

American University of Beirut
Department of Political Studies and Public Administration

PSPA 310
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

Professor Hazbun (*wh20@aub.edu.lb*)

Fall 2014

Meeting Time:

Tuesdays
3:30 pm-6:00 pm
Nicely 417

Office hours:

Mondays: 2-3 pm
Wednesdays: 10:00-Noon
Jesup 201

This MA graduate seminar provides a survey of the discipline of international politics and contemporary research in the field. It is intended to serve as a ‘gateway’ course providing a foundation for other international politics courses. In addition to covering central theoretical perspectives in international relations theory, the course introduces students to contemporary debates in international politics and policy with an emphasis on topics and themes relating to the Middle East. Students develop critical thinking and analytical writing skills through close reading of key texts and writing exercises.

Seminar Requirements:

Seminar participation and presentations: 30% of grade.

- Presentation on Syria Dilemma readings (Week 3)
- Joint presentation on a Theoretical Approach (Week 4-9)
- Group Timeline & presentation on “Lebanon and Regional Geopolitics (Week 10,11,14)

Essay 1: Analysis of the structure of arguments in selected essay of “The Syria Dilemma.” Length: 3-5 pages. Due Monday before session Week 3. 10% of grade.

Essay 2: A critical review essay on how one or more theoretical approaches speak to a question relating to Middle East international relations/foreign policy. Length 5-7 pages. Due morning of relevant session (Weeks 4-9). A revised paper due by Friday of same week. 25% of grade.

Essay 3: A research proposal, review essay, or mini-research paper on a topic relating to “Lebanon and Regional Geopolitics.” Length 10 pages. Due: Dec 15. 35% of grade.

Required texts: (available at the AUB bookstore)

- Nader Hashemi and Danny Postel (eds.) *The Syria Dilemma* (MIT Press, 2013).
- David Hirst, *Beware of Small States: Lebanon, Battleground of the Middle East* (Faber, 2010).
- PSPA 310 Reader

Other readings are available at <http://moodle.aub.edu.lb/course/view.php?id=3371>. See Moodle site for syllabi updates, details about assignments, and office hour availability. Note: Rather than list require/recommended reading, consider all readings required, but if struggling to keep up, please give special attention to the one marked with “*”.

PART 1: THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

1. Introduction Sept. 9

Stephen Walt, "How to Get a BA in International Relations in 5 Minutes" foreignpolicy.com, May 19, 2014.

"Glossary of International Relations Terms," in Hinnebusch and Ehteshami (eds.), *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States 2nd Ed.*, (Rienner, 2014), pp. 351-354.

Resources for developing a thesis proposal:

Stephen Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Cornell, 1997), Chapters 3, 4, 5; Skim Chapter 1.

Charles Lipson, *How to Write a BA Thesis* (Chicago, 2005), Chapters 2, 4, 7.

2. The Scope of the Study of International Politics in the Middle East Sept. 16

Steve Smith, "The United States and the Discipline of International Relations: Hegemonic Country, Hegemonic Discipline," *International Studies Review*, 4/2 (2002): 67-85.

*Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations* (Cambridge, 2005), pp. 21-72.

*Raymond Hinnebusch, "Foreign Policy in the Middle East," in Hinnebusch and Ehteshami (eds.), *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States 2nd Ed.*, (Rienner, 2014), pp. 1-34.

Paper # 1 due. Post on moodle by noon Sept 22

3. Critical reading: The Syria Dilemma Sept. 23

*Hashemi and Postel (eds.) *The Syria Dilemma* (MIT Press, 2013), selected essays.
Please read the Analysis papers of other students.

PART 2: THEORETICAL APPROACHES

4. Realism Sept. 30

*John Mearsheimer, "Structural Realism," in Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith, (eds.) *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity* (Oxford, 2010), Ch 4.

John Mearsheimer, "Strategies for Survival," in *Perspectives on World Politics*, (Routledge 2006).

*Stephen M. Walt, *The Origins of Alliances* (Cornell, 1990), pp. 50-103.

*Gregory Gause, *The International Relations of the Persian Gulf*, (Cambridge, 2010), pp. 1-15.

Stephen Walt, "The End of the American Era," *The National Interest* (Nov-Dec 2011), pp. 6-16.

5. Liberalism Oct. 7 (no Mon. office hours)

*G. John Ikenberry, "The Future of the Liberal World Order," *Foreign Affairs*, (May/June 2011), pp. 56-68.

Samuel Moyn, "Soft Sells," *The Nation*, Oct. 3, 2011, pp. 40-43.

*Andrew Moravcsik, "The New Liberalism," in *Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, (Oxford, 2008), pp. 234-254.

*Etel Solingen, *Regional Orders at Century's Dawn: Global and Domestic Influences on Grand Strategy* (Princeton, 1988), pp. 1-17, 165-215.

Mark Duffield, "The new development-security terrain," in *Perspectives on World Politics*, (Routledge 2006), pp. 295-301.

6. International Political Economy Oct 14

- *Robert Gilpin, *Global Political Economy* (Princeton, 2001) pp. 77-102, 377-402.
- *James N. Rosenau, *Along the Domestic-Foreign Frontier* (Cambridge, 1997), pp. 55-77.
- *Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations* (Cambridge, 2005), pp. 261-299.
- Christopher Layne, "The Waning of U.S. Hegemony – Myth or Reality?" *International Security* 34, 1 (Summer 2009), pp. 147-172.

7. Constructivism Oct 21

- *Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of it: the Social Construction of Power Politics," *International Organization*, 46/2 (Spring 1992), pp. 391- 425.
- *Michael Barnett, "Identity and Alliances in the Middle East" in Katzenstein (ed.) *The Culture of National Security*, (Columbia 1996), pp. 400-447.
- Waleed Hazbun, "Reading Culture, Identity and Space in US Foreign Policy," *Middle East Report*, No. 236 (Fall 2005): 44-6.

8. Marxism Oct. 28 (no Wed. office hours)

- *Mark Rupert, "Marxism and Critical Theory," Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith, (eds.) *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity* (Oxford, 2010), Ch 8.
- Robert W. Cox, "Social Forces, States, and World Orders," in *Perspectives on World Politics* (Routledge 2006), pp. 359-367.
- *Raymond Hinnebusch, "The Middle East in the World Hierarchy: Imperialism and Resistance," *Journal of International Relations and Development* 14 (2011), pp. 213-246.

9. Postcolonialism Nov. 4 (no Mon. office hours)

- *Siba Grovogui, "Postcolonialism," in Dunne, Kurki, and Smith, (eds.) *IR Theories*, Ch 12.
- Tarak Barkawi and Mark Laffey, "The postcolonial moment in security studies," *Review of International Studies* (2006): pp. 329-352.
- *Steve Niva, "Contested Sovereignties and Postcolonial Insecurities in the Middle East," in Jutta Weldes et al. (eds.) *Cultures of Insecurity* (Minnesota, 1999), pp. 147-172.

PART 3: LEBANON AND REGIONAL GEOPOLITICS

10. Lebanon and Regional Geopolitics I Nov. 11

- *David Hirst, *Beware of Small States*, pp. 1-173 (can skim pp. 22-44, 148-168).
- *Raymond Hinnebusch, "The Middle East Regional System" in Hinnebusch and Ehteshami (eds.), *The Foreign Policies of Middle East States 2nd Ed.*, pp. 35-72.

11. Lebanon and Regional Geopolitics II Nov. 18 (no Wed. office hours)

- *David Hirst, *Beware of Small States*, pp. 174-327.

12. No Class [Middle East Studies Association meeting] Nov 25 (no office hours)

Please work on your final papers.

Draft of Paper # 3 (for peer review) due Dec. 1

13. The psychological dimension of Middle East Conflict Dec. 2 (no office hours)

Guest speaker: Dr. Lina Kreidie <lh39@aub.edu.lb>

Martha Crenshaw, "The Psychology of Political Terrorism."

Daniel Bar-Tal, "From Intractable Conflict Through Conflict Resolution to Reconciliation: Psychological Analysis," *Political Psychology*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (June 2000), pp. 351-365.

Neil J. Kressel, "Biased Judgments of Media Bias: A Case Study of the Arab-Israeli Dispute," *Political Psychology*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (June 1987), pp. 211-227.

peer comments due Dec 5

14. Lebanon and Regional Geopolitics III Dec. 9

*David Hirst, *Beware of Small States*, pp. 328-427 (can skim pp. 398-418).

*Karim Makdisi, "Constructing Security Council Resolution 1701 for Lebanon in the Shadow of the 'War on Terror,'" *International Peacekeeping*, 18/1 (Feb. 2011), pp. 4-20.

*Bassel F. Salloukh, "The Arab Uprisings and the Geopolitics of the Middle East," *The International Spectator: Italian Journal of International Affairs*, 48,2 (2013), pp. 32-46.

Helle Malmvig, "Power, Identity and Securitization in Middle East: Regional Order after the Arab Uprisings," *Mediterranean Politics*, 19:1 (2014), pp. 145-148.

optional Paper #3 draft due (for comments from instructor)

Final Paper # 3 due Dec 15