

**UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS**  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 405K  
*INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA*

Fall 2009  
TR 8:30- 9:45 am  
WRI- C237

Prof. Mehran Tamadonfar  
Office: WRI 212  
Office Hours: TR 9:45- 11:15 a.m.  
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**PURPOSE AND SCOPE:**

This area study course in International Relations is designed to:

1. Offer a framework for the study of international relations of the Middle East.
2. Examine domestic, regional, and global determinants of external policies in this region.
3. Analyze the Great Powers' interests and policies (strategic, military, economic, etc.) in this region.
4. Study intraregional problems including the Arab-Israeli imbroglio, the intra-Arab conflicts, and the growing Iran's influence.

Class lectures and discussions will mainly focus on the current dynamics of politics in this region. In view of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and recent developments in the Israeli- Palestinian conflict, I will be spending a great deal of time on the origins, dynamics, and implications of these conflicts. To follow my lectures, all students should read and be thoroughly familiar with their required reading assignments before attending each lecture session. Students may also find it helpful to follow current events in the Middle East by watching news programs, reading newspapers, etc.

**TEXTS:**

**I. Required:**

1. Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations, Power, Politics and Ideology*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press; 2005.
2. Trita Parsi, *Treacherous Alliance, The Secret Dealings of Israel, Iran, and the U.S.*, New Heaven: Yale University Press; 2007.
3. Kenneth Pollack, *A Path out of the Desert, A Grand Strategy for American in the Middle East*, New York: Random House; 2008.
4. Michael Scheuer, *Imperial Hubris, Why the West is Losing the War on Terror*, Washington, D.C.: Potomac Books; 2005.
5. Charles Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, A History with Documents*, sixth edition, Boston: St. Martin's; 2007.

**II. Recommended:**

1. Jimmy Carter, *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2006.
2. Dougherty & Pfaltzgraff, *Contending Theories of International Relations*, 3<sup>rd</sup>. ed., New York : Harper & Row, Publishers, 1990. ( **On reserve at the lied Library**)

## COURSE CONDUCT AND EVALUATION POLICY:

All students are **required to attend** lecture sessions **regularly** and **participate in discussions effectively**. Tardiness and non-attendance could result in the student being administratively dropped from the course. All students are expected to take their exams on the scheduled dates. Failure to take the exams on those dates will result in failing grades, unless the student has a legitimate and compelling excuse. Those with such excuses will be given **oral make up exams**. **Under no circumstances tape and audio recordings of the lectures is allowed**. Students who are observed to be text messaging in class will be asked to leave. Students are expected to read their assignments before attending lectures. The tests cover both **reading assignments and lecture materials**.

Course grades will be determined as follows:

1. Attendance and participation .....10% of the grade.
2. First written exam on **Sept. 24** ..... 30% of the grade.
3. Second written exam on **Oct. 20**..... .30% of the grade.
4. A Final exam on **Dec. 10 ( 8: 00 a.m.)** .....30% of the grade.

## COURSE OUTLINE:

**Note: The following topics and times are subject to minor changes, if necessary, to accommodate your interests and needs.**

<b>August 25</b>	<b>Introduction and overview</b>
<b>August 27, Sept.1 &amp; 3</b>	<b>The Middle East in International Politics: A Framework for Analysis</b> -Utopianism and Realism - General Systems Theory - Image Theory  <b>Required Reading:</b> - Halliday, Part I.  <b>Suggested Reading:</b> - Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, Chapters 1,3&4.
<b>Sept. 8, 10, 15, 17 &amp;22</b>	<b>Determinants of Foreign Policy:</b> -Domestic: Land, people, Culture, Religion, Economy, etc. -Regional: Historical, Ideological and Political Schisms -Global: Oil, Imperialism, globalism  <b>Required Reading:</b> - Halliday, Part II, Part III (6, 7 & 8) - Pollack, Chapters 1, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
<b>Sept. 24</b>	<b>FIRST WRITTEN EXAMINATION</b>
<b>Sept. 29, Oct. 1&amp; 6</b>	<b>Great Powers' Interests and Policies</b> - The Politics of Oil -Geostrategic Issues

-Military Necessities

**Required Reading:**

- Halliday, Part III ( 9)
- Pollack, Chapters 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12 & 13.
- Parsi, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 13, 14, 15 & 20.

**Oct. 8, 13  
& 15**

**Regional Hegemons: Iran and Israel**

- Iran's reemergence and growing influence
- Israel's waning deterrent
- Middle Eastern Regional Transition

**Required Reading:**

- Parsi, Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16 & 17.
- Pollack, Chapters 15, 17 & 18.

**Oct 20**

**SECOND MID-TERM EXAMINATION**

**Oct. 22, 27,  
29 & Nov. 3 & 5**

**Crisis and Conflict: Norm or Exception?**

- The Arab-Israeli Imbroglia and the Palestinian Issue
- Intra-Arab Conflicts and Regional Instability
- Ethnic Conflicts

**Required Reading:**

- Smith, Chapters 1-12.

**Recommended Reading:**

- Carter, Chapters 1-17

**Nov. 10, 12,  
17 & 19**

**The U.S. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan:**

**The American Dilemma:**

- The roots and implications of the wars
- The U.S. and the Islamists

**Required Reading:**

- Pollack, Chapters 13 & 14.
- Parsi, Chapters 10, 11, 12, 18 & 19.

**Nov. 24, 31&  
Dec. 1**

**Terrorism in Regional and Global Perspectives:**

- Islam, Nationalism and Terrorism
- Countering the terrorists: Are we on the right path?

**Required Reading:**

- Scheuer, Chapters 1-8.

**Dec. 3**

**Concluding Remarks**

- Halliday, Part IV

**Dec. 10**

**FINAL EXAMINATION ( 8:00 A.M.)**

Note: I will honor any and all university system rules and regulations including rules pertaining to religious observances, academic dishonesty, and disabilities. Please see the disability statement below:

“ If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the learning Enhancement Services (LES) for coordination of your academic accommodations. The LES is located in the Reynolds Student Services complex in Room 137. The phone number is 895-0866 (TDD 895-0652) and [www.drssc@cmail.nevada.edu](mailto:www.drssc@cmail.nevada.edu).”