

American University of Beirut
Department of Political Studies and Public Administration

PSPA 310
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

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

Fall 2017

Meeting Time:

Tuesdays
3:30 pm-6:00 pm
Nicely 416

Office hours:

Mon. & Wed.
1pm-2:30 pm
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: *20% of grade.*

Week 2 Memo: "What topic/question are you interested in researching? How does it relate to the theories discussed by Walt and/or questions about IR research noted by Vitalis, Lake, and/or Bilgin?" Length 2-3 pages. Due by noon of Sept 12. 5% of grade.

Write three (3) critical memos addressing reading(s) of the week (Weeks 3-10). This memo should offer a clear statement of the essay(s) claims, assess their strengths and limits, and discuss how the material might relate to your own research. Length 3-5 pages. Due by noon of relevant session (Weeks 3-10). 15% of grade (each).

Close reading/critique of a chapter of Christopher Phillips, *The Battle for Syria*.
Length 3-5 pages Due, noon before session of seminar (Weeks 11-13). 10% of grade.

A research proposal Length 8-10 pages. Due: Dec 12. 20% of grade.

Readings are available at <http://moodle.aub.edu.lb/course/view.php?id=6135>

Please note: All written work must be uploaded to moodle.

See moodle for syllabi updates, office hour availability, and other resources...

PART 1: THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

1. Introduction Sept. 5

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

2. IR Theory and the politics/practice of knowledge production Sept. 12

Week 2 Memo due - at noon

Stephen Walt, "International Relations: One world, Many theories," *Foreign Policy*, no. 110 (1998): 29-46.

Quito Swan, "Review of Robert Vitalis, *White World Order, Black Power Politics: The Birth of American International Relations* (Cornell, 2015)," *H-Diplo* August, 2016, pp. 1-3.

David A. Lake, "White Man's IR: An Intellectual Confession," *Perspectives on Politics* 14, 1 (2016): 1-11.

Pinar Bilgin, "Inquiring into Others' Conceptions of the International and Security," *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50, 3 (2017), pp. 652-655.

Please also review the following:

Zachary Shore, "How to Read, Part I: Dissecting a Text"

See also: Marc Trachtenberg, "The Coming of the First World War- A Reassessment.

Zachary Shore, "How to Read, Part II: Critiquing a Text"

See also: John Mueller, "The Obsolescence of Major War" (1990).

Stephen Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Cornell, 1997), pp. 89-113.

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

Additional resource:

Charles Lipson, *How to Write a BA Thesis* (Chicago, 2005)

PART 2: THEORETICAL APPROACHES

3. Realism and Balancing Sept. 19

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

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

F. Gregory Gause, "Ideologies, Alignments and Underbalancing in the New Middle East Cold War," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 50, No. 3 (July 2017).

Close reading of an "Intro Chapter":

Christopher Layne, *The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 to the Present* (Cornell, 2006), pp. 1-14.

4. Liberal Internationalism and its limits Sept. 26

Samuel Moyn, "Review of John Ikenberry's *Liberal Leviathan*," *The Nation*, Oct. 3, 2011, pp. 40-43.

Mark Duffield, *Global Governance and the New Wars: The Merging of Development and Security* (Zed, 2001), pp. 1-43.

Nevzat Soguk, *States and Strangers: Refugees and Displacements of Statecraft* (Minnesota, 1999), pp. 179-206.

5. Identity and Insecurity Oct. 3

Michael Barnett, "Identity and Alliances in the Middle East," in Katzenstein (ed.) *The Culture of National Security*, (Columbia 1996), pp. 400-447

David Campbell, *Writing Security: United States Foreign Policy and the Politics of Identity*, (Minnesota, 1992), pp. 1-15, 23-32.

K. M. Fierke, *Critical Approaches to International Security* (Polity, 2007), pp. 99-119.

Steve Niva, "Contested Sovereignities and Postcolonial Insecurities in the Middle East," in Jutta Weldes et al. (eds.) *Cultures of Insecurity* (Minnesota, 1999), pp. 147-172.

6. Marxism and Historical Sociology Oct. 10

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.

W. E. B. Du Bois, "The African Roots of War," *Atlantic Monthly* (May 1915): 707-714.

7. Postcolonialism and Critical Geopolitics Oct. 17

Siba Grovogui, "Postcolonialism," in Dunne, Kurki, and Smith, (eds.) *International Relations Theories* (Oxford, 2013).

Tarak Barkawi and Mark Laffey, "The postcolonial moment in security studies," *Review of International Studies* (2006): 329-352.

Stuart Elden, *Terror and Territory* (Minnesota, 2009), selections.

PART 3: ISSUES AND THEMES

8. Foreign Policies of Middle East states Oct. 24

Curtis R. Ryan, *Inter-Arab Alliances: Regime Security and Jordanian Foreign Policy* (Florida, 2009), pp. 3-60.

Hinnebusch and Ehteshami, "Foreign Policymaking in the Middle East; Complex Realism."

May Darwich, "The Ontological (In)security of Similarity Wahhabism Versus Islamism in Saudi Foreign Policy," *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 12 (2016), pp. 469-488.

Jamie Allison, *The Struggle for the State in Jordan* (I.B Tarris, 2016), pp. 1-18.

See also:

Fred Halliday, *The Middle East in International Relations* (Cambridge, 2005), pp. 41-71.

9. IPE: Labor and Capital in the Gulf Oct. 31

Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, *The Gulf States in International Political Economy* (Palgrave, 2016). *Selections*.

Adam Hanieh, "A Petrodollar and a Dream," *Jacobin* 13 (January 2014).

10. Lebanon as a "Weak State" in International Politics Nov. 7

Marie-Joëlle Zahar, "Internal Choice or External Fate? Recasting the Debate on Lebanon's Vulnerability," pp. 55-56.

Karim Makdisi, "Constructing Security Council Resolution 1701 for Lebanon in the Shadow of the 'War on Terror,'" *International Peacekeeping*, Vol.18, No.1 (Feb. 2011), pp. 4-20.

Shoghig Mikaelian and Bassel F. Salloukh, "Strong Actor in a Weak State: The Geopolitics of Hezbollah, in Mehran Kamrava, ed., *Fragile Politics: Weak States in the Greater Middle East* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).

Waleed Hazbun, "Assembling Security in a 'Weak State:' The Contentious Politics of Plural Governance in Lebanon since 2005," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 37, No. 6 (2016): 1053-1070.

Bassel F. Salloukh, "Overlapping Contests and Middle East International Relations: The Return of the Weak Arab State," *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 50(3), (2007), pp. 660-663.

PART 4: SYRIA AND REGIONAL GEOPOLITICS

11. The International and regional context of the Syrian Conflict Nov. 14

Christopher Phillips, *The Battle for Syria: International Rivalry in the New Middle East* (Yale, 2016), pp. 1-82.

See also:

The Political Science of Syria's War *POMEPS Studies* 5 (December 18, 2013)

<https://pomeps.org/2013/12/19/political-science-and-syrias-war/>

No class Nov. 21 (Middle East Studies Association Meeting)

Nov. 21 Draft of prospectus is due

12. Civil War, Armed Conflict and Territorial Fragmentation Nov. 28

Christopher Phillips, *The Battle for Syria: International Rivalry in the New Middle East* (Yale, 2016), pp. 83-167.

13. Intervention and the Consequences for the Region Dec. 5

Christopher Phillips, *The Battle for Syria: International Rivalry in the New Middle East* (Yale, 2016), pp. 168-239.

Dec. 12 Final Research Proposal Due

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity:

I expect all students to follow the AUB Student Code of Conduct. Cheating or plagiarism will result in course failure without further warning.

Accessibility:

Please let me know if you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning due to any kind of disability, mental health, medical condition, or family situation so we can discuss privately and attempt to make accommodations.

Non-Discrimination:

All students, faculty and staff members at AUB should be free from any sort of discrimination, harassment, or abuse. To learn more about AUB policies or to report possible violations, please go to www.aub.ethicspoint.com.