

CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Jordan

Course Title: (AM/INTR 375) The United States in the Arab World

Total Hours: 45

Recommended Credits: 3

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

Language of Instruction: English

Prerequisites / Requirements: None

Description

The course explores the major themes and issues of the contemporary Arab world with a view to US engagement and involvement. Among the issues considered are the impact of 9/11, the occupation of Iraq, and the war on terrorism on US-Arab relations, misperceptions between Arabs and Americans, 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 in the Middle East. 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 9/11? 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?

Utilizing case studies, independent research, engagement with local perspectives, and group discussion, the course seeks to foster students' comprehensive yet nuanced understanding of the Arab region.

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 their understanding of US-Arab relations, not only in political terms, but also in cultural, economic, and social terms.
- Identify tools of analysis for better understanding the major driving forces that have governed this region of the world.
- Compare the foreign policies of various US administrations and analyze their degree of success in achieving desired outcomes.

Course Requirements

Attendance, as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy, is critical for success in the course. The course is based on lectures, and students are expected to read the required materials in advance and actively participate in class discussions. Readings average 50 pages per class session. Participation in field-based excursions is graded and students complete a presentation after each excursion on what they have learned. Choosing from course topics, students complete three projects throughout the term, conducting personal research and surveys, in the form of a five-page paper which they present in class.

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Grading

The final grade for this course is determined as follows:

- Preparation and Participation 20%
- Homework 10%
- Presentations 20%
- Mid-term exam 10%
- Research Projects 15%
- Final paper and presentation 15%
- Final exam 10%

Readings

Al-Arian, Abdullah. *Political Islam and the Endurance of American Empire*. JadMag. Issue 6.4. Fall 2018.

<https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/41326/Political-Islam-and-the-Endurance-of-American-Empire>

Anderson, Scott. Photographs, Paolo Pellegrin. *Fractured Lands: How the Arab World Came Apart*. The New York Times Magazine. Issue 8.11.2016.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/08/11/magazine/isis-middle-east-arab-spring-fractured-lands.html>

Bazzi, Mohamad. "Jamal Khashoggi's Murder Shook Everyone—Except Trump". The Nation Magazine.

2019. <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/khashoggi-saudi-trump/>

Bunghalia, Lisa; Greve, Jeanette; Mustafa, Tahani. *The Shifting Contours of US Power and Intervention in Palestine*. Middle East Research and Information Project. Issue No. 290. Spring 2019.

<https://merip.org/2019/07/the-shifting-contours-of-us-power-and-intervention-in-palestine/>

Gerges, Fawaz A. *America and Political Islam: Clash of Cultures or Clash of Interests?* Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

Hahn, Peter L. *Crisis and Crossfire: The US and the Middle East since 1945*. Potomac, 2005.

Hamid, Shadi. "Islamism, the Arab Spring, and the Failure of America's Do-Nothing Policy in the Middle East." *The Atlantic Magazine*. 2015. <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/10/middle-east-egypt-us-policy/409537/>

Hazbun, Waleed. *American Interventionism and the Geopolitical Roots of Yemen's Catastrophe*. Middle East Research and Information Project. Issue No. 289. Winter 2018. <https://merip.org/2019/03/american-interventionism-and-the-geopolitical-roots-of-yemens-catastrophe/>

Ismael, Tareq Y. and Jacqueline S. Ismael. *Pax Americana and the Dissolution of Arab States: The Humanitarian Consequences (1990–2019)*. Arab Studies Quarterly. Vol. 42, No. 1-2. Winter/Spring 2020. pp. 25-45

Jamal, Amaney, A. *Of Empires and Citizens: Pro-American Democracy or No Democracy at All?* Princeton University Press. 2012.

Karmi, Ghada. *Married to Another Man: Israel Dilemma in Palestine*. Pluto Press, Chase Publishing Services, Ltd. Sidmouth, England. 2007.

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Khalidi, Rashid. *Resurrecting Empire: Western Footprints and America's Perilous Path in the Middle East*. Beacon Press. Boston. 2004.

Lesch, David W. (ed.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 4th ed. Westview, 2007.

McAlister, Melani. *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media & US Interests in the Middle East Since 1945*. University of California Press. 2005.

Parker, Richard B. *The June 1967 War: Some Mysteries Explored*, Middle East Journal vol. 46, no. 2 Spring 1992. 177-197.

Quandt, William B. *Lyndon Johnson and the June 1967 War: What color was the Light?*, Middle East Journal vol. 46, no. 2 Spring 1992. 198-228.

Samaan, Jean-Loup. *Jordan New Geopolitics*. Survival: Global Politics and Strategy. 54:2, 15-26. 2012.

Schwarz, Rolf. *War and State Building in the Middle East*. University of Press Florida. 2012.

Selim, Gamal, M. *The United States and the Arab Spring: The Dynamics of Political Engineering*. Arab Studies Quarterly. Vol. 35, No. 3, Special Issue: Perspectives on the Arab Uprisings. Summer 2013. pp. 255-272

Telhami, Shibley. *The Stakes: America and the Middle East- the Consequences of Power and the Choice for Peace*. Boulder: Westview, 2004..

Turse, Nick. "How the Tiny Kingdom of Bahrain Strong-Armed the President of the United States". The Nation Magazine. 2011. <https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/how-tiny-kingdom-bahrain-strong-armed-president-united-states/>

Yadav, Stacey Philbrick. *Roundtable: Three Women Activists Advancing Peace in Yemen*. Middle East Research and Information Project. Issue No. 289. Winter 2018. <https://merip.org/2019/03/roundtable-three-women-activists-advancing-peace-in-yemen/>

Outline of Course Content

Topics are covered in approximately one week.

Topic 1: Everything Arab

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

Topic 2: The United States and the Middle East in the post-war period

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

Topic 3: US-Arab Relations during the Cold War

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

Topic 4: The US Response to Arab Nationalism, 1958-67

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- US foreign policy changes in the light of Arab Nationalism

Topic 5: The United States and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

- 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 6: Effects of the Arab-Israeli Conflict on US-Arab Relations

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

Topic 7: Peace Between Egypt and Israel

- Implications of the Camp David Accord

Topic 8: The Gulf War

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

Topic 9: America and the Peace Process

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

Topic 10: September 11th and the Occupation of Iraq

- US-Saudi relations
- Middle East geostrategy and oil

Topic 11: The Middle East in the Mind of Americans

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

Topic 12: The Arab Spring

- Tunisia
- Egypt
- Libya
- Bahrain

Topic 13: Post-Arab Spring

- The war in Syria
- The spread of ISIS
- The crisis in Yemen

Topic 14: The US and Jordan

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- USAID
- Economy and trade
- Education and scholarship