

West Asia and International Relations

Semester I

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Course Code: MP 1.9

Meeting: By appointment

Course Description

The course is an attempt to combine general theories and concepts of International Relations with the empirical realities of West Asia since 1945. The course is divided into five main sections. The first section is a retrospective of general theories and concepts of international relations, which will include alternating each general discussion of concepts with a specific discussion of the regional issues from the second, third, fourth and fifth sections. The relevant theories and concepts here are Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Marxist, and Foreign Policy Analysis approach.

Course Schedule

I. Introduction: IR and West Asia since 1945

- A Retrospective of IR Theories: Realism; Liberalism; Constructivism; Marxism and Foreign Policy Analysis approach
- West Asia since 1945: Alliances, conflicts, security, cooperation and confrontation

II. Theories of Realism in IR: Power Politics and Alliances in West Asia

- Intra-regional alliances: 'doctrine of periphery'; Arab Maghreb Union; Arab Co-operation Council
- Regional Balance of Power: Superpower politics, inter-state strategic rivalry and alliance building in the region
- System changers: War, Revolt, Revolution, and Peace – Arab-Israeli wars, Iran-Iraq war, Iraq-Kuwait war; Palestinian and Kurdish revolts; Iranian

Revolution; Democratic revolutions in Egypt, Tunisia, Yemen, Syria; Arab-Israeli peace process

III. Theories of Liberalism in IR: Institutions, Interdependence and Cooperation in West Asia

- Development of state systems: Institutions, economic development, and armed forces
- Solidarity against West & Israel: Arab League and the formal basis of inter-Arab cooperation
- Intra-regional vs. extra regional trade; growth of oil revenues and Arab economic integration; politics of integration
- Problems of interdependence: inter-state confrontation and security deficit
- Security and economic cooperation: the case of the GCC

IV. Constructivist Approach to IR: Ideology, Norms and Identity, and Language and Symbolism in West Asia

- Three Strands of Ideology: Nationalism, Revolution, Islamism; Ideology as Instrument of the State and as Limit on the State
- Shared Values of Arabness (*'uruba*); Questions of Arab Solidarity; Unity (*wahda*)
- Forms of identity: confessional, pan-Arab (*qaumi*), and local (*qutri*); *qaumi* vs. *qutri* identity; construction and redefinition of identity –Turkish vs. pan-Islamic, pan-Turanic, and pan-Turkic; Islamic vs. Persian identity; tensions and reconciliations
- Language and Symbols in West Asian Politics: Role of Language and Symbols in Nation-building Process

V. Foreign Policy Making: The West Asian Case

- Levels-of-Analysis Approach in Foreign Policy Making
- External Environment and Domestic factors
- Oil and Foreign policy
- Globalisation and Foreign Policy Making
- Identity and Foreign Policy

Method of Instruction

There will be three lecture and three tutorials of one hour each every week according to the UGC (University Grants Commission) guidelines. Questions, discussion and debate during class are strongly encouraged. Students are expected to follow news reports on international TV channels

and look actively for analytical articles on topics in the course. They are also encouraged to search for reading materials related to politics and society in Israel on the Internet.

Method of Assessment

An end-semester exam would consist of essay questions based upon the topics covered in the syllabus. In addition, a term paper addressing an appropriate question and/or issue, and a book review on issues and topics in the syllabus, submitted on the last day of the class, will form a part of the final assessment. Students can choose a subject/issue to write about, formulating appropriate question(s) and presenting the argument in a cogent manner. They can choose any book (old or new; from the reading list or otherwise) relevant to the syllabus, for review. The formats for writing term paper and book review will be discussed in the class. The term paper will be presented in a classroom meeting mutually agreed between the teacher and students.

The total assessment is out of a maximum of 100 marks: End-semester exam carries 75 marks; Term Paper carries 15 marks; Book Review carries 5 marks; and Presentation of term paper carries 5 marks.

Readings

1. Ayubi, Nazih, *Overstating the Arab State: Politics and Society in the Middle East* (London: I.B. Tauris, 1995).
2. Barnett, Michael and F. Gregory Gause III, "Caravans in Opposite Directions: Society, State, and the Development of Community in the Gulf Cooperation Council," in Emanuel Adler and Michael Barnett (eds.), *Security Communities* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998).
3. Barnett, Michael, "Institutions, Roles, and Disorder: The Case of the Arab States System," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 37, No. 3 (September 1993), pp. 271-297.
4. Burchill, S. et al., *Theories of International Relations* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005) Third edition.
5. Carlsnaes, Walter and Thomas Risse (eds.), *Handbook of International Relations* (London: Sage, 2002).
6. Dunne, Tim, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith, *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), Third edition.
7. Emanuel Adler, "Constructivism and International Relations," in *Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 95-118.
8. Gause III, F. Gregory, "Systemic Approaches to Middle East International Relations," *International Studies Review*, Vol. 1, Issue 1 (Spring 1999), pp. 11-31.

9. Halliday, Fred, "The Future of International Relations: Fears and Hopes," in Steve Smith, Ken Booth and Marysia Zalewski (eds.), *International Theory: Positivism and Beyond*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp. 318-339.
10. Halliday, Fred, *The Middle East in International Relations: Power, Politics and Ideology* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005).
11. Hinnebusch, Raymond and Anoushiravan Ehteshami. *The Foreign Policy of Middle Eastern States* (London: Lynne Rienner, 2005).
12. James Fearon and Alexander Wendt, "Rationalism v. Constructivism: A Skeptical View," in *Handbook of International Relations*, pp. 52-72.
13. Katzenstein, Peter J. (ed.), *The Culture of National Security: Norms and Identity in World Politics* (Columbia: Columbia University Press, 1996).
14. Korany, Bahgat and Ali E. Hillal Dessouki, *The Foreign Policies of Arab States: The Challenge of Change*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1984)
15. Korany, Bahgat and Ali E. Hillal Dessouki, *The Foreign Policies of Arab States: The Challenge of Globalisation* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2011).
16. Milton-Edwards, Beverley, *Contemporary Politics in the Middle East* (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2000).
17. Mingst, Karen A., *Essential Readings in World Politics* (New York, London: W.W. Norton and Co., 2004)
18. Saideman, Stephen, "Conclusion: Thinking Theoretically about Identity and Foreign Policy," in Telhami and Barnett, *Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East*, pp. 169-200.
19. Shiraev, Eric B. and Vladislav M. Zubok, *International Relations* (New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014).
20. Smith, Steve, Amelia Hadfield, and Tim Dunne, *Foreign Policy* (Oxford: oxford University Press, 2012).
21. Solingen, Etel, *Regional Orders at Century's Dawn: Global and Domestic Influences on Grand Strategy* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998).
22. Telhami, Shibley and Michael Barnett (eds.), *Identity and Foreign Policy in the Middle East* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2002).
23. Tibi, Bassam, "Cultural Fragmentation, The Decline in Consensus, and the Diffusion of Power in World Politics," in Bassam Tibi, *The Challenge of Fundamentalism: Political Islam and the New World Disorder* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1998).
24. Walt, Stephen M., *The Origins of Alliances*, Ithaca (NY: Cornell University Press, 1987).
25. Yaniv, Avner, *Dilemmas of Security: Politics, Strategy, and the Israeli Experience in Lebanon* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987).
