CIEE Amman, Jordan

Course title: Conflict and Diplomacy in the Contemporary Middle East
Course code: INRE 3002 AMJO
Programs offering course: Middle East Studies
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Fall 2020

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.

Additionally, this course 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

By completing this course, students will:

- Examine the key conflicts and diplomatic processes in the contemporary Middle East
- Investigate the history, politics and societies of the contemporary Middle East
- Analyse and interpret the dynamics driving conflict and its resolution in the region
- Argue and debate the Middle East, its conflicts, and conflict resolution objectively

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 pertaining 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. **Presentation**  
   15%
4. **Final Exam**  
   30%
5. **Class Participation**  
   15%

**TOTAL**  
100%

**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 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.
Students are strongly encouraged to conduct this exercise in groups of two-three each.

Midterm Exam

A set exam in the class will take place during the midterm week, covering the topics & readings covered.

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 ten minutes, with an additional ten-fifteen minutes for discussion and debate of each paper's conclusions.

Policy briefs are due by email. These must conform to the MLA format using 12-point font, with a cover page indicating name of class, instructor, authors and date.

(more explanation will be offered during classes)

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 for each question.

Papers are due no later than 5pm Amman time after a week by email, 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.

Class Participation

Students are required to attend all classes and to be active and engaged in the discussions by asking questions and to speak up their own minds, thoughts, analysis & concerns about the topics covered.
In the course, one unexcused absence (an absence not caused by illness) is permitted. If the student has more than one unexcused absence, the grade for the course will be lowered by one “mark” for each unexcused absence. In other words, after two unexcused absences an A becomes an A-; after three an A becomes a B+; after four an A becomes a B, etc. Term papers will not be accepted after 17:30 Amman time on the last day of class.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class: Introduction: The Formation of the Contemporary Middle East

(lecture and discussion)

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

Optional supplementary readings:

- Albert Hourani, A History of the Arab Peoples (Warner, 1992)
- 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

Class: The Syria Conflict I
Anthony Shadid, “Syria’s Sons of No one”, New York Times, 31 August 2011

Optional supplementary readings:

- Lynch, Chapters 4, 7 (pp. 105-138, 189-224)
- Nikolaos van Dam, The Struggle for Power in Syria: Politics and Society Under the Ba’th
- Patrick Seale, Asad: The Struggle for the Middle East (University of California Press, 1990)

Week 3
Class: The Syria Conflict II

  (http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/assad-needs-useless-syria-too)
  (https://tcf.org/content/commentary/five-important-events-syria-2016/)
  (https://tcf.org/content/commentary/staring-syrias-diplomatic-fog/)
- Marc Lynch, "Would Arming Syria’s Rebels Have Stopped the Islamic State?",
  Foreign Policy
  (http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/09/21/could-we-have-stopped-this-tragedy-syria-intervention-realist/)
- Stephen M. Walt, "Could We Have Stopped This Tragedy?", Foreign Policy
  (http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/09/21/could-we-have-stopped-this-tragedy-syria-intervention-realist/)
- Joshua Landis, “America’s Failure—and Russia and Iran’s Success—in Syria 2017
  (http://talkingpointsmemo.com/cafe/americas-failure-russi)
- Nour Samaha, "Survival is Syria’s Strategy", The Century Foundation, 8 Feb
  (https://tcf.org/content/report/survival-syrias-strategy/)

Optional supplementary readings:

- Emile Hokayem, Syria’s Uprising and the Fracturing of the Levant (Routledge, 2013)
- International Crisis Group, Flight of Icarus? The PYD’s Precarious Rise in Syria
  (https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/eastern-mediterranean...
&wtoeid=growl1_r1_control)

Robin Yassin-Kassab and Leila al-Shami, Burning Country: Syrians in Rev

Khalid Khalifa, In Praise of Hatred (Black Swan, 2013)

These websites also have regular coverage of the Syria conflict:

- Carnegie Middle East Center's Syria in Crisis (http://carnegie-mec.org
- International Crisis Group's Syria page (https://www.crisisgroup.org/n
- Syria Comment: Syria Politics, History and Religion (http://www.joshu
- and many others.

Week 4
Class: From Iraq to ISIS I

- The Report of the Iraq Inquiry: Executive Summary (aka Chilcot Inquiry), 20
(http://www.iraqinquiry.org.uk/media/247921/the-report-of-the-iraq-inquiry_e
- The Iraq Study Group Report: The Way Forward – A New Approach (aka H
(http://www.iraqsolidaridad.org/2006/docs/gei-1.pdf)
- International Crisis Group, Fight or Flight: The Desperate Plight of Iraq’s “G

Optional supplementary readings:

- Hanna Batatu, The Old Social Classes and Revolutionary Movements of Ir:
of its Communists, Ba’thists and Free Officers (Princeton University Press,
- Thomas E. Ricks, Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq, 2003-20
- Anthony Shadid, Night Draws Near: Iraq’s People in The Shadow of Americ
- Salam Pax, Salam Pax: The Clandestine Diary of an Ordinary Iraqi (Grove
- SinanAntoon, The Corpse Washer (Yale University Press, 2014)
- Elliott Colla, Baghdad Central (Bitter Lemon Press, 2014)

Week 5
Class: From Iraq to ISIS II
• Abu Hanieh and Abu Rumman, Chapter 1 (pp.25-93)
• Gerges, Chapters 2-5 (pp. 50-169)
• International Crisis Group, Understanding Islamism, 2 March 2005
  (https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/understanding-islamism)
• International Crisis Group, Exploiting Disorder: al-Qaeda and the Islamic State,
• Ussama Makdisi, "The Mythology of the Sectarian Middle East", Rice University,
  (http://www.bakerinstitute.org/files/11372/)

Optional supplementary readings:

• Abu Hanieh and Abu Rumman, Chapters 3-6
• Gerges, Chapters 7-8 and Conclusion
• JoasWagemakers, “Salafism”, in The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Religion,
  15 August 2016 (http://religion.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199340378.001.00)

Week 6
Class: Midterm

Week 7
Class: Jordanian Politics

• https://www.nytimes.com/1999/02/08/opinion/foreign-affairs-king-hussein-1
• https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/jordan-the-us-and-the-cold-war-the-
• https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/jordans-arab-spring/

Week 8
Class: The Palestine Question and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

• Smith, Chapters 4-6 (pp. 162-299)
• Smith, Chapters 7-10 (pp. 300-480)
• Robert Malley and Hussein Agha, "Camp David: The Tragedy of Errors", N
  August 2001 (http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2001/08/09/camp-david-the
Three Things to Know About Trump’s Jerusalem Gambit
http://carnegieendowment.org/2017/12/07/three-things-to-know-about-trump

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 Question (Institute for Palestine Studies, 1987)
- Shira Robinson, Citizen Strangers: Palestinians and the Birth of Israel’s Liberal Order (University Press, 2013)
- Ghassan Kanafani, Palestine’s Children: Returning to Haifa & Other Stories (Syracuse University Press, 2000)
- S. Yizhar, Khirbet Khizeh: A Novel (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2014)
- Smith, Chapter 11 and Epilogue (pp. 482-555)
- Geoffrey Aronson, Creating Facts: Israel, Palestinians and the West Bank (Institute for Palestine Studies, 1987)
- Shlomo Ben-Ami, Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy (Verso, 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 I Framework (Mariner, 2007)
- Mahmoud Darwish, Memory for Forgetfulness: August, Beirut, 1982 (Universe, 2000)
- Sahar Khalifeh, Wild Thorns (Interlink, 2003)
- A.B. Yehoshua, A Woman in Jerusalem (Mariner, 2007)

Week 9
Class: Libya
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)
- HishamMatar, The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between (Random)

Week 10
Class: Policy Brief Paper Due by 5:00pm

Iran and the Nuclear Agreement


Optional supplementary readings:

- David Crist, The Twilight War: The Secret History of America’s Thirty-Year
- James A. Bill, The Eagle and The Lion: The Tragedy of American-Iranian F
- Ervand Abrahamian, A History of Modern Iran (Cambridge University Press
- Stephen Kinzer, All The Shah’s Men: An American Coup and the Roots of M
- Daniel Yergin, The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power (Free Pr
• Stephen M. Walt, “Barack Obama Was a Foreign Policy Failure”, Foreign Policy (http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/01/18/barack-obama-was-a-foreign-policy-failure/)

Week 11
Class: The Arabian Peninsula: Saudi Arabia, the War in Yemen, and the Qatar Crisis I

• The Outlook for Arab Gulf Cooperation. 2015 https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1429.html
• How Might Mohammed bin Salman’s Arrest of Saudi Princes Affect His Rise to the Throne? http://carnegie-mec.org/diwan/74725
• China in the Middle East, The Wary Dragon. Andrew Scobell, Alireza Nader https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1229.html
• 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/
• The Qatar Crisis and the Future of the GCC. Ashley Inman 14th Aug 2017 https://chargedaffairs.org/the-qatar-crisis/

Week 12
Class: Policy Brief Presentations I
Week 13
Class: Policy Brief Presentations I

Week 14
Class: Take-Home Final Exam Due by 5:00pm

Course Materials
Readings

- 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-interven)
- Nour Samaha, "Survival is Syria's Strategy", The Century Foundation, 8 February 2017 (https://tcf.org/content/report/survival-syrias-strategy/)
• Marc Lynch, The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East (Public Affairs Press, 2016)
• Nikolaos Van Dam, Destroying A Nation: The Civil War in Syria (I.B. Tauris, 2017)
• International Crisis Group, Understanding Islamism, 2 March 2005 (https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/understanding-islamism)
• Ussama Makdisi, "The Mythology of the Sectarian Middle East", Rice University Baker Institute for Public Policy, February 2017 (http://www.bakerinstitute.org/files/11372/)
• Three Things to Know About Trump's Jerusalem Gambit (http://carnegieendowment.org/2017/12/07/three-things-to-know-about-trum)
International Crisis Group, Implementing The Iran Nuclear Deal: A Status Report, 16 January 2017

International Crisis Group, Iran After The Nuclear Deal, 15 December 2015

International Crisis Group, Turkey and Iran: Bitter Friends, Bosom Rivals, 13 December 2016

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR310.html

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, One Year On. Simon Henderson April 24, 2017
file:///C:/Users/DELL/Documents/Downloads/saudi-arabias-vision-2030-one-year-c

The Outlook for Arab Gulf Cooperation. 2015
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1429.html

A Saudi-Led Military Alliance to Fight Terrorism Welcome Muscle in the Fight Against Terrorism, Desert Mirage, or Bad Idea? Brian Michael Jenkins Apr 19, 2016
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-eac

Reckoning in Saudi Arabia. RICHARD SOKOLSKY, AARON DAVID MILLER Nov. 09 2017

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.
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/markaz/2017/06/17/the-danger-of-picking-sides-in

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
• The Qatar Crisis and the Future of the GCC. Ashley Inman 14th Aug 2017
• https://chargedaffairs.org/the-qatar-crisis/