Fall 9-1-2006

PSC 395.01: Crises in the Middle East

Mark Johnson
The University Of Montana, mark.johnson@umontana.edu

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.
Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/6648

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Course Syllabi at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.
CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
PSC/HIST 395/01A

Mark Johnson
Instructor

Contact information
-Phone: 728-3328 (Montana World Affairs Council) -Tues/Thurs: 12.00-1.30 pm
243-2050, campus  Mansfield Center (level 4 library)
-Email: waclmontana@mtwi.net (best) -By Appointment: Office of the
mark.johnson@mso.umt.edu World Affairs Council Montana:

Office Hours
201 W. Main Street. Suite 101.

Syllabus:
This course will examine current developments in the Middle East region, broadly
defined to include the countries of the Arab League plus Israel and Iran. The Middle East
has been marked by political violence, economic stagnation, and significant involvement
by outside powers. Our survey will look at the current flashpoints in this turbulent region,
and attempt to place them within the context of US foreign policy interests. At the end of
this course, students should be familiar with these key crises, the main participants, and
efforts to resolve the underlying tensions.

Course Requirements:
You class grade will consist of the following elements
- Classroom participation: 10%
- Three written memos: 30%
- Mid-term exam: 25%
- Final Project: 35%

Readings:
-Monte Palmer: Politics of the Middle East, 2nd Ed. Thomson, 2007
--Ian Bickerton, Carla Klausner: Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 4th Ed.
--Reza Aslan: No god But God, Random House, 2005

In addition, those reading items marked by an * are available on library/electronic reserve
(ppwd: cme395), or at the specified internet address, or from the instructor.
PART ONE: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

WEEK ONE
August 29: Welcome and Introduction
-Overview
-Class procedures
Aug. 31: Why the Middle East Matters
-The Lessons of 1979
Video: The Middle East in Transition:” U.S. Interests in the Middle East”

WEEK TWO
September 5: Overview of American Foreign Policy
-US Foreign Policy and the Middle East
Readings:
Henry Kissinger:"Does America Need a Foreign Policy” Chap.1.
(www.nytimes.com/books/first/k/kissinger-01policy.html)

PART TWO: THE PALESTINE-ISRAEL CRISIS

September 7: Overview: The Lesson of the Tortoise and the Scorpion
Readings:
Bickerton/Klausner: Chap. 1 and 2.

WEEK THREE
Sept. 12: The Palestine Narrative: From Arafat to Hamas
Readings: Bickerton/Klausner:Chap.3; *Tom Friedman,"The Teflon Guerrilla” from From Beirut to Jerusalem,1989.
Sept 14: The Israeli Narrative: David Ben Gurion and The Iron Wall
Readings: Palmer,Chap. 3; Bickerton/Klausner, Chap. 4 an 5; *Friedman,” Crosswinds” From Beirut to Jerusalem.

WEEK FOUR
Sept. 19: Guest Lecturer: Sally J. Cummins, U.S. State Department
Sept. 21: Guest Lecturer: Prof. Samir Bitar

WEEK FIVE
Sept 26: The Escalation to Nowhere: The Issues
Readings: Bickerton/Klausner, Chaps. 6, 7,10.
Sept 28: The War after the War: The Real Issues
Readings: Bickerton/Klausner, Chaps. 12, Conclusion, Epilogue.

********** First Paper Due**********
PART THREE: ISLAM AND ISLAMISM

WEEK SIX
October 3: The Religion: Understanding the Prophet
Readings: Reza Aslan, Prologue, Chap. 1-3

WEEK SEVEN:
Oct.10: What Went Wrong: The Arab Social, Economic and Political Conundrum

Oct. 12: Why Do They Hate Us?

PART FOUR: THE ARAB GUARDIANS: EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA

WEEK EIGHT
Oct. 17: Egypt: The Heart and Soul of the Arab World
Readings: Palmer, Chap. 2.
Oct. 19: Saudi Arabia: Oil and Religion Do Mix
Readings: Palmer, Chap. 5.

WEEK NINE
Oct. 24 :MID TERM EXAM*******************************
Oct. 26: The Other Crisis: Syria …and Lebanon.
Reading: Palmer, Chap.4; Bickerton/Klausner, Chap. 9.

PART FIVE: THE FUTURE OF FLUIDS: OIL AND WATER

WEEK TEN
Oct 31: Our Oil Dialysis Conundrum
November 2: Water: Thicker than Blood
PART SIX: BETWEEN IRAQ AND A HARD PLACE
WEEK ELEVEN
Nov. 7: No Class: Vote!
November 9: Desert Storm and the Theme Park from Hell
Readings: Palmer, Chap. 6

WEEK TWELVE
Nov. 14: A Self Inflicted Wound

PART SEVEN: IRAN: THE AXIS OF EVIL MEETS THE GREAT SATAN

Nov. 16: 1979 Islamic Revolution and the Hostage Crisis
Readings: Sciolino: Parts 1 and 2.

WEEK THIRTEEN
Nov. 21: Guest Lecturer: TBA
Nov. 23: No class: Thanksgiving Holiday

WEEK FOURTEEN
Nov. 28: Challenges of Iran: From Khomeini to Ahmadinejad
Readings: Sciolino, Parts Four and Five, Epilogue.
Nov. 30: Crisis Exercise

**********Third Paper Due**********

PART EIGHT: CONCLUSION
WEEK FIFTEEN
December 5: US Policy Challenges in the Middle East
(www.brook.edu/fp/saban/singer/20060901.pdf)
Dec. 7: Review and Conclusion.