U.S. MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY AFTER WWII

Course Description
American impressions of the Middle East often focus on conflict. And yet, 20th century Middle Eastern wars were less destructive than Europe’s 20th century wars. Most Middle Eastern conflicts in recent history were proxy wars and many were part of the US-USSR Cold War. The east-west lines of the Cold War are familiar, it divided Europe and in some cases divided single countries. But what did the Cold War mean in the Third World? How did it play out in the Middle East, and how did it shape the histories of that region and its peoples? How much did policies formed in Washington and Moscow determine the range of possible options for the people and leaders of smaller countries? Did Middle Eastern countries harness the superpower Cold War to their own concerns and regional conflicts, or were they merely superpower pawns? Finally what are the legacies of the Cold War in the region today?

This course will not definitively answer these questions. We will, however, keep such questions in mind, because they will help us to transcend the easy generalizations and stereotypes that that often impede our understanding of this region and its peoples. The class is suitable for students with no prior coursework on the region and its history, though some prior knowledge would be helpful.

The course is divided into two parts. The first part covers the years between post-World War II independence and the 1967 war, and the second part covers developments between about 1967 and the 1990s.

Required books (available on reserve at Geisel.) Buy any edition of the two text books.

Course Structure and Requirements
The class will meet three days a week and regular attendance is required.

Assignments
There will be a mid-term examination and a final examination.
Grades are as follows:
Mid-term examination 35%
Final examination 65%
**Important Dates**

Quarter: Thursday 2 October - Friday 12 Dec.
14 November Mid-Term Exam
Thursday, 18 December, 11:30-2:30 Final Exam

**CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

**Introduction**

October 3
Ottoman rule. WWI and the post-war settlement.
*Conflict, ch. 2-3.*

October 6
Colonial Rule in the Middle East.

October 8
World War and Independence
Cleveland, ch. 10, 11, 12, Smith, ch. 4.

October 10
Discussion.

**Week 1**

October 13
1. Independence and Conflict

October 15
The Birth of Israel and the Aftermath of the 48 War.

October 17
Discussion

**Week 2**

October 20
The Ascension of the United States and the Eisenhower Doctrine.

October 22
Nationalism and the Great Powers: Muãaddiq, Iran, and the CIA.

October 24
Discussion.

**Week 3**

October 27

October 29
The Baghdad Pact and Cold War Maneuvering in the Middle East
Cleveland, ch. 15-16, Smith, ch. 7, Shlaim, ch. 3-5, Weiner 141-163.

October 31
Discussion. Handout: Exam Questions

**Week 4**

November 3
2. The Middle East Since 1967.

November 5
The 1967 War and its immediate aftermath.
Black September, Nasser’s death, and the Rise of Ṭmāfīl al-Asad
Cleveland, ch. 17, Smith, ch. 8, Shlaim, ch. 6, Weiner, 311-333.

November 7
Midterm.
| Week 6 | November 10  | Sadat, the expulsion of the USSR, and the 73 War.          |
|        | November 12  | The PLO in Lebanon and the Lebanese Civil War.           |
|        | November 14  | Cleveland, ch. 18-19, Smith, ch. 8, Weiner, 373-387, Shlaim, ch. 8. |
| Week 7 | November 17  | The Iranian Revolution and Cold War Confrontation in Central Asia. |
|        | November 19  | The Israeli Invasion of Lebanon and the US Role.        |
|        | November 21  | Cleveland, ch. 20-21, Weiner, 413-4917, Smith, ch. 9, Shlaim, Ch. 10 |
| Week 8 | November 24  | Discussion.                                           |
|        | November 26  | Movie: *West Beirut*                                   |
|        | November 28  | Thanksgiving Holiday.                                  |
| Week 9 | December 1   | The Gulf Wars of the 1980s and 90s.                     |
|        | December 3   | The First Intifāḍa and Peace Negotiations.              |
|        | December 5   | Discussion.                                           |
| **Week 10** | December 7  | The Passing of the Old Guard and the End of Peace Negotiations |
|        | December 9   | Neo-Imperialism and America in Iraq, 2003-              |
|        | December 12  | Cleveland, Epilogue ch. 24-25, Smith,12 (final pages),  |
|        |              | Conclusions and Prospects. Final Exam handout.          |

**FINAL EXAM: Thursday, 18 December 11:30-2:30**