

## ES 455B:THE MIDDLE EAST

Instructor: Ibrahim G. Aoudé

Office Hours: George Hall 339; Tuesday, 12:00 -12:50 and by appointment

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The course has a Writing Intensive (W) and Oral Communication (O) Focus designations. It is intended to provide a basic knowledge about the Middle East. The readings, guest speakers, videos, lectures, and student participation will facilitate the intended goal. Further, the course is interactive and relies significantly on student participation. In this course you will: (1) gain experience in writing, research, oral presentations and discussion; (2) be introduced to interdisciplinary inquiry; (3) be encouraged to practice critical thinking; and (4) become familiar with the study of the Middle East using the historic method in a global context.

### Texts:

Bayoumi, Moustapha and Andrew Rubin (eds.). *The Edward Said Reader*. Vintage, 2000

Feffer, John (ed.). *Power Trip:U.S. Unilateralism and Global Strategy After September 11*. Seven Stories Press, 2003

Gerner, Deborah and Jillian Schwedler (eds.). *Understanding the Middle East*. Lynne Rienner, 2004

Mahajan, Rahul. *Full Spectrum Dominance: U.S. Power in Iraq and Beyond*. Seven Stories Press, 2003

Reinhart, Tanya. *Israel/Palestine: How to End the War of 1948*. Seven Stories Press, 2005

### Grading:

Research paper	30 pts.
Presentation of research paper	05 pts.
1 Presentations on a reading	20 pts.
4 3-page papers (5 points each)	20 pts.
Class Participation	15 pts.
Attendance	10 pts.
<hr/> Total	<hr/> 100 pts.

**Research Paper:** You will write a ten-page paper plus map(s) on a topic agreed to by instructor. Focus on the past 60 years. The instructor will discuss the topic with each of you individually.

**Research Paper Presentation:** The presentation must be ten minutes long. You may use videos, slides, maps or anything else that may enhance the quality of your presentation. It is essential to have one-on-one meetings with the instructor in advance to ensure a high-quality presentation.

**Presentation on a Reading:** The presentation must be 20-minutes long. The instructor will distribute a presentation schedule during the second week of classes. Presentations begin in the third week and end in the 15<sup>th</sup> week. Select a reading assigned for the particular date of the presentation. One-on-one meetings with the instructor prior to the oral presentation will be scheduled to go over content and oral presentation of the material to guarantee effectiveness and relative ease in conveying main ideas.

**Oral Communication Assignments and Learning Outcomes:** The 20-minute and ten-minute presentations contribute to improving your public speaking skills and allow you to better learn course content as you organize arguments and provide support for them. Do not read the oral presentations. However, you may use notes.

**Class Participation:** Questions, comments, etc. allow you to think critically and on your feet, as it were. Class participation may also be regarded as an indirect way to critique student presentations and encourage group interaction. In addition, each student will watch two half-hour videos during the semester on a website to be provided by the instructor and write (on the website) a substantive one-paragraph commentary on each video. Each student will give a brief description of and a commentary on each video in class.

**Four Three-page papers:** Write a paper on each of the first three texts and a paper on either Feffer or Mahajan, discussing two or three major themes in each work. Paper will be due on the date indicated on the syllabus. One rewrite is allowed for each paper except for the last one due to time constraints. However, you may hand in a draft of the last paper on which you choose to write at least one week before the due date. Rewrites must be submitted within one week from the time the instructor returns them. Initial submissions must be attached to the rewrites. **NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

**Schedule:**

Abbreviations: G: Gerner & Schwedler; S: Said Reader; R: Reinhart; JF: John Feffer; RM: Rahul Mahajan.

Aug.

T 26 Introduction: The course

R 28 G: ch. 1; S: pp. xi-xxxiv

Sep.

T 2 G: ch. 2; S: ch. 4: pp. 63-66

R 4 S: ch.4: pp. 67-113

T 9 G: ch. 3

R 11 G: ch. 4

T 16 S: ch. 6: pp. 169-194

R 18 G: ch. 5

T 23 S: ch. 2: pp. 14-37; R: Introduction and ch. 1  
R 25 G: ch. 6

T 30 R: chs. II & III

Oct.

R 2 S: ch. 5: pp. 114-168

T 7 R: chs. IV, V & VI

R 9 G: ch. 7; R: ch. VII

T 14 G: ch. 8; R: chs. VIII & IX. **Gerner Paper Due**

R 16 S: ch. 10: pp. 267-290

T 21 R: ch. X, Appendix & Epilogue

R 23 S: ch. 15: pp. 382-398

T 28 G: ch. 9

R 30 S: ch. 9: pp. 243-266. **Said Paper Due**

Nov.

T 4 ELECTION DAY

R 6 G: ch. 10

T 11 VETERANS' DAY

R 13 JF: Preface & Introduction, chs. 1 & 2. **Reinhart Paper Due**

T 18 S: ch 14: pp. 368-381; JF: ch. 3 pp. 50-84

R 20 G: ch. 11; JF: ch. 3 pp. 85-116

T 25 G: ch. 12; JF: ch. 4 pp. 117-138

R 27 G: ch. 13; JF: chs. 5 & 6. **Feffer Paper Due**

Dec.

T 2 S: ch. 16: pp. 399-415; RM: Introduction & chs. 1-3.

R 4 S: ch. 17: pp. 419-444; RM: chs. 4-6

T 9 RM: chs. 7-9 & Conclusion. **Mahajan Paper Due**

R 11 Student Presentations. **LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION**

### **Research paper:**

The paper must be ten pages long, not including bibliography. It must also have: (1) a title; (2) an introduction stating the topic, why it was chosen, the sources used, the method(s) used, and the organization of the essay; (3) body (with sub-headings); (4) a conclusion clearly identified as such; (5) references to sources used (endnotes, footnotes or embedded notes) where needed; and (6) a bibliography, which must not include sources not referenced in the text.

**Note:** I will be happy to read a draft of your research paper if given to me at least one week before the scheduled oral presentation. You would do well to take advantage of this opportunity.

**A note on academic writing:** The writing assignments are to train the student in critical analysis. It is quite legitimate to refer to works of other writers. In fact, it is necessary to do so in the research paper. In this case, the student must give a complete citation: the author(s), complete title of work, year published, publishing press, relevant page(s), and whether you are quoting directly or simply referring to the author's ideas. In the former case (direct quotes), author's text must be in quotes and follow the original exactly. Otherwise, plagiarism might be committed. That is, the writer of the research paper might be illegitimately using someone else's ideas. The University of Hawai'i academic policy prohibits plagiarism. The student who commits plagiarism will automatically fail the course. Further disciplinary action may also be taken toward the student.

Any time you need to talk about any aspect of the course: research, writing or reading assignments, come and see me. I am here to help you succeed.