

Fall 2018

Class Time: Tuesdays @ 3:30-6:00 pm

Class Location: IFI Bldg.

Prof. Karim Makdisi

Jesup Hall, Room 206

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Seminar Description

This graduate seminar provide a survey of, and examine contemporary research in, international/global affairs. It is intended as a 'gateway' course providing a foundation of research and coursework for international affairs and politics. This seminar will focus on, and historically contextualize, pressing contemporary debates and policy problems particularly relevant to the Middle East; and will usually use case studies to explore these problems in detail. Student will develop critical thinking and analytical skills through close reading of key texts, writing exercises and presentations. There may also be occasional guest speakers who will provide detailed insight into particular cases or issues.

Moodle

Our primary class communication outside of class will be via Moodle. Please make sure you sign-into Moodle (on the AUB website) immediately, and upload your picture. *All readings and assignments, as well as various news items, will be posted on Moodle*, and as such *you are responsible to check the site regularly*. If you need to contact me, *please message me via Moodle*. Any technical questions or issues should be directed to AUB's *IT department* at x 3580

Seminar Requirements

- 1) Active seminar participation, critical memos, in-class group work (35%).
- 2) Leading Seminar + Essay # 1 (30%);
- 3) Final Paper #2 (35%);

Seminar participation and critical memos.

Regular class attendance, completion of assigned readings, and **active** engagement in seminar discussions (including in-class group work) are required. Please take this very, very seriously and if you are not sure what "active engagement" means, ask me! It is imperative that you closely engage with the essays, texts and documents assigned, and be as concrete as possible in class. Students who miss more than 3 classes without a legitimate (by AUB standards) excuse may be dropped from the course. The participation grade will be based on the quality of the student's participation in discussion. Feel free to ask me where you stand at any point during the semester, and we can find ways for you to improve. I may ask you to lead a particular portion of the class, and will give you ample if so.

Critical memo guidelines: Students will produce *short* (1 page, single spaced) critical summary "write ups" for several of the assigned texts over the course of the semester. These memos outline the basic claims made by the text, provide a brief overview of the arguments and evidence presented, and offer ideas for critique and class discussion. They should not be descriptive in nature. I may ask you to lead the discussion on the memo you have written up.

These memos must be uploaded on Moodle latest by midnight before the relevant class session (so Wednesday nights). Please do not be late. Note that while I may give brief feedback, these memos will not be graded individually, but comprise part of the overall participation grade. Simply put your names, class, reflection #, date and title in upper-left hand corner of paper (1 inch margins, and no cover page at all).

Leading the seminar and Essay #1

Each student** will lead a seminar discussion (at least) once during the semester—we will decide the schedule for this during the second week—and write a critical essay addressing the readings for that week (as well as additional readings, cases, etc.). This should be about 1,500-2,000 words and should be *posted in the appropriate “forum” on Moodle* as well as *handed into the PSPA Department in hard-copy*. These will be due on Moodle by 9:00pm on the Wednesdays before the class in which the readings will be discussed. In this response, you should demonstrate that you have done all the readings, reflected on them, and attempted to synthesize and link them (where relevant) to material from other weeks or readings you have done outside class. In addition, you should propose 2-4 questions designed to stimulate discussion both online and in class. I will meet you ahead of your scheduled presentation time to discuss specifics and modalities. (**depending on number of students, you may be paired up in teams of two for these presentations**).

Your overall grade for this depends on three main components: a) the quality of your essay (synthesis, organization, clarity, creativity, argument, critical skills); b) your presentation and moderation/leading of class discussion (clarity, organization, creativity, effort...); and c) timeliness and organization of your work. We will discuss this more in class, and if you are not clear about what this entails: please see me! *There will be a hand-out distributed to students in due course.*

Final paper

Students will write a final paper dealing with some theoretical or practical aspect of the Arab-Israeli conflict, subject to the approval of the professor. These could be review essays, research proposal or (short) research paper; and must be submitted both in hard (into the PSPA Dept.) and soft copies (on Moodle). *Initial proposals* must be submitted in class at a date to be determined. Each of you will also be responsible for *peer-reviewing* one paper (more on this later). All final papers will be submitted to turnitin.com, and students are responsible to read AUB's academic honesty guidelines. Plagiarism is a serious issue. If you are unsure what that means please see your advisor or course professor, and check out AUB's student handbook. *There will be a hand-out distributed to students in due course.*

University Policies

Academic Integrity: Please refer to AUB Student Code of Conduct:

<http://www.aub.edu.lb/pnp/generaluniversitypolicies/Documents/StudentCodeConduct/StudentCodeConduct.pdf>. **Students with Disabilities:** If you anticipate or experience academic barriers due to a disability, please inform me immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Office: accessibility@aub.edu.lb; +961-1-350000, x3246; West Hall, 314." **Non-Discrimination:** AUB is committed to facilitating a campus free of all forms of discrimination including sex/gender-based harassment prohibited by Title IX. The University's non-discrimination policy applies to all students, faculty, and staff.

Course Schedule + Readings

* Subject to change depending on the course needs as assessed by the professor.

[Note: See Moodle site for all weekly readings, syllabi updates, details about assignments, etc.]

1: Introductions

2: Crisis in the Liberal international order

- G. John Ikenberry, "The end of liberal international order?", *International Affairs*, 5 January 2018 , Volume 94, No.1.
- Inderjeet Parmar, "The US-led liberal order: imperialism by another name?", *International Affairs*, 5 January 2018 , Volume 94, Number 1,
- Amitav Acharya, "After Liberal Hegemony: The Advent of a Multiplex World Order", *Ethics and International Affairs*, Volume 31, Issue 3 Fall 2017 , pp. 271-285.
- Mark Mazower, "No Enchanted Palace: The End of Empire and the Ideological Origins of the United Nations" (Princeton University Press, 2009), "Introduction" (pp.1-27); Chapter 4 "Jawaharlal Nehru and the Emergence of the Global United Nations" (pp. 149-189); and "Afterword" (pp.199-204).

3: Global Governance and the United Nations.

- Michael N. Barnett and Martha Finnemore, The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations, *International Organization*, Vol. 53, No. 4 (Autumn, 1999), pp. 699-732.
- Richard Falk, "The United Nations and the Middle East: a guide for the perplexed" in Tareq Y. Ismael and Glenn E. Perry (eds.), *The International Relations of the Contemporary Middle East Subordination and Beyond* (Routledge, 2013).
- James Traub, "The Best Intentions: Kofi Annan and the UN in the Era of American World Power", Chapter 11, "Why Did They Die For?", 190-205, 2007.
- Tom Weiss et al, "The Theory of UN Collective Security," *The United Nations and Changing World Politics* (Westview Press, 2017) .

4: Humanitarian Governance, Intervention and R2P

- Michael N. Barnett, "Humanitarian Governance", *Annual Review of Political Science* Vol. 16:379-398 (May 2013).
- Mahmood Mamdani, "The New Humanitarian Order", *The Nation*, 2008, <https://www.thenation.com/article/new-humanitarian-order>.
- Edward Newman, "What Prospects for Common Humanity in a Divided World? The Scope for RtoP in a Transitional International Order," *International Politics*, 53 (1), 2016, pp.32-48.
- Ramesh Thakur, "R2P after Libya and Syria: Engaging Emerging Powers", *The Washington Quarterly*, Volume 36, 2013 - Issue 2, pp. 61-76.

5: International Politics of Justice and Human Rights

- Elies van Sliedregt, "International Criminal Law," *Oxford Handbook Online*, 2015, <https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199673599.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199673599-e-49>.
- Antony Anghie, "Whose Utopia?: Human Rights, Development, and the Third World", *Critical Humanities and Social Sciences*, Volume 22 (1), Oct 6, 2013.
- Samuel Moyn, "Human Rights Are Not Enough", *The Nation*, March 2018, <https://www.thenation.com/article/human-rights-are-not-enough/>
- Mahmood Mamdani, "Beyond Nuremberg: The Historical Significance of the Post-apartheid Transition in South Africa", *Politics and Society*, 2014.

6: International Governance and Politics of Refugees

- Michael Kagan, "We live in a country of UNHCR: The UN surrogate state and refugee policy in the Middle East," *New Issues in Refugee Research*, UNHCR (2011), <https://www.unhcr.org/research/working/4d5a8cde9/live-country-unhcr-un-surrogate-state-refugee-policy-middle-east-michael.html>
- Maja Janmyr, "UNHCR and the Syrian refugee response: negotiating status and registration in Lebanon", *International Journal of Human Rights*, Volume 22, 2018 - Issue 3.
- Arafat Jamal, "The UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the Iraq Refugee Operation", in Karim Makdisi and Vijay Prashad (eds.), *Land of Blue Helmets: The United Nations in the Arab World* (University of California Press, 2017). pp. 335-358
- Jalal al Hussein, "An Agency for the Palestinians?", in Karim Makdisi, *Land of Blue Helmets* (University of California Press, 2017), pp. 301-317.

7: US Foreign Policy in the Middle East

- President Donald J. Trump's State of the Union Address, (January 30, 2018), <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-state-union-address/>
- Waleed Hazbun, "Beyond the American Era in the Middle East: An Evolving Landscape of Turbulence", (Copenhagen: Danish Institute for International Studies, 2017), pp. 31-41. http://pure.diis.dk/ws/files/830699/2017_DIIS_New_Conflict_Dynamics_in_the_Middle_East_and_North_Africa_web.pdf
- Stephen M. Walt, "The United States Should Admit It No Longer Has a Middle East Policy", *Foreign Policy*, January 29, 2016, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/01/29/the-u-s-should-admit-it-has-no-middle-east-policy-obama-cold-war-israel-syria/>
- Stephen M. Walt, "This Is America's Middle East Strategy on Steroids" *Foreign Policy*, October 15, 2018, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/10/15/this-is-americas-middle-east-strategy-on-steroids/>

8: Middle East Regional System + "New Cold War"

- Marc Lynch, "The New Arab Order Power and Violence in Today's Middle East", *Foreign Affairs*, September/October 2018, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/middle-east/2018-08-13/new-arab-order>.
- Christopher Phillips & Morten Valbjørn, "What is in a Name?': The Role of (Different) Identities in the Multiple Proxy Wars in Syria", *Small Wars & Insurgencies* Volume 29, 2018 - Issue 3, pp. 414-433.
- Bassel F. Salloukh, "A New Grand Bargain for the Middle East", *The Century Foundation*, February 21, 2018 <https://tcf.org/content/report/new-grand-bargain-middle-east/?session=1>
- Raymond Hinnebusch Anoushiravan Ehteshami (ed), "The Foreign Policies of Middle East States", "Arab Regional System", *Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.*; 2nd edition edition , 2014, pp. 35-55.
- Raymond Hinnebusch Anoushiravan Ehteshami (ed), "The Foreign Policies of Middle East States", "Arab Regional System", *Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.*; 2nd edition edition , 2014, pp. 56-72.
- Karim Makdisi, "Intervention and the Arab Uprisings: From Transformation to the Maintenance of Regional Order", (Copenhagen: Danish Institute for International Studies, 2017), pp. 93-108, http://pure.diis.dk/ws/files/830699/2017_DIIS_New_Conflict_Dynamics_in_the_Middle_East_and_North_Africa_web.pdf

9: International Disarmament + Syrian Chemical Weapons Case

- Gawdat Bahgat, "A Mideast Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone: Pie in the Sky", Middle East Policy Council, Volume XXII Fall Number 3, 2015, <https://www.mepec.org/mideast-nuclear-weapons-free-zone-pie-sky>
- John R. Bolton, "Beyond the Axis of Evil: Additional Threats from Weapons of Mass Destruction" The Heritage Foundation, May 6, 2002, <https://www.heritage.org/defense/report/beyond-the-axis-evil-additional-threats-weapons-mass-destruction-0>
- Nader Entessar, Kaveh L. Afrasiabi, "The Iran Nuclear Accord and the Future of Nonproliferation: A Constructivist-Critical Approach", *The Brown Journal of World Affairs* ; Providence Vol. 22, Issue. 2, (Spring/Summer 2016): 177-195.
- Richard Falk & David Krieger, "A Dialogue on Nuclear Weapons", *Journal Peace Review*, Volume 28, 2016 - Issue 3.
- Seyed Hossein Mousavian & Mohammad Mehdi Mousavian, "Building on the Iran Nuclear Deal for International Peace and Security", *Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament*, Volume 1, 2018 - Issue 1, September 2017, pp. 169-192.
- Karim Makdisi & Coralie Pison Hindawi, "The Syrian chemical weapons disarmament process in context: narratives of coercion, consent, and everything in between", *Third World Quarterly*, Volume 38, 2017 - Issue 8, pp. 1691-1709, November 2016,

11: Violence, State-building and Reconstruction.

- Samer Abboud, "Social Change, Network Formation and Syria's War Economies", *Middle East Policy*, March 2017.
- David Chandler, "Peace building as State building", Chapter 4, *Rethinking Peace and Conflict Studies*, 2017, pp. 69-91.
- Steven Heydemann, "Beyond Fragility: Syria and the Challenges of Reconstruction in Fierce States", *The New Geopolitics: Middle East Foreign Policy*, Brookings, June 2018, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/beyond-fragility-syria-and-the-challenges-of-reconstruction-in-fierce-states/>
- Scott Kirsch and Colin Flint, "Geographies of reconstruction: Re-thinking post-war spaces", Chapter 2, "The Politics of International Intervention" *The Tyranny of Peace*, 2016, pp. 39- 58.

12: Peace Operations and the Middle East.

- Richard Falk, "The United Nations and the Middle East: a guide for the perplexed", "The International Relations of the Contemporary Middle East Subordination and Beyond", Chapter 9, 2013.
- Susann Kassem, "Peacekeeping, Development, and Counterinsurgency: The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon and "Quick Impact Projects," in Karim Makdisi and Vijay Prashad (eds.), *Land of Blue Helmets: The United Nations and the Arab World* (University of California Press, 2017, pp. 460-480.
- Karim Makdisi, "Reconsidering the Struggle over UNIFIL in Southern Lebanon", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 43 No. 2, Winter 2014; (pp. 24-41).

13: Fossil Fuels & the Geopolitics of Climate Change.

- Simon Dalby, "Climate security in the Anthropocene" (Chapter 3), *Reimagining Climate Change*, 2016, pp. 30-48.
- Bill McKibben, "Recalculating the Climate Math", *The New Republic*, September 2016, <https://newrepublic.com/article/136987/recalculating-climate-math>
- Timothy Mitchell, "Carbon democracy", *Economy and Society*, 38:3, 399-432, 2009.
- Shirley V. Scott, "Implications of climate change for the UN Security Council: mapping the range of potential policy responses", *International Affairs*, November 2015.

14: Student paper presentations + course wrap-up.