GOVT 491-01: ARAB FOREIGN POLICY IN THE GULF WARS

Department of Government
College of William & Mary
Fall 2011, Morton Hall 37
Thursday, 5-7:50pm

Professor: Debra Shushan
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Office Hours: Fridays 10-noon and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The overriding goal of this course is to train students to analyze the foreign policies of Arab states. The US-led wars against Iraq in 1990-91 and beginning in 2003 provide the context in which we will consider contemporary Arab foreign policy. The course commences with theoretical grounding in major approaches to foreign policy analysis, upon which students will draw in analyzing particular Arab foreign policies during the Gulf wars. Subsequently, we will examine the Gulf wars, their background, and significance within the Middle East. Within the seminar, we will consider the foreign policies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, the Palestinians, Saudi Arabia, and Libya during the US-led wars against Iraq, and students may choose to examine additional cases in their own research. The course concludes by bringing together theory and empirics in considering what, if anything, renders Arab foreign policy unique.

REQUIREMENTS:

Grades will be determined according to the following rubric:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Participation in Seminar</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biweekly Response Papers</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leading Class</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theory Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal for Research Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Participation includes three elements. Oral participation in seminar is required of all students, who are expected to complete the assigned readings and contribute actively to discussions. In addition, students will write biweekly response papers, a total of six during the course of the semester. In the response papers, students will comment on one or a few aspects of the readings that caught their attention and pushed them to reply, and/or to ask questions. Response papers should be one single-spaced page, and they must be posted on Blackboard under Assignments by 11am on the day they are due. Students will lead class twice during the course of the semester,
in pairs or groups of three. Students designated to lead class should meet with their partner/group to develop a joint plan for 1) presenting thought-provoking points in the readings and 2) posing discussion questions. Class leaders should prepare to speak for 20 minutes, and must provide Prof. Shushan with a copy of their presentation notes at the start of class.

Students will complete a theory essay (5-7 pages), in which they compare the assumptions and expectations of three approaches to foreign policy analysis (we will discuss these in Weeks 1-3 of class). This will help to prepare students for discussions of case studies, in which they will be expected to apply theoretical frameworks, as well as for their final papers. This essay will be due on Tuesday, September 27 at 5pm via dual submission (hard copy and post on Blackboard).

Class members will write a proposal for a research paper, detailing which foreign policies they will examine in their research papers. In the proposal, students should include their question, background information about the cases they will investigate, the possible independent variables (IVs) they will consider, evidence that would lend support to the causal power of each of these IVs, and some bibliographical sources to get them started on their research. Written proposals will be due in class on Thursday, October 27. Prof. Shushan will grade the proposals and schedule individual meetings with students to discuss their research papers.

The research paper (18-22 pages) asks students to compare either the foreign policy of a particular state during two different events, or the foreign policies of two Arab states in the same event (e.g. Moroccan foreign policy in the two Gulf wars or Moroccan and Algerian foreign policies in the 1990-91 war). Students will be expected to: 1) integrate theoretical approaches into their analysis, and 2) undertake substantial independent research of their cases. Students may not write on case studies we have already examined in class (e.g. Syrian foreign policy in the two Gulf wars), and have the option of looking beyond the Gulf wars for possible cases. The research paper will be due on Thursday, December 8 at 7pm.

CLASS POLICIES:

Fourth credit hour. Since this is a four-credit class, we must schedule some out-of-class meeting time to add an additional 12-13 hours. Students will be expected to attend 4 qualifying events (typically, lectures by visiting experts) over the course of the semester. I will post, and add to, a list of qualifying events on Blackboard.

Major writing requirement credit. You must earn a minimum of a C- in order for this seminar to fulfill your major writing requirement.

Attendance is crucial, and given the small number of total class meetings, missing one class is significant. Unexcused absences (those not documented by the Dean of Students or the Health Center) will detract from the participation grade. Any time a student is absent, s/he is responsible for the content, as well as any announcements, from the missed class. In this case, the absentee should seek guidance from a fellow student.
I will penalize *late papers*, with the sole exception of those accompanied by documentation from the Dean of Students or the Health Center. Otherwise, students will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day their papers are late.

*The Honor Code* is in effect, and you are responsible for adhering to its provisions against lying, cheating, and stealing (see [http://www.wm.edu/deanofstudents/judicial/thehonorcode.php](http://www.wm.edu/deanofstudents/judicial/thehonorcode.php)). Plagiarism is a particularly serious violation. If you have any questions about gray areas, as well as proper attribution and citation, please see me.

*Office hours* are an important resource, and I encourage students to come and talk with me about any questions, ideas, and paper topics. Please also let me know of any particular needs or concerns.

I may make *syllabus changes* during the course of the semester.

**Readings:**

Readings for the course generally will be posted on the Blackboard page for our class, under “Course Documents.” In several cases, Swem subscribes to the periodical in question through its Electronic Journals and you can view the article/book (and print it, if you choose) online. There are no books to purchase for the course at the W&M Bookstore.

**Course Outline:**

Thurs., August 25

**Introductory Meeting**

No assigned readings

Thursday, 1 September

**I. Foreign Policy Analysis I: International-Level Approaches**

*Readings:*


Thursday, 8 September

**II. Foreign Policy Analysis II: Domestic-Level Approaches (Material)**

*Readings:*


III. Foreign Policy Analysis III: Domestic-Level Approaches (Ideational)

Readings:

Marc Lynch (1999), State Interests and Public Spheres: The International Politics of Jordan’s Identity, Chapters 1-2, pp. 1-70.


IV. Gulf War I

Readings:


theory Essay Due: Tuesday, 27 September at 5pm

Thursday, 22 September

V. Gulf War II

Readings:


Wednesday, 13 October

VI. Case Study I: Egypt in the Gulf Wars

Readings:


Thursday, 20 October

**VII. Case Study II: Jordan in the Gulf Wars**

*Readings:*


Thursday, 27 October

*Proposal for Research Paper due in class.*

**VIII. Case Study III: Syria in the Gulf Wars**

*Readings:*


Thursday, 3 November

**IX. Case Study IV: Palestinians in the Gulf Wars**

*Readings:*


Thursday, 10 November

**X. Case Study V: Saudi Arabia in the Gulf Wars**

*Readings:*


Thursday, 17 November

**XI. Case Study VI: Libya in the Gulf Wars**

*Readings:*


*For more Libya fun, check out Muammar Gathafi’s website at www.algathafi.org*

As evident in the Green Book, the Brother Leader doesn't shy away from sharing his thoughts.

Thursday, 24 November NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Thursday, 1 December

**XII. Theory & Practice: Is There Anything Distinctive About Arab Foreign Policy?**

*Readings:*


**Research Paper Due: Thursday, December 8 at 7pm**