

**FA 381 CONFLICT AND COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS:
ISLAM, DEMOCRACY, AND WAR**
Winter 2008

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This course examines the U.S. pursuit of the global war on terror (GWOT) within the Middle East and central Asia in the post 9-11 era. The context of the course is based on the changes to international politics, free markets, politico-military strategies, and the consequences of those changes in the post 9-11 era.

The general concern of the course is with the underlying domestic and international antecedents to the U.S. approach to the GWOT. The specific concern of the course is with the U.S. response to the situations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan and what such a response portends for the future.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Freedman, Lawrence. **A Choice of Enemies: America Confronts the Middle East.** New York: Public Affairs, 2008.

Rashid, Ahmed. **Descent Into Chaos: The United States and the Failure of Nation Building in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia.** New York: Viking Penguin, 2008.

RECOMMENDED

Nasr, Vali. **The Shia Revival: How Conflicts within Islam Will Shape the Future.** New York: W.W. Norton, 2007.

COMPETENCIES

Students must register for 1-2 of the following.

H-5 Can analyze issues and problems from a global perspective.

H-1-C Can explain the emergence, maintenance, or evolution of an economic or political system.

H-2-E Can compare one social, economic, or political institution in a society to a comparable institution in a different society.

FX Understands the dynamics of international relations and can evaluate the change from nation-states to market-states. Understands the problems inherent in building and maintaining democracies.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

The term grades will be based on short papers, and a final project (paper or class presentation), Short papers = 40%; final project = 40%; classroom participation = 20%. Any changes to grading, assignments or the weighting of particular assignments will be announced in class.

READING EXPECTATIONS:

You are responsible for assigned readings regardless whether those readings are covered in class. Changes to your reading responsibilities will be announced in class when necessary. It is also expected that you will read a daily newspaper searching for and reading those stories which relate to subject matter pertinent to this class. Participation grades will reflect: attendance, class discussion, and completion of assignments on time.

PAPERS

1.) All papers must be typed, double spaced, stapled (not enclosed in any binder or folder), possess standard margins, and contain a separate title page with paper title, author's name, course identification, and date. Your name should not appear on any other part of the paper.

2.) Deliberate plagiarism is assumed when you directly quote written material without attribution. Unconscious plagiarism is assumed if you inappropriately paraphrase written material without attribution. Any case of unconscious plagiarism results in an " F " for the paper. Any deliberate plagiarism results in an " F " for the term grade.

3.) All papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned due date. Late papers may be penalized one full letter grade per day after due date.

GENERAL CLASS RULES

1.) Failure to turn in a writing assignment results in zero for the assignment and reduction of final term grade by one letter.

2.) Early exits from class will be treated as absences unless prior notification concerning the reasons for such exits has been given to the instructor.

3.) Temporary exits from class are acceptable at any time without any prior approval as long as such exits are brief.

CLASS CALENDAR: You should complete the reading for an assigned day regardless what topic is being discussed in class that day. Short papers may be assigned on readings.

Week #1: Introduction to International Relations and the Cold War

Week #2: Post Vietnam Foreign Policy and Jimmy Carter

Read: Freedman, chap.1-4, pp. 1-83.

Week: #3: Ronald Reagan and the Middle East

Read: Freedman, chaps. 4-9, pp. 84-191

Week # 4: George H. W. Bush and the Persian Gulf War

Read: Freedman, chaps. 10-13, pp. 192-274

Week #5: Clinton and Pre 9-11 Foreign Policy Assumptions

Read: Freedman, chaps. 14-16, pp. 275-372.

Week #6: George W. Bush and Pre-Emptive War

Read: Freedman, chaps, 17-22, pp. 373-511.

Week #7: Afghanistan and Pakistan

Read: Rashid, chaps. 1-5, pp. 3-108

Week #8: Afghanistan and Pakistan

Read: Rashid, chaps. 6-10. pp. 109-218

Week #9:Afghanistan and Pakistan

Read: Rashid, chaps. 11-14, pp. 219-316

Week #10: Afghanistan and Pakistan

Read: Rashid, chaps. 15-18, pp. 317-404

Final projects and Presentations

Select Recommendations

Bacevich, Andrew J. **The New American Militarism: How Americans are Seduced by War**. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Bobbitt, Philip. The Shield of Achilles: War, Peace, and the Course of History. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003.

Fisk, Robert. The Great War for Civilization: The Conquest of the Middle East. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005.

Fromkin, David. A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1989.

Gordon, Michael, and General Bernard E. Trainor. The Generals' War: The Inside Story of the Conflict in the Gulf. New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1995.

Gordon, Michael, and General Bernard E. Trainor. Cobra II: The Inside Story of the Invasion and Occupation of Iraq. New York: Pantheon Books, 2006.

Harris, Sam. The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason. New York: W.W. Norton, 2004.

Hashim, Ahmed S. Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency in Iraq. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2006.

Huntington, Samuel P. The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996.

Pape, Robert A. Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. New York: Random House, 2006.

Packer, George. The Assassin's Gate: America in Iraq. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005.

Ricks, Thomas E. **Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq**. New York: Penguin Press, 2006.

Wright, Robin. Sacred Rage: The Wrath of Militant Islam. New York: Touchstone, 1985.

Zakaria, Fareed. The Future of Freedom: Illiberal Democracy at Home and Abroad. New York: Touchstone, 2004.