Iran Nuclear Deal,” *International Security* 42, no. 1 (2017): 152–85, 34 pgs.
- ICG, *Iraq’s Paramilitary Groups: The Challenge of Rebuilding a Functioning State*, Middle East/North Africa Report 188 (International Crisis Group, July 30, 2018), 1–24, 24 pgs.
- Vera Mironova and Mohammed Hussein, “Iraq After ISIS,” *Foreign Affairs*, November 3, 2016, 3 pgs.

Week 12, Nov. 12: The Maghreb

- Hinnebusch and Ehteshami, *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States*, chap. 9, Tunisia, 28 pgs.
- Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, chap. 5-6, “Democracy’s Chance” and “Autocrats on Offense,” 49 pgs.
- Collombier, “Building an Army to Build the State?” in Albrecht et al., *Armies and Insurgencies in the Arab Spring*, chap. 11, 15 pgs.

MEMO DUE THURSDAY – NO CLASS

Week 13, Nov. 19–21: Turkey & Syria

- Hinnebusch and Ehteshami, *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States*, chap. 8, 12, Syria & Turkey, 47 pgs.
- Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, chap. 4, 7, “Syria’s Uprising” and “Syria in Hell,” 70 pgs.
- Wendy Pearlman, “Narratives of Fear in Syria,” *Perspectives on Politics* 14, no. 1 (2016): 21–37, 12 pgs.

Nov. 26–28: November Recess (No Class)

Week 14, Dec. 3–5: The Gulf & Review

The Arab Gulf

- Hinnebusch and Ehteshami, *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States*, chap. 6-7, Saudi Arabia & Qatar, 49 pgs.
- Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, chap. 8, “The Saudi Gambit,” 16 pgs.
- Nathan J. Brown, *The Remaking of the Saudi State* (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2017), 5 pgs.
- Anthony H. Cordesman, *Military Spending: The Other Side of Saudi Security* (Center for Strategic and International Studies, March 18, 2018), 15 pgs.

Review

- Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, chap. 9, “Where Do We Go from Here?” 14 pgs.