

**Department of Political Science and Public Administration**

**POS 368: Oil and Trouble: America in the Middle East**

**Summer 2017**

**Online**

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-4 p.m. or by appointment

**Course Description**:

This course examines the policy history of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, since 1945, seeking to understand the economic, ideological and geostrategic importance of the region to American interests. Since the end of WWII, the U.S. has become progressively more involved in the politics of the Middle East, from Eisenhower’s intervention in Lebanon in 1958 to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Drawing on theories of international relations and foreign policymaking, this course is designed to help students understand why this happened, why leaders made the choices they did, and to sort through the consequences. Students will also develop the policy analysis skills sought by leading government agencies and non-profit organizations in the field.

**Goals and Philosophy:**

The course is designed to help you become conversant in the major political questions and themes that characterize public debate in the United States about foreign policy. By the end of the course you will be fluent in the kinds of questions policymakers, scholars, and opinion-leaders tackle on a daily basis, by becoming immersed in the *discipline-specific* *content* of the field. To that end, we will be working toward your ability to *effectively communicate* ideas and concepts in the field of foreign policy by pursuing a series of short writing assignments similar to what practitioners in DC produce every day. Finally, American foreign policy in the Middle East will be read through the framework of *social justice*, including imagining what kinds of policies, relationships and ideas would be most beneficial to the citizens of the United States and to the world.

**Required Texts**:

The following **required** text is available for purchase in the university bookstore.

1. Geoffrey Wawro, *Quicksand: America’s Pursuit of Power in the Middle East*. Penguin, 2010.

Other required readings will be posted to Blackboard well in advance of class and will be marked on the syllabus by the symbol **{BB}.** Readings can be found under the appropriate “Weekly Lesson.”

**Suggested Films**

Most weeks there is a documentary included in the Weekly Lesson. These documentaries are recommended but not required.

**Attendance and Punctuality:**

Because of the frequency of interactive activities and presentations, your presence in class is essential to the creation and maintenance of a collaborative learning environment. Three absences are permitted, whatever the reason. Any further absences will result in the removal of three points from your final grade, per absence. Students who arrive after roll is taken will receive half-credit for that day’s attendance; Students arriving more than 15 minutes late are welcome to stay, but will receive no credit for that day’s attendance.

**Crisis Policy**

If you are experiencing difficulties with your health, personal life or any other crisis that is affecting your ability to come to class and complete the work, it is imperative that you alert me as soon as possible. The best path is to see someone at Roosevelt’s counseling center, who can then alert all your professors that you are having trouble. I can work together with the counseling center to find an appropriate course of action to help you make it through the class. *It is not acceptable to approach me at the end of the semester to tell me you’ve been having problems since May with the expectation that this will change your grade.*

**Expectations**

Students should log into Blackboard at least three times a week to do the readings, post discussion and paper assignments and take exams and quizzes. Students should also check their Roosevelt email accounts once a day for any updates or instructions from the professor. Students should also plan to follow along with current events in the Middle East. Please email me for suggestions about the best sites to do so.

**Assignments**

**Midterm Examination***:* There will be one midterm exam, administered online during the 5th week of class. Students will have 90 minutes from opening the document to complete the exam. The midterm will be worth 200 points and must be taken by midnight on Monday, July 3rd. The exam will be posted by the professor by midnight on Tuesday, June 28th. The midterm will be posted to Blackboard under “Assignments.”

**Position Papers**: Students will write two 1,200-1,500 position papers addressing questions in the field of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. Papers will be due during weeks 3 and 8 of the course. Each position paper will be worth 200 points. Please post your paper to the appropriate link on Blackboard under “Assignments”.

**Weekly Discussion Board Posts***.* Each student will write two posts a week to the Blackboard Discussion Board forums, one 300-500 word post responding to the prompt due Fridays by midnight night, as well as one 100-300 word substantive response to the posting of one of your peers which is due Sunday by midnight. Each individual post will be worth 10 points each, for a total of 20 points per week.

**Final Exam:**There will be a final exam during the 10th week of class, administered online and due for completion by midnight on Monday, August 7th. The final will be worth 200 points and will be posted by the professor by midnight on Tuesday, August 1st.

**Written assignments are due on the assigned due dates and promptly at the times specified on the assignments. Late assignments will be penalized as follows:**

* 1 min – 12 hours past due: -5%
* 12 hours to 24 hours past due: -10%
* 24 hours to 36 hours past due: -20%
* 36 hours to 48 hours past due: -30%
* 48 hours past due: Assignments accepted at 60% credit.

**Exceptions to policies surrounding the turning in of assignments will only be granted in the case of severe illness or emergency occurring within 24 hours of the due date, which must be documented with written proof.**

**Grade percentages**

\*Position Paper #1: 200 points

\*Midterm Examination: 200 points

\*Position Paper #2: 200 points

\*Final Exam: 200 points

\*Two Weekly Discussion Board Posts: 10 points each (200 points total)

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1,000 points

**The grading scale is as follows**.

925-1000 points: A

895-924 points: A-

865-894 points: B+

825-864 points: B

795-824 points: B-

765-794 points: C+

725-764 points: C

695-724 points: C-

665-694 points: D+

625-664 points: D

595-624 points: D-

0-594 points: F

**Academic** **dishonesty**: The university’s policies on issues such as plagiarism, recycling, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty can be found in the student handbook, which is available as a link here: <http://www.roosevelt.edu/CurrentStudents.aspx> . Additional guidelines for avoiding plagiarism are available here: <http://www.roosevelt.edu/Provost/Faculty/AcademicIntegrity.aspx>

**Disability**: Roosevelt University complies fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Details about ADA and Roosevelt’s policies and practices are found here: <http://www.roosevelt.edu/StudentSuccess/Disability/Discrimination.aspx> If you have a condition or disability that requires special arrangements, please alert your instructor or the Academic Success Center as soon as possible, certainly before any assignment or classroom activity that requires accommodation**.** The Academic Success Center is located in AUD 128 in Chicago, and the phone number is 312-341-3818. In Schaumburg, the office is in room 125, and the phone number is 847-619-7978.

**Withdrawal** **date**: The final date for an official withdrawal from this class (meaning a “W” would appear on your transcript) is March 24th. After that, if you want to withdraw, you’ll need to petition the registrar. Petitions are granted only for non-academic reasons after the deadline. If you receive financial aid, it’s best to check with your counselor to assure that aid isn’t affected by withdrawing from a class. The complete withdrawal policy is here: <http://www.roosevelt.edu/Registrar/Registration/Drop.aspx>

**Religious holidays**: Please let your instructor know as soon as possible if you will miss class because you are observing a religious holiday. Roosevelt University policy requires written notification to to the instructor within the first two weeks of the term. Any work you miss because of a religious holiday can be made up. You can see the full policy here: <http://www.roosevelt.edu/Policies/ReligiousHolidays.aspx>

**Student Code of Conduct:** Students enrolled in the university are expected to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the university’s function as an educational institution. <http://www.roosevelt.edu/StudentSuccess/Conduct.aspx>

**Title IX**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based and sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you should contact our office of Title IX compliance or visit the office in WB 1312. For more information about Title IX please visit <http://www.roosevelt.edu/About/Compliance/About.aspx>

**Writing Center**

Students who need additional assistance in writing should visit the Writing Center. Information about the center can be found at its website:

<http://www.roosevelt.edu/CAS/Programs/LIT/WritingCenter.aspx>

**Class Schedule**

| **Date** | **Topic** | **Readings Due** | **Suggested Films** | **Assignments Due** |
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| **Week 1**May 30th-June 6th  | American Foreign Policy | Osama F. Khalil, “The Crossroads of the World: U.S. and British Foreign Policy Doctrines and the Construct of the Middle East, 1902–2007.” *Diplomatic History*.**{BB}** |  |  |
| **Week 2**June 7th-June 13th  | The Making of the Modern Middle East  | Wawro Chapters 1-2, pp. 13-85; Robert Vitalis, “[Oil, the Stuff of Mass Delusion](http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/24001/oil_the-stuff-of-mass-delusion)” *Jadaliyya*, March 9th, 2016. **{BB}** | *Sykes-Picot: Lines in the Sand* (Al-Jazeera) |  |
| **Week 3**June 14th-June 20th | The Arab-Israeli Conflict | Wawro Chapter 3 (pp. 86-122), Chapter 5 (pp. 153-197); Yaacov Bar-Siman-Tov. “The United States and Israel Since 1948: A Special Relationship.” *Diplomatic History*, 1968. **{BB}** | *The 50 Years War Part 1* (PBS).  | **Position Paper #1** |
| **Week 4**June 21st-June 27th | The Arab-Israeli Conflict | Wawro Chapter 6 (pp. 198-233), Chapter 8 (pp. 253-287); Grant Rumley and Amir Tibon, “The Death and Life of the Two State Solution.” *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2015. **{BB}** | *The 50 Years War Part 2* (PBS) | - |
| **Week 5**June 28th-July 4th  | The Cold War in the Middle East | Wawro Chapter 4 (pp. 124-152), Chapter 7 (pp. 229-252) and Chapter 9 (pp. 288-328). Jeffrey H. Michaels, “Dysfunctional Doctrines: Eisenhower, Carter and U.S. Military Intervention in the Middle East.” *Political Science Quarterly* (2011). **{BB}** |  | **Midterm****Exam** |
| **Week 6**July 5th-July 11th | The Iranian Revolution | Wawro Chapter 10 (pp. 329-353), Chapter 11 (pp. 354-373); David Faris, “As Congress Takes on Iran Deal, It Should Remember It’s Iraq Blunder.” *Informed Comment*, April 16th, 2015. | *Islamic Revolution of Iran* (BBC) |  |
| **Week 7**July 12th-July 17th | Afghanistan and the birth of international terrorism | Wawro Chapter 12 (pp. 374-397). Mary Ann Weaver, “[Blowback.](https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1996/05/blowback/376583/)” *The Atlantic*, May 1996. **{BB}** | *Soldiers of God* (CNN) | - |
| **Week 8**July 18th-July 24th  | **Iraq Part I** | Wawro Chapter 13 (pp. 398-421), Chapter 14 (pp. 422-455); William J. Perry, “Desert Storm and Deterrence.” *Foreign Affairs* (Fall 1991). **{BB}** | *The Gulf War* (Frontline) |  **Position Paper #2** |
| **Week 9**July 25th-July 31st  | 9/11 and the march to war | Wawro Chapter 15 (pp. 456-491) and Chapter 16 (pp. 492-508); Kenneth Pollack, “Next Stop Baghdad.” Foreign Affairs, May/June 2002. **{BB}** | *Bush’s War* (Frontline) |  |
| **Week 10**August 1st-August 7th | From the Arab Spring to the rise of ISIS | Steven Simon and Jonathan Stevenson, “The End of Pax Americana.” Foreign Affairs, November/December 2015. **{BB}** Alan J. Kuperman, “Obama’s Libya Debacle.” Foreign Affairs, May/June 2015. **{BB}** Michael Wahid Hanna, “Getting over Egypt.” Foreign Affairs, November/December 2015. **{BB}** Carla Humud, “Armed Conflict in Syria: Overview and U.S. Response.” Congressional Research Service, 2016. **{BB}** | The Battle For Syria (Frontline) | **Final Exam** |