



CIEE Amman, Jordan

Course title:	America and the Arabs
Course code:	MEST 3002 AMJO
Programs offering course:	Middle East Studies
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3.00
Contact hours:	45.00
Term:	Fall 2023

Course Description

In this course, students will critically examine the complex relationship between the United States and the Arab World during the past 150 years, with particular focus on relations during the past decade.

This course is divided into two sections. In the first section, students will study the history of the relationship between America and the Arab World. Analysis begins from the end of the 19th century and chronologically examines the economic, political, and social relations, highlighting the role of colonialism, the two World Wars, the creation of Israel, the Cold War, the war in Iraq, 9/11, foreign policy during the George W. Bush and Obama presidencies. In the second half of the course, specific topics will be our focus, such as US foreign policy and its interests in the region, including oil, Israel, foreign aid, and democracy promotion. The course ends with in-depth analysis of the aftermath of the "Arab Spring" and recent events including the refugee emergencies, America's response to ISIS, and political crisis and war in Syria, Libya, and Yemen. The interdisciplinary course relies on a combination of analysis and critical inquiry in the fields of history, politics, international relations, and sociology.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Assemble a foundational understanding of the historical, political, economic, military and cultural context of relations between America and the Arab World
- Evaluate the results of the U.S. policies in the Middle East
- Analyze current events in the Arab World with an understanding of the historical and political context
- Expand on the disapproving public opinion of the U.S. in the Arab and Muslim world

Course Prerequisites

Prior knowledge and understanding of the politics of the Middle East. However, students without a background in Modern Middle East History and International Relations are welcome to take the course but will be required to do extra reading so they can keep up with the class.

Methods of Instruction

This course will include lectures, presentations, and short films. Students must be prepared to engage in discussion on the assigned readings for each week. The readings come from a variety of sources including peer reviewed journals, textbooks, and newspaper articles. All reading materials will be accessible through google drive.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Blended Learning	10%
2. Mid-Term / Comparative Film Essay	20%
3. Paper Proposal	10%
4. Presentation	15%
5. Final Paper	30%
6. In class participation, and demonstrated engagement with readings	15%
TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

Blended Learning

Short essay (3-5 double spaced pages) reacting to the readings and two 1960s Hollywood Epics on the Middle East: "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962) and "Exodus" (1960). How do these films frame the debate on nationality, independence, and statehood? What is the relationship, if any, to U.S. foreign policy towards Arab nationalism and the establishment of the state of Israel?

Mid-Term / Comparative Film Essay

Visit Hamoudeh or another store selling pirated DVDs. Ask for recommendations on contemporary U.S. films or TV series about the Middle East, and Arab made films that either address the same issue or offer an Arab filmmakers view on the United States (for example: Cherien Dabis Amreeka 2009 and Ridley Scott's Body of Lies 2008, or The Kingdom 2007 and Wajida 2012). Compare how the films reflect the dominate, social/political discourse at the time they were made. What major events are they reacting to? What key themes about the "other" are represented in these films? Refer to earlier readings from Melanie MacAlister's Epic Encounters in framing your argument for the paper. (5-7 pages).

Paper Proposal

Paper should include a one paragraph description of the policy problem being addressed, how it reflects the main themes in US-Arab relations, and why it's relevant to both societies. Proposal should also include a working bibliography, which includes reference to class readings. Students will present their findings during weeks 13 and 14. Final paper should be between 12 and 15 double spaced pages (12pt font) and is due the last day of final exams.

Presentation

Final Paper

(10 points for the proposal, 15 points for the presentation, 30 points for final, 12-15 page paper)

Students should select a contemporary issue in US-Arab relations, and conduct a thorough, multi-faceted investigation of the relevant policy angles for both the United States and the Arab state(s) or non-state actors involved. Students can focus on a particular conflict in the region with a record of U.S. involvement, or a broader policy issue such as combatting violent extremism, refugees, non-proliferation, or trade in fossil fuels. Students cannot select a topic already covered in class.

In class participation, and demonstrated engagement with readings

All students should be prepared for each class and ready to participate in the lectures with comments, questions, and feedback drawn from the course readings. Faculty will make weekly notes on participation: quality, demonstration of engagement with the readings, grasp of course concepts, etc. Quality is preferred to quantity, but points cannot be awarded for silence. NOTE: This is not a free 15 points.

Format and referencing:

All papers and assignments you submit should have a title, your name, be double-spaced with 1" margins and 12 sized font, have page numbers, include in text citations and a bibliography. Make sure that you provide citations for any piece of information you give me or any opinion which is not your own. Maps, tables, diagrams, and quotations must be referenced properly. For references please use the APSA Style Guide available here: <http://www.apsanet.org/Portals/54/APSA%20Files/publications/APSAStyleManual2006.pdf>

Attendance

To encourage engaged learning, regular class attendance is required throughout the program. This includes any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as internship, service-learning, or other required field placement.

An excused absence in a CIEE course will only be considered if approved by a CIEE Center Director/Academic Director (not the Instructor), and:

- it is a self-certified absence for illness (only once per course, requires formal request before or within 24 hours, cannot miss assessment worth more than 5% of final course grade)
- a doctor's note from a local medical professional is provided

- evidence of a family emergency is provided
- it is a pre-approved observance of religious holiday

Unexcused absences include personal travel and/or travel delays, as well as missing more than 25% of a single class period (including tardiness and early departure). Assessments missed due to unexcused absences will be marked as zero. Students with over 10% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff. Students with over 20% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff, receive a formal warning letter (shared with their home institution) and lose 10% of the final course point total (e.g., a final A grade of 93% will be lowered to a B grade of 83%).

For more detail, please consult your CIEE Academic Manual.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive and inclusive teaching and learning environment. All students are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness, respect, and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in grade penalties or disciplinary action. See the CIEE Student Academic Manual for further information on academic integrity.

N.B. Course schedule and co-curriculars are subject to change. The final duration and distribution of content and assignments will be determined and presented to students at the onset of the course.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class: A Tale of Three Speeches

Listen or read the transcripts of the following:

- His Majesty King Abdullah II Before the US Congress 7 March 2007
- President Barack Obama Prepared Remarks, Cairo University 4 June 2009
- Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, A Force for Good: U.S. Reinvigorated in the Middle East, American University in Cairo, 10 January 2019

Key Question: What do "we" want from each other? What are the main issues framing the relationship between the US and the Arab world?

Week 2

Class: Early Interactions

Readings:

- Makdisi, U. (2002). "Anti-Americanism" in the Arab world: An interpretation of a brief history. *The Journal of American History*, 89(2), 538-557.
- James Gelvin "The Ironic Legacy of the King-Crane Commission" in *The Middle East and the United States*, ed. David Lesch (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2003), pp.13-29
- Little Douglas. *Orientalism, American Style*. (9-42)
- Tamari, S. (2003). A Miserable Year in Brooklyn Khalil Sakakini in America, 1907-1908. *Jerusalem Quarterly*, (17).

Week 3

Class: Epic Encounters

*Blended Learning Assignment

Readings:

- McAlister, M. (2005). *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and US Interests in the Middle East since 1945* (Vol. 6). Univ of California Press. 1-83
- Media Education Foundation "Reel bad Arabs" (documentary)
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdRc8c8jhU8&list=PL5885FD84F42C6BE4>

Week 4

Class: Arab Nationalism and Its Response

Readings:

- Hahn, P. "National Security Concerns in U.S. Policy Toward Egypt, 1949-1956." In Lesch, The Middle East and the United States., pp. 75-86.
- Little, D. " Sympathy for the Devil? America, Nasser, and Arab Revolutionary Nationalism." (2008). American orientalism: the United States and the Middle East since 1945. Univ of North Carolina Press. Pp 157-192
- Mufti, M. "The United States and Nasserist Pan-Arabism," in David W. Lesch(ed.) The Middle East and the United States, 4th ed. (Westview, 2007), pp. 141-160.
- Alin, E. "U.S. Policy and Military Intervention in the 1958 Lebanon Crisis," in Lesch (ed.). Middle East and the United States, 4th ed. (Westview, 2007), pp. 122-140.
- (Optional) McAlexander, R.J."Couscous Mussolini: US perceptions of Gamal Abdel Nasser, the1958 Intervention in Lebanon and the origins of the US-Israeli special relationship," ColdWar History Vol. 11, No. 3, (August 2011), pp. 363-385.
- (Optional) Labelle Jr, M.M. "A New Age of Empire? Arab 'Anti-Americanism,' U.S. Intervention ,and the Lebanon Crisis of 1958," International History Review, 35, 1 (2013), pp. 42-69.

Week 5

Class: Cold War: Hot Wars, and Hard Bargains

Readings:

- Gerges, F. A. "The 1967 Arab-Israeli War: US Actions and Arab Perceptions," in David W. Lesch(ed.) The Middle East and the United States, 4th ed. (Westview, 2007), p. 163
- Gross Stein, J. "Flawed Strategies and Missed Signals: Crisis Bargaining Between the Superpowers, October 1973" in David W. Lesch(ed.) The Middle East and the United States, 4th ed. (Westview, 2007), p.181
- Little, D. "A Tale of Four Doctrines: U.S National Security, the Society Threat, and the Middle East." In (2008). American orientalism: the United States and the Middle East since 1945. Univ of North Carolina Press. pp 117-156
- Quandt, W. B. (1992). Lyndon Johnson and the June 1967 war: what color was the light? Middle East Journal, 46(2), 198-228.
- (Optional) Yacoub, S. "The Politics of Stalemate," The Nixon Administration and the Arab-Israeli Conflict," Ashton, N. J. (Ed.). (2007). The Cold War in the Middle East: Regional conflict and the superpowers 1967-73. Routledge.
- (Optional) Sheehan, E. R. (1976). How Kissinger did it: Step by step in the Middle East. Foreign Policy, 3-70.

Week 6

Class: Cold War II: The Geopolitics of Oil

Readings:

- Painter, D. S. (2014). Oil and geopolitics: The oil crises of the 1970s and the cold war. Historical Social Research/Historische Sozialforschung, 186-208. (OR)
- Painter, D. S. (2012). Oil and the American century. The Journal of American History, 99(1), 24-39.
- Jones, T. C. (2012). America, oil, and war in the Middle East. Journal of American History, 99(1), 208-218.
- Garavini, G. (2011). Completing Decolonization: The 1973 'Oil Shock' and the Struggle for Economic Rights. The International History Review, 33(3), 473-487.
- McAlister, M."King Tut, Commodity Nationalism, and the Politics of Oil, 1973-79" in Epic Encounters (California 2005), pp. 125-40.
- Sabin, P. (2012). Crisis and Continuity in US Oil Politics, 1965-1980. The Journal of American History, 99(1), 177-186.
- (Optional) Lieber, R. J. (1992). Oil and power after the Gulf War. International Security, 17(1), 155-176.
- (Optional) Dietrich, C. R. (2011). "Arab Oil Belongs to the Arabs": Raw Material Sovereignty, Cold War Boundaries, and the Nationalisation of the Iraq Petroleum Company, 1967-1973. Diplomacy & Statecraft, 22(3), 450-479.

Week 7

Class: Spring Break

Week 8

Class: Cold War to Cold Peace: Camp David

Readings:

- Little, D. "Opportunities Lost and Found: U.S. and the Arab-Israeli Conflict." (2008). *American orientalism: the United States and the Middle East since 1945*. Univ of North Carolina Press. Pp 267-306
- Mahmood, Z. (1985). *Sadat and Camp David Reappraised*. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 15(1), 62-87.
- Mandell, B. S., & Tomlin, B. W. (1991). *Mediation in the development of norms to manage conflict: Kissinger in the Middle East*. *Journal of Peace Research*, 28(1), 43-55.
- Princen, T. (1991). *Camp David: problem-solving or power politics as usual?*. *Journal of Peace Research*, 28(1), 57-69.
- Quandt, W. B. (2015). *"Interpretations" Camp David: peacemaking and politics*. Brookings Institution Press.
- Stein, J. G. (1985). *Structures, strategies, and tactics of mediation: Kissinger and Carter in the Middle East*. *Negotiation Journal*, 1(4), 331-347.

*Paper proposal

Week 9

Class: Gulf Wars

Readings:

- Sick, G. "The US in the Persian Gulf: From Twin Pillars to Dual Containment," in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012), pp.327-343.
- Little, D. "Kicking the Vietnam Syndrome: Waging Limited War from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf." (2008). *American orientalism: the United States and the Middle East since 1945*. Univ of North Carolina Press. Pp 229-266
- Little, D. "Not Your Father's Persian Gulf War: The Bush Doctrine, Iraq, and Radical Islam" (2008). *American orientalism: the United States and the Middle East since 1945*. Univ of North Carolina Press. Pp 307-342
- Gause III, G. From "Over the Horizon" to "Into the Backyard": The US-Saudi Relationship in the Gulf. in David W. Lesch(ed.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 4th ed. (Westview, 2007), p. 380
- Abootalebi A. What Went Wrong in Iraq? in David W. Lesch(ed.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 4th ed. (Westview, 2007) p. 412
- Brands, H., & Palkki, D. (2012). "Conspiring Bastards": Saddam Hussein's Strategic View of the United States. *Diplomatic History*, 36(3), 625-659.
- (Optional) Shafeeq N. Ghabra *Closing the Distance: Kuwait and the United States in the Persian Gulf* , in David W. Lesch(ed.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 4th ed. (Westview, 2007), p. 332
- (Optional) Yetiv , S. *The Iraq War of 2003: Why Did the United States Decide to Invade?* in David W. Lesch(ed.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 4th ed. (Westview, 2007), p. 394

Week 11

Class: Pax Americana

Readings:

- Reich, B. *The United States and Israel: The Nature of a Special Relationship*, in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012), pp p. 205
- DiGeorgio-Lutzin J. "The US-PLO Relationship: From Dialogue to the White House Lawn," in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012), pp p. 226
- Pressman J "From Madrid and Oslo to Camp David: The United States and the Arab- Israeli Conflict," 1991-2001 in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012), pp p. 257
- Freedman, R. "The Bush Administration and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: The First Term and Beyond," in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012), pp p. 275

Week 12

Class: The Arab Spring

Readings:

- Alterman J Is It Time for the United States to Give Up on Arab Liberals? in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012) p. 483
- Anderson, L. (2011). Demystifying the Arab spring: parsing the differences between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya. *Foreign Affairs*, 2-7.
- Bellin, E. (2012). Reconsidering the robustness of authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring. *Comparative Politics*, 44(2), 127-149.
- Salloukh, B. F. (2013). The Arab uprisings and the geopolitics of the Middle East. *The international spectator*, 48(2), 32-46.
- Gause III, F. G. (2011). Why Middle East studies missed the Arab Spring: The myth of authoritarian stability. *Foreign Affairs*, 81-90.
- Lynch, M. (2015). Obama and the Middle East. *Foreign Aff.*, 94, 18.

Week 13

Class: Hala L'Wein?

Readings:

- Brands, H., & Feaver, P. (2017). Trump and Terrorism: US Strategy after ISIS. *Foreign Aff.*, 96, 28.
- Brodsky, M. Trump Should Expand Americas Relationship with Jordan. *Huffington Post*. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-should-expand-americasrelationship-with-jordan_us_588ef89ce4b06364bb1e2798
- Allison, R.J. Postscript: Americans and the Muslim World-First Encounters in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012) p. 534
- Cordesman, A. H. (2015). Rethinking the Wars against ISIS and the US Strategy for Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency.
- Cordesman, Anthony H., et al. The Arab Uprisings and U.S. Policy: What is the American National Interest? *Middle East Policy*.
- Karlin, M. & Wittes TC "America's Middle East Purgatory: The Case for Doing Less," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2019.
- Harling, P., & Birke, S. (2014). The Arab World into the Unknown. *The Arabist*, 14.
- Stern, J. (2015). Obama and Terrorism. *Foreign Aff.*, 94, 62.

Key Question: Where are we now?

Week 14

Class: Student Presentations

Week 15

Class: Student Presentations & Final Paper Due

Course Materials

Readings

- Makdisi, U. (2002). "Anti-Americanism" in the Arab world: An interpretation of a brief history. *The Journal of American History*, 89(2), 538-557.
- James Gelvin "The Ironic Legacy of the King-Crane Commission" in *The Middle East and the United States*, ed. David Lesch (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2003), pp.13-29
- Little Douglas. *Orientalism, American Style*. (9-42)
- Tamari, S. (2003). A Miserable Year in Brooklyn Khalil Sakakini in America, 1907-1908. *Jerusalem Quarterly*, (17).
- McAlister, M. (2005). *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and US Interests in the Middle East since 1945* (Vol. 6). Univ of California Press. 1-83
- Media Education Foundation "Reel bad Arabs" (documentary) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdRc8c8jhU8&list=PL5885FD84F42C6BE4>
- Hahn, P. "National Security Concerns in U.S. Policy Toward Egypt, 1949-1956." In Lesch, *The Middle East and the United States.*, pp. 75-86.
- Little, D. "Sympathy for the Devil? America, Nasser, and Arab Revolutionary Nationalism." (2008). *American*

- orientalism: the United States and the Middle East since 1945. Univ of North Carolina Press. Pp 157-192
- Mufti, M. "The United States and Nasserist Pan-Arabism," in David W. Lesch(ed.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 4th ed. (Westview, 2007), pp. 141-160.
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- Jones, T. C. (2012). America, oil, and war in the Middle East. *Journal of American History*, 99(1), 208-218.
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- McAlister, M."King Tut, Commodity Nationalism, and the Politics of Oil, 1973-79" in *Epic Encounters* (California 2005), pp. 125-40.
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- Mahmood, Z. (1985). Sadat and Camp David Reappraised. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 15(1), 62-87.
- Mandell, B. S., & Tomlin, B. W. (1991). Mediation in the development of norms to manage conflict: Kissinger in the Middle East. *Journal of Peace Research*, 28(1), 43-55.
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- Quandt, W. B. (2015). "Interpretations" Camp David: peacemaking and politics. Brookings Institution Press.
- Stein, J. G. (1985). Structures, strategies, and tactics of mediation: Kissinger and Carter in the Middle East. *Negotiation Journal*, 1(4), 331-347.
- Sick, G. "The US in the Persian Gulf: From Twin Pillars to Dual Containment," in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012), pp.327-343.
- Little, D. "Kicking the Vietnam Syndrome: Waging Limited War from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf." (2008). *American orientalism: the United States and the Middle East since 1945*. Univ of North Carolina Press. Pp 229-266
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- Freedman, R. "The Bush Administration and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: The First Term and Beyond," in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012), pp p. 275
- Edelman, E. S., Krepinevich, A. F., & Montgomery, E. B. (2011). The dangers of a nuclear Iran: the limits of containment. *Foreign Affairs*, 66-81.
- Fahmy, N. (2006). An assessment of International Nuclear Nonproliferation efforts after 60 years. *Nonproliferation Review*, 13(1), 81-87.
- Little, D. " Modernizing the Middle East: From Reform to Revolution in Iraq, Libya, and Iran." (2008). *American orientalism: the United States and the Middle East since 1945*. Univ of North Carolina Press. Pp 193-228
- Russell, R. L. (2005). Arab security responses to a nuclear-ready Iran. Sokolski and Clawson, 26.
- Sayed, A. (1997). The future of the Israeli nuclear force and the Middle East peace process. *Security Dialogue*, 28(1), 31-48.
- Waltz, K. N. (2012). Why Iran should get the bomb: Nuclear balancing would mean stability. *Foreign Affairs*,

2-5.

- Alterman J Is It Time for the United States to Give Up on Arab Liberals? in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012) p. 483
- Anderson, L. (2011). Demystifying the Arab spring: parsing the differences between Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya. *Foreign Affairs*, 2-7.
- Bellin, E. (2012). Reconsidering the robustness of authoritarianism in the Middle East: Lessons from the Arab Spring. *Comparative Politics*, 44(2), 127-149.
- Salloukh, B. F. (2013). The Arab uprisings and the geopolitics of the Middle East. *The international spectator*, 48(2), 32-46.
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- Lynch, M. (2015). Obama and the Middle East. *Foreign Aff.*, 94, 18.
- Brands, H., & Feaver, P. (2017). Trump and Terrorism: US Strategy after ISIS. *Foreign Aff.*, 96, 28.
- Brodsky, M. Trump Should Expand Americas Relationship with Jordan. *Huffington Post*.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-should-expand-americasrelationship-with-jordan_us_588ef89ce4b06364bb1e2798
- Allison, R.J. Postscript: Americans and the Muslim World-First Encounters in Lesch and Haas (eds.) *The Middle East and the United States*, 5th ed. (Westview, 2012) p. 534
- Cordesman, A. H. (2015). Rethinking the Wars against ISIS and the US Strategy for Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency.
- Cordesman, Anthony H., et al. The Arab Uprisings and U.S. Policy: What is the American National Interest? *Middle East Policy*.
- Karlin, M. & Wittes TC "America's Middle East Purgatory: The Case for Doing Less," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2019.
- Harling, P., & Birke, S. (2014). The Arab World into the Unknown. *The Arabist*, 14.
- Stern, J. (2015). Obama and Terrorism. *Foreign Aff.*, 94, 62.