

History 250  
Spring 2020

### **US Relations with the Middle East and North Africa**

Place: UNIV 219  
Day and Time: Tuesday/Thursday, 12 noon-1:15 pm  
  
Instructor: Professor Holden  
Office: UNIV 127  
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday, 1:30 pm-2:30 pm  
Email: sholden@purdue.edu

After 9/11, the US engaged in military interventions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. The US remains today heavily involved in the affairs of the Middle East and North Africa. This course surveys US policy toward this region since the Barbary Wars. It provides students with the background necessary to understand the decisions of American leaders in the past and in the present. This course responds to the following questions: Why has the US focused considerable attention on the Middle East and North Africa world since the Barbary Wars (1801-1804, 1814-1815)? How has US foreign policy toward the Middle East and North Africa evolved over time? What role has the US played in shaping history in the Arab-Islamic world? In the end, students have an opportunity to assess continuity and change in US foreign policy toward this region.

#### Learning Outcomes

- *Topical*
  - To improve understandings of how the US has set policy in the Middle East and North Africa, and with what effect.
  - To consider key foreign policy concepts and apply them to specific case studies in the Middle East and North Africa.
- *Analytical*
  - To improve your writing skills.
  - To develop skills of critical thinking and problem solving.
  - To converse about ideas and improve verbal communication.

This class attends to skills critical for making a positive impression on employers: ability to interact with people, problem-solving skills, oral communication, and written communication.

#### Course Materials and Preparations:

The assignment for each class is *underneath* the specific day and lecture. It is under the line Class Preparations. Students should prepare assignments for each topic *before* each class meeting.

If the line Class Preparations calls on students to watch a movie, I will instruct students where and when it will be shown or how it can be accessed. You will see instructions on your syllabus.

Most readings are on Blackboard.

However, students should acquire the following:

- David W. Lesch and Mark L. Haas, *The Middle East and the United States: History, Politics and Ideologies*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., David W. Lesch and Mark L. Haas (Routledge, 2018).
- Suzy Hansen, *Notes on a Foreign Country: An American Abroad in a Post-American World* (Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 2017).

Course Requirements:

Take-Home Exam #1 25%  
 Take-Home Exam #2 25%  
 Take-Home Exam #3 25%  
 Book Review 25%

I will take into consideration attendance and participation when a student's grade may be on the cusp of moving to a higher grade.

**Three take-home exams** will allow me to assess the ability of students to think critically and put myriad facts into a coherent essay. I will provide students with a study sheet that allows them to prepare for a take-home exam three times over the course of this semester. Tests ask students to construct essays based on information provided in books, lectures, and any assigned films.

This class requires that you write an **analytical review of Suzy Hansen's book Notes on a Foreign Country**. These reviews are to be two to three pages (not more, not less). You must write it in 12-point type-face, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. This review will be due one week after our class discussion of the book, and so I would like them sent to me via email by 5 pm on 3 May. You will be penalized five points for each day the essay is late. We will devote a class period to discussing the book, and I will provide detailed guidelines to help your write the review.

Here is the University's policy on Attendance:

*Students are expected to be present for every meeting of the classes in which they are enrolled. Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many*

University sponsored activities and religious observations, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible...For unanticipated or emergency absences when advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by email, or by contacting the main office that offers the course. When a student is unable to make direct contact with the instructor and is unable to leave word with the instructor's department because of circumstances beyond the student's control, and in cases of bereavement, the student or the student's representative should contact the Office of the Dean of Students. For info, see [http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/regulations\\_procedures/classes.html](http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/regulations_procedures/classes.html)

### Grading

A	=	94-100
A-	=	90-93
B+	=	87-89
B	=	84-86
B-	=	80-83
C+	=	77-79
C	=	74-76
C-	=	70-73

### Disclaimers

**Plagiarism will not be tolerated at Purdue University:** Plagiarism is a crime, and students can be expelled for turning in a paper that they did not write. Copying a person's work verbatim is not the only form of plagiarism. In some cases, plagiarism involves paraphrasing the idea of another without a footnote or the repetition of another author's phrase. Students are advised to consult Purdue University's Guide to Academic Integrity for guidelines at: <http://www.purdue.edu/ODOS/osrr/integrity.htm>. Plagiarized work will receive a 0, and the professor reserves the right to forward the case to the administration.

Purdue University is committed to fostering diversity and inclusion and welcomes individuals of all ages, religions, sex, sexual orientations, races, nationalities, languages, military experience, disabilities, family statuses, gender identities and expressions, political views, and socioeconomic statuses. Please respect the different experiences, beliefs and values expressed by everyone in this course. Behaviors that threaten, harass, discriminate or that are disrespectful of others will not be tolerated. Inappropriate behaviors will be addressed with

disciplinary action, which may include being referred to the Office of the Dean of Students. Please visit Purdue's Nondiscrimination policy for more information: [http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea\\_eou\\_statement.html](http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html)

The deadlines and grading policies enunciated in this syllabus are subject to changes in the event of a major campus emergency. Any changes will be posted on Blackboard, once class resumes.

**Jan 14 (Tu) Course Introduction**

**Jan. 16 (Th) Where Is the "Middle East"?**

Class Preparations

Roger Adelson, "British and U.S. Use and Misuse of the Term "Middle East," in *Is There a Middle East?: The Evolution of a Geopolitical Concept*, ed. Michael E. Bonine, Abbas Amanat, and Michael Ezekiel Gasper (Stanford University Press, 2012), 36-55.

**Jan. 21 (Tu) US Interests in the ME & NA?**

Class Preparations

Keith Shimko, "Interests," in *The Foreign Policy Puzzle: Interests, Threats, and Tools* (Oxford University Press, 2017), 25-51.

**Jan. 23 (Th) The Barbary Wars (1801-1805, 1815)**

Class Preparations

Robert J. Allison, "Americans and the Muslim World—First Encounters," in Lesch and Haas, *The Middle East and the United States*, 19-29.

**Jan. 28 (Tu) William Eaton, Myth and History**  
--Film, "The Battle of Tripoli" (2004)

Class Preparations

Joseph Wheelan, "Prologue," in *Jefferson's War: America's First War on Terror, 1801-1805* (Carroll and Graf Publishers, 2003), xvii-xxvi.

C. Hitchens, "To the Shores of Tripoli," *Time Magazine*, 5 July 2004.

**Jan. 30 (Th)                      World War I and Its Political Aftermath**

Class Preparations

William L. Cleveland and Martin Bunton, *A History of the Modern Middle East*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Westview Press, 2016), 139-159.

**Feb. 4 (Tu)                      The King-Crane Commission, 1919**

Class Preparations

James Gelvin, "The Ironic Legacy of the King-Crane Commission," Leonard V. Smith, "Wilsonian Sovereignty in the Middle East: The King-Crane Commission Report of 1919," in Lesch and Mark L. Haas, *The Middle East and the United States*, 30-46.

"The King-Crane Commission: Recommendations (August 28, 1919)," *The Arab-Israeli Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed., ed. Walter Laqueur and Dan Schueftan (Penguin Books, 2016), 23-25.

**Feb. 6 (Th)                      World War I through Arab Eyes**  
--Film, "The New Middle East"

Class Preparations

Steven A. Cook and Amr T. Leheta, "Don't Blame Sykes Picot for the Middle East Mess," *Foreign Policy* (16 May 2016), <http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/05/13/sykes-picot-isnt-whats-wrong-with-the-modern-middle-east-100-years/>

**Feb. 11 (Tu)                      What is American Orientalism?**  
--Film, "Valentino's Ghost" (part 1)

Class Preparations

"Orientalism, American Style," Douglas Little, *American Orientalism: The United States and the Middle East since 1945* (University of North Carolina Press, 2002), 9-42.

**Feb. 13 (Th)                      American Orientalism, cont'd**  
--Film, "Valentino's Ghost" (part 1)

**Feb. 18 (Tu)                      Take-Home Exam #1**

**Your exam is due to me via email by 1:30 pm.**

**Feb. 20 (Th)                    WWII and the Emergence of the US as Superpower**

Class Preparations

Rashid Khalidi, "The Super Powers and the Cold War in the Middle East," in Lesch and Mark L. Haas, *The Middle East and the United States*, 119-135.

**Feb. 25 (Tu)                    The Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict**

Class Preparations

William Cleveland and Martin Bunton, "The Palestine Mandate and the Birth of the State of Israel," in *The Modern Middle East* (Routledge, 2018), 226-255.

**Feb. 27 (Th)                    Arab Nationalism and the Suez Crisis, 1956**

Class Preparations

Peter Haas, "National Security Concerns in US Policy Toward Egypt, 1949-1956," Lesch and Mark L. Haas, *The Middle East and the United States*, 64-76.

Malik Mufti, "The United States and Nasserist Pan-Islam," in Lesch and Mark L. Haas, *The Middle East and the United States*, 93-109.

**March 3 (Tu)                    The Evolution of a "Special Relationship,"  
The Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1948-1982**

Class Preparations

Fawaz A. George, "The 1967 Arab-Israeli War: US Actions and Arab Perceptions," in Lesch and Mark L. Haas, *The Middle East and the United States*, 129-157.

I will also put the Camp David Accords (1978) on Blackboard.

**March 5 (Th)                    Blowback: The US and Iran**

Class Preparations

Ervand Abrahamian, "The Islamic Revolution," in *A History of Modern Iran* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), 155-162.

Mark Gasiorowski, "US Foreign Policy Toward Iran During the Mussadiq Era," Lesch and Mark L. Haas, *The Middle East and the United States*, 47-63.

**March 10 (Tu) American Responses to Radical Islam**

Class Preparations

"Battling the Veil: American Reactions to the Iranian Revolution," in Kelly J. Shannon, *U.S. Foreign Policy and Muslim Women's Human Rights* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017), 17-36.

**March 12 (Th) Take-Home Exam #2**

Class Preparations

**Take-home exam #2 is due to me via email by 1:30 pm today.**

**March 17 (Tu) Spring Break**

**March 19 (Th) Spring Break**

**March 24 (Tu) Day Off**

**March 26 (Th) The Intifada, 1987-1993**

Class Preparations

"Stories from the Intifada," part 1 **and** 2 (2014), al Jazeera, <https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/aljazeeraworld/2014/12/stories-from-intifada-2014129113635479595.html>, 1 hr., 30 min.--read the article from Al Jazeera in which film embedded as well.

**March 31 (Tu) The Persian Gulf War, 1991**

Class Preparations

Gary Sick, "The United States in the Persian Gulf from Twin Pillars to Dual Containment," in Lesch and Mark L. Haas, *The Middle East and the United States*, 237-252.

**April 2 (Th) The Sanctions Regime**

Class Preparations

Hadani Ditmars, "the Deleterious Effects of Sanctions on Iraqi Women," in Stacy E. Holden, ed., *A Documentary History of Modern Iraq* (University Press of Florida, 2012), 288-299.

**April 7 (Tu)                    Defining Terrorism (Strategy, not Ideology)**

Class Preparations

Frederik Logevall, *Terrorism and 9/11: A Reader* (Cengage Learning, 2002), 1-4.

Keith L. Shimko, *International Relations: Perspectives, Controversies and Readings*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Wadsworth Publishing 2015), 294-299.

Charles Townsend, *Terrorism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2011), 21-36.

Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad, "Islamist Perceptions of US Policy in the Middle East," in Lesch and Mark L. Haas, *The Middle East and the United States*, 313-335.

Ahmed Rashid, "Osama bin Laden: How the US Helped Midwife a Terrorist," in Fredrik Logevall, *Terrorism and 9/11: A Reader* (Houghton Mifflin, 2002), 50-60.

**April 9 (Th)                    The Invasion and Occupation of Iraq**

Class Preparations

Steve A. Yetiv, "The Iraq War of 2003: Why Did the United States Decide to Invade?" in Lesch and Mark L. Haas, *The Middle East and the United States*, 253-273.

**April 14 (Tu)                    The Surge**

--Guest Lecture, Dr. Keith L. Shimko

Class Preparations

LTC Jim Crider, *Inside the Surge: One Commander's Lesson in Counterinsurgency* (Center for New American Security, 2009).

**April 16 (Th)                    The Soldiering Experience in Iraq War**

--Major N. Bibler, Captain C. Molinder

**April 21 (Tu)                    Exam #3**

Class Preparations



**Take-home exam #3 is due to me by email by 1:30 pm today.**

**April 23 (Th)            Iran and Saudi Arabia, Part I**  
                                  --"Bitter Rivals: Iran and Saudi Arabia"

**April 28 (Tu)            Iran and Saudi Arabia, Part II**  
                                  --"Bitter Rivals: Iran and Saudi Arabia"

**April 30 (Th)            Being American Overseas in a post-9/11 World**

Class Preparations

Suzy Hansen, *Notes on a Foreign Country: An American Abroad in a Post American World* (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2017), in its entirety.

**\*\*\*Your review of Hansen is due via email on 3 May by noon.\*\*\***