CIEE Amman, Jordan

Course name: Conflict and Diplomacy in the Contemporary Middle East
Course number: INRE 3002 AMJO
Programs offering course: Middle East Studies
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Spring 2019

Course Description

This course explores conflict and diplomacy in the contemporary Middle East through an in-depth examination and discussion of case studies from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Each week will be devoted to a specific conflict.

This course additionally serves as an introductory survey to the history, politics and societies of the contemporary Middle East, as well as to the main dynamics driving conflict and conflict resolution in this region.

Learning Objectives

This course is designed to:
1- Familiarize students with the key conflicts and diplomatic processes in the contemporary Middle East;
2- Familiarize students with the history, politics and societies of the contemporary Middle East;
3- Provide students with basic analytical tools for understanding and interpreting the dynamics driving conflict and its resolution in the region;
4- Assist students to engage in informed discussion and debate about the Middle East, its conflicts, and conflict resolution.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

The course will be based on seminar-style discussions, and students’ preparation and active participation is considered essential.
Several readings will be assigned for every session. A presentation by the instructor will be followed by group discussion in which the main themes, dynamics, and interests
pertainning to the conflict/diplomatic process under discussion will be discussed and debated.

Laptops and other electronic devices are not permitted in class.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Policy Brief: 20%
2. Midterm Exam: 20%
3. Class Presentation: 15%
4. Final Exam: 30%
5. Attendance and class participation: 15%

Course Requirements

Policy Brief:
Students will prepare a policy brief of 3,000 – 3,500 words on one of the main crisis, conflicts or affairs in the region including those that will be discussed during the semester. This policy brief will be prepared for the United Nations Secretary-General or The State Department and should:
1. Identify the main actors in the conflict and their core interests;
2. Recommend realistic and effective initiatives, to be undertaken by the UN and/or member states, to restore peace and address the threats this conflict poses to international peace and security;
3. Identify and respond to key objections to the proposed policy recommendations.

The policy brief should be prefaced by a 500-word Executive Summary, which is part of the total word count. These must conform to the MLA format using 12-point font, with a cover page indicating name of class, instructor, authors and date. Students are strongly encouraged to conduct this exercise in groups of two-three each. More explanation will be offered during classes. Policy Brief paper is due on week 11 by e-mail.

Class Presentation
The author(s) of each policy brief will present their work to the class during the final session of this course. Presentations will last a maximum of 10 minutes, with an additional 10 minutes for discussion and debate of each paper’s conclusions.

Midterm Exam:
An in-class exam will take place during the midterm week which will be covering the topics & readings covered so fare in the course.

Final Exam:
A final take-home exam will be distributed in class. Consisting of four questions that may reflect any of the material covered during the semester, students are required to answer two of their choice with 750-1,000-word essays. This will be due during the week final exams and must conform to the MLA format using 12-point font, with a cover page
indicating name of class, instructor, author and date. The essay question should be fully identified.

**Attendance and Class Participation:**
Students are expected to attend and be prepared to actively participate in regularly scheduled classes.
This class follows the CIEE attendance policies: Attendance is required. That means you are required to attend all classes, arrive on-time, and stay for the entire class period each and every time it meets.

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

**Introduction: The Formation of the Contemporary Middle East** (lecture and discussion)

*Readings:*
- Lynch, Preface, Chapter 1 (pp. ix-xviii, 1-73)

*Optional supplementary readings:*
- Eugene Rogan, *The Arabs: A History* (Basic Books, 2009), Chapters 6-14 (pp. 147-482)
- Jean Said Makdisi, *Teta, Mother And Me: An Arab Woman’s Memoir* (Saqi, 2005)

**Week 2**

**The Syria Conflict I**

*Reading:*
- Van Dam, Introduction and Chapters 1-2

*Optional supplementary readings:*
- Lynch, Chapters 4,7 (pp. 105-138,189-224)

**Week 3**

**The Syria Conflict II**

**Readings**

- Van Dam, Chapters 3-5
- Aron Lund, “The Five Most Important Events in Syria in 2016”, *The Century Foundation*, 30 December 2016 ([https://tcf.org/content/commentary/five-important-events-syria-2016](https://tcf.org/content/commentary/five-important-events-syria-2016))
- Stephen M. Walt, "Could We Have Stopped This Tragedy?", *Foreign Policy* 21 September 2015 ([http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/09/21/could-we-have-stopped-this-tragedy-syria-intervention-realist](http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/09/21/could-we-have-stopped-this-tragedy-syria-intervention-realist))
- Nour Samaha, "Survival is Syria’s Strategy", *The Century Foundation*, 8 February 2017 ([https://tcf.org/content/report/survival-syrias-strategy](https://tcf.org/content/report/survival-syrias-strategy))

Optional supplementary readings:

- Emile Hokayem, *Syria’s Uprising and the Fracturing of the Levant* (Routledge, 2013)
- Khalid Khalifa, *In Praise of Hatred* (Black Swan, 2013)
north-africa/eastern-mediterranean/syria): Syria Comment: Syria Politics, History and Religion (http://www.joshualandis.com/blog); and many others.

Week 4

From Iraq to ISIS I

Readings:

Optional supplementary readings:
- Anthony Shadid, Night Draws Near: Iraq’s People in The Shadow of America’s War (Picador, 2006)
- Salam Pax, Salam Pax: The Clandestine Diary of an Ordinary Iraqi (Grove Press, 2003)
- Sinan Antoon, The Corpse Washer (Yale University Press, 2014)
- Elliott Colla, Baghdad Central (Bitter Lemon Press, 2014)

Week 5

From Iraq to ISIS II

Readings:
- Abu Hanieh and Abu Rumman, Chapter 1 (pp. 25-93)
- Gerges, Chapters 2-5 (pp. 50-169)
- Ussama Makdisi, "The Mythology of the Sectarian Middle East", Rice University Baker Institute for Public Policy, February 2017 (http://www.bakerinstitute.org/files/11372/)

Optional supplementary readings:
- Abu Hanieh and Abu Rumman, Chapters 3-6
- Gerges, Chapters 7-8 and Conclusion

**Week 6**

The Palestine Question and the Arab-Israeli Conflict I

Readings:
- Smith, Chapters 4-6 (pp. 162-299)

Optional supplementary readings:
- Smith, Prologue, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-161)
- David Hirst, *The Gun and The Olive Branch* (Faber and Faber, 1977)
- Walid Khalidi (ed.), *From Haven to Conquest: Readings in Zionism and the Palestine Problem Until 1948* (Institute for Palestine Studies, 1987)
- Ghassan Kanafani, *Palestine’s Children: Returning to Haifa & Other Stories* (Lynne Rienner, 2000)

**Week 7**

Midterm Exam

**Week 8**

Spring Break

**Week 9**

The Palestine Question and the Arab-Israeli Conflict II

Readings:
- Smith, Chapters 7-10 (pp. 300-480)
  (http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2001/08/09/camp-david-the-tragedy-of-errors/)

Optional supplementary readings:
- Smith, Chapter 11 and Epilogue (pp. 482-555)
- Shlomo Ben-Ami, *Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy* (Oxford University Press, 2006)
- Avi Shlaim, The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World (W.W. Norton, 2014)
- Graham Usher, Dispatches From Palestine: The Rise and Fall of the Oslo Peace Process (Pluto, 1999)
- Mahmoud Darwish, Memory for Forgetfulness: August, Beirut, 1982 (University of California Press, 2013)
- Sahar Khalifeh, Wild Thorns (Interlink, 2003)
- A.B. Yehoshua, A Woman in Jerusalem (Mariner, 2007)

Week 10
Libya

Readings:
- Lynch, Chapter 3 and 6 (pp. 75-104, 175-188)

Optional supplementary readings:
- Dirk Vandewalle, A History of Modern Libya (Cambridge University Press)
- Ruth First, Libya: The Elusive Revolution (Penguin, 1975)

Week 11
Iran and the Nuclear Agreement

Readings:

Optional supplementary readings:
- Daniel Yergin, *The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power* (Free Press, 2008)
- Stephen M. Walt, “Barack Obama Was a Foreign Policy Failure”, Foreign Policy, 18 January 2017 (http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/01/18/barack-obama-was-a-foreign-policy-failure/?utm_content=buffer6f6b7&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

Policy Brief Paper Due

**Week 12**

**The Arabian Peninsula: Saudi Arabia, the War in Yemen, and the Qatar Crisis I**

Readings:
- Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, One Year On. Simon Henderson April 24, 2017
- The Outlook for Arab Gulf Cooperation. 2015
  https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1429.html
  file:///C:/Users/OptiPlex/Downloads/RAND_PE189%20(1).pdf
  https://www.rand.org/blog/2015/05/yemen-victim-of-the-saudi-iranian-rivalry.html
  https://www.rand.org/blog/2015/06/what-pakistan-and-saudi-arabia-want-from-each-other.html

**Week 13**

**The Arabian Peninsula: Saudi Arabia, the War in Yemen, and the Qatar Crisis II**

Readings:
- How Might Mohammed bin Salman’s Arrest of Saudi Princes Affect His Rise to the Throne?
  http://carnegie-mec.org/diwan/74725
  https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1229.html
- The danger of picking sides in the Qatar Crisis. June 1 2017.
- In Yemen, Iran outsmarts Saudi Arabia again
  Bruce Riedel, December 6, 2017
  https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2017/12/06/in-yemen-iran-outsmarts-saudi-arabia-again/
- The Qatar Crisis and the Future of the GCC. Ashley Inman 14\textsuperscript{th} Aug 2017
  https://chargedaffairs.org/the-qatar-crisis/

\textbf{Week 14}  \hspace{1cm} \textbf{Policy Brief Presentations}  \\
\hspace{1cm} \textbf{Final Take Home Exam Due}

\textbf{Readings}


- Marc Lynch, \textit{The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East} (Public Affairs Press, 2016)


- Additional online and optional supplementary readings will be assigned