

# Course Syllabus and Policy Requirement Statement

## SEC 6335 Security Issues in the Middle East I

### Course Description/Overview

This course examines key security issues affecting U.S. national interests in the Middle East. The course analyzes the history, culture, religion, geography and demographics of the region. The course will also examine the dynamics of interaction between the Middle East and the West. Key security issues the course will address include, but are not limited to, the Middle East peace process, Persian Gulf security, access to Middle East petroleum reserves and the promotion of democracy. The course will explore the nature of jihad in the Middle East, the relationship between religion and state governments. Additionally, questions of ethnic cleansing and human rights will be addressed.

### Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

As a result of completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Comprehend the key security challenges in the contemporary Middle East
- Analyze the evolution of regional security problems from the Cold War to the current era
- Analyze the strategic challenges that U.S. policy makers face in the area of counter insurgency, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, energy security and regional peace prospects.

### Grading Policies

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due
Discussion Thread participation	30%	Occurs in weeks with no written assignment
First Essay (Mid term)	30%	Sunday at the end of Week 5 before 2100 hrs. Central Time. <b>8 - 10 pages</b>
Final Essay	40%	Friday at the end of week 8 before 2100 hrs. Central Time. <b>12 - 15 pages</b>

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

A = 90 – 100 %

B = 80 – 89 %

C = 70 – 79 %

D = 60 – 69 %

F = 59 % and below.

## Discussion

Selected classes have the lists of 2-3 questions, which they are expected to cover using the Blackboard tool during their discussions. The students will be divided into groups within which they are expected to fully cover the aspects raised in the questions. The length of the responses shall not be less than 300 words. There are no discussion questions for the weeks with presentations, mid-term and final paper.

## Mid-term

Mid Term Essay due Sunday at the end of Week 5 no later than 9pm.

## Final exam

The final exam due Friday of Week 8 no later than 9pm

# Course Organization:

Lesson 1:

**The Historical-Cultural Context of Middle East Security Issues:** Week one examines the rise and fall of the Ottoman Empire and the subsequent European colonization of Arab peoples. We then examine the development of anti-colonial movements in the Middle East and the early Arab struggles with Zionist settlers. Among the issues analyzed are the rise of Pan Arab nationalism, Islamist anti-colonial movements, colonial humiliation, and the early conflicts between Arabs and Jews in Pre Israel Palestine, The section concludes by examining the struggle for national independence in the Middle East, rise of Israel, and the formation of authoritarian Arab regimes and key regional conflicts during the Cold War.

Lesson 2:

**War and Conflict in the Middle East:** Week two looks at the historical, religious, and political origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict and the prospects for regional peace and stability. Among the issues explored are the development of the Zionist movement, the impact of the Holocaust on Israel's formation and the Jewish states conflict with the Palestinians and surrounding Arab states. The section examines the region's major wars, success and failure of the peace process and assesses the obstacles that remain in the path of a comprehensive and permanent peace in the region. Finally, the formation of a staunchly anti-Israel coalition composed of Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas are analyzed.

Lesson 3:

**Rise of Islamist and Fundamentalist Jihadism:** Week three looks at the emergence of the Islamist movement, its conflict with the Pan Arabists and its spawning of radial jihadist ideology and terror networks. At war with both the near enemy (Muslim Apostate governments) and the far enemy (U.S.), the jihadists pose a severe threat to regional stability. Among the case studies examined are Muslim Brotherhood, the Algerian civil war of the 1990's and the rise of Al Qaeda. The section concludes by

assessing the war on terror and its ability to defeat the jihadist movement.

#### Lesson 4:

**The Iranian Nemesis:** Week four analyzes the origins of the Iranian Revolution of 1979 and the development of Iranian Islamic state. Among the issues analyzed are the Shah's Rule, the White Revolution 1953-1979, Shia Radicalism and the Iranian Revolution, the domestic and foreign policies of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary state. The section will conclude by looking at the security challenge of Iranian policy including its quest for nuclear weapons, its opposition to the U.S., desire to destroy Israel and its strategic alliance with Syria, Hamas, and Hezbollah.

#### Lesson 5:

**Persian Gulf, Energy Security and Wars:** Week five examines the strategic importance of the Persian Gulf that has been a center of U.S. foreign policy since the Second World War. Among the issues examined are Saudi-U.S. relations, the rise of OPEC, the emergence of Baathist rule in Iraq, Iran and Iraq war and the first Persian Gulf War. The week concludes by assessing the future economic and security challenges for the United States posed by developments in the Persian Gulf.

#### Lesson 6:

**Security Implications of the Arab Spring:** Week six analyzes the emergence of the Arab Spring Movement that is currently convulsing the region. Among the more specific issues examined are the fall of the Tunisian, Egyptian and Libyan governments, and the security challenges the U.S. faces in region convulsed by rapid change and turmoil. Finally, the prospect for the development of stable Arab democratic regimes is assessed and the security implications for U.S. foreign policy are evaluated.

#### Lesson 7:

**The Islamic State:** Week seven examines the emergence of the Islamic State. It discusses its fifth wave Islamist world-view and its caliphate centric strategy. It looks at the movement's emergence in the wake of the Arab Spring's turmoil and examines how the network has changed the jihadist struggle in Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Libya. It also explores the movement's future which is intimately tied to the success or failure of the larger war on terror.

#### Lesson 8:

**Assessment:** Final essay is due on Friday no later than 9pm

## Course Bibliography and Required Readings:

### Books

Anthony Celso Post 9-11 Devolution: The Failed Jihadist War against the Near and Far Enemy [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (Kindle Edition)

Anthony Celso The Islamic State: A Comparative History of Jihadist Warfare (Latham: Lexington Books, 2018) [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (Kindle Edition)

The Council on Foreign Relations. [The New Arab Revolt: What happened, What it means, and What Comes Next?](#)

Walid Phares, [The Coming Revolution: The Struggle for Freedom in the Middle East](#)

Noam Chomsky and Ilan Pappé, [Gaza in Crisis: Israel's War against the Palestinians](#)

## Articles

Aaron Zelin, "[A Year after Baghuz the Islamic State is neither Defeated nor Resurging \(yet\)](#)"  
Washington Institute for Near East Policy March 2020

Amos Yadlin and Avner Golov, [If attacked how would Iran respond?](#) Strategic Assessment Vol 16, No 3 (October 2013)

Anthony Celso, "[Phase IV Operations in the War on Terror: Comparing Iraq and Afghanistan](#)" (Orbis: Spring 2010)

Avi Beker, "[Exploring how Post-Zionists manipulate history](#)"

Charles Lister, "[Profiling the Islamic State](#)" *Brookings Doha Center Analysis Paper* No. 13 November 2014

[CTC Sentinel 13:1 \(2020\)](#) January 2020 Vol 13 Issue 1

CTC Sentinel "[Syria: a Wicked Problem for All](#)" August 2013 Vol 6. Issue 8

David Barnett and Efraim Karsh, "[Azzam's Genocidal Threat](#)" *Middle East Quarterly* (Fall 2011)

David Makovsky, "[Imagining the Border: Options for Resolving the Israeli-Palestinian Territorial Issue](#)" Strategic Report 6 (January 2011) Washington Institute for Near Eastern Policy

"[Hezbollah as a Strategic Arm of Iran](#)" Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies (2006)

Ken Pollack, "[The Fall, Rise and Fall of Iraq](#)" Brookings Paper (July 2013)

Lieutenant Colonel David Kilcullen, "[Countering Global Insurgency](#)" article attached to Instructional Narrative: Lesson 6

Michael Bröning, "The Sturdy House that Assad built: Why Damascus is not Cairo?" In [The New Arab Revolts](#) (Kindle Edition)

Michael Eisenstadt, "[The Strategic Culture of the Islamic Republic of Iran](#)" MES Monograph August 2011

Marin Indyk, "[Back to the Bazaar](#)" in Foreign of Council Relations The New Arab Revolts

## Audio Visual

[Secular Left Liberal Critique of Islamism](#): Examining the Work of Paul Berman (week 3)

## Communication

### Office Hours/Contacting the Instructor

See the Instructor Information section for contact information.

## University Policies

**Academic Integrity** Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university [Academic Honor Code](#) and the [ASU Student Handbook](#).

### **Accommodations for Disability**

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing [studentservices@angelo.edu](mailto:studentservices@angelo.edu), or by contacting:

Office of Student Affairs  
University Center, Suite 112  
325-942-2047 Office  
325-942-2211 FAX

### **Student absence for religious holidays**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.