

POL 481: International Relations of the Middle East
U.S.-Iran Confrontation
Spring 2008
3 credit hours
Wednesday 6:00-8:50 p.m. AB1 302

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Office Hours:
Tues 4:50-5:10 p.m.
Wed 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Thur 3:00-3:25 and 4:50-6:00 p.m.
and by appointment

Course description and goals

This is an upper-division undergraduate course at the intersection of International Relations and Comparative Politics. Students will learn how to analyze American foreign policy options and challenges. This class is designed to help students learn how to: (1) write a publishable book review; (2) critically read and evaluate books and policy proposals; (3) formulate policy for think tanks and NGOs; and (4) analyze and formulate policy options for various governmental institutions (e.g., NSC, State Department).

The first hour and a half of each session, I will lecture presenting the background and context of that session's topic. In the following hour, each student discusses his or her understanding of that session's assigned readings. It is imperative for each student's success that he or she develops a regular study schedule that permits keeping up with the assignment at all times.

Do NOT freak out at the long reading list. Many of the articles are only a few pages long and are very easy to understand.

Course objectives

- (1) Students will learn factual information;
- (2) Students will learn concepts, theories and paradigms; and
- (3) Students will learn critical thinking skills.

Attendance policy

Class attendance is mandatory. It is imperative that you attend all the lectures. If you are going to miss a class, ask a friend to tape the lecture for you. Rolls will be taken. Anyone with 3 absences (that are not excused) will receive an "F." Permission to submit late papers will rarely be given and only a dire situation will warrant one.

Religious holy day or days

A student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day or days or to travel for the purpose of religious observance may take an examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time. The student should inform me before or immediately after the absence in writing (e-mail preferred). The student will have 15 days to complete the assignment or take the exam. If you are to miss the lecture, have a fellow student tape the lecture for you. Absence due to religious holy day does not count towards the 3 absences.

Academic dishonesty

I have zero tolerance for plagiarism. Anyone caught cheating will receive “F” for the course and will be referred to the Associate Vice President for Student Services for further disciplinary action. When in doubt, share where you got the idea with full citation.

Attention student with disabilities

It is the policy of SHSU that individuals that otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs, nor shall they be subject to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with me so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Visitors in the classroom

If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor’s discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom. As a rule, I have no objections to “tourists” if extra seats are available.

Instructor evaluations

Students will be asked to complete a course/instructor evaluation form towards the end of the semester.

Classroom rules of conduct

The Code of Student Conduct and Discipline is found at the following link:

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

1st Mid-Term Exam

The first exam may be a combination of multiple choice, short essay questions, and map exam.

Oral Presentation

Choose one of the assigned or optional readings, and present a 10-15 minute report to the class.

Book Reviews

Write “publishable” book reviews of the three assigned books. Each review should be around 1,500 words (no less than 800 and no more than 2,500 words). A detailed guide plus three examples will be provided in class.

Course grade will be computed as follows:

1 st Mid-Term Exam	20
Oral Presentation	10
Postel Book Review	20
Bauder Book Review	20
Delpech Book Review	30
Total	100

Textbooks:

Therese Delpech, *Iran and the Bomb: The Abdication of International Responsibility* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007).

Julia Bauder, ed., *Is Iran a Threat to Global Security?* (New York: Greenhaven Press, 2006).

Danny Postel, *Reading Legitimation Crisis in Tehran: Iran and the Future of Liberalism* (Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press, 2006), distributed by the University of Chicago Press.

A number of assignments have been placed on Reserve at the library. Some articles are available through our library's electronic collections. A few will be handed out in class.

Please note that the course outline is tentative.

OUTLINE

January 16: Hi

January 23 : How American Foreign Policy is Made

film: 13 Days

January 30: Theories of International Relations and Foreign Policy

* Ole Holsti, "Theories of International Relations," available at:
www.duke.edu/~pfeaver/holsti.pdf (62 pages).

Feb 6: American Grand Strategy? Nature (and Polarity) of the Post-Cold War International System? American Foreign Policy in the post-9/11 era. The Bush Doctrine

* Charles Krauthammer, "The Unipolar Moment Revisited," *The National Interest*, Winter 2002-03, pp. 5-17. Available in our library.

* Interview with Robert Jervis, "American Foreign Policy in a New Era." This is a one-hour video. Access it in this site: <http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/911/courses/interviews.html>. {if you have time also see the interview with one of the following persons: James Fallows, David Frum, Michale Mann, Ian Lustick, James Mann, Walter Russell Mead, and Stephen Walt}

* Masoud Kazemzadeh, *U.S.-Iran Confrontation: Alternative Scenarios and Consequences*, chs. 1-2. Will be handed out in class. (28 pages).

OPTIONAL: Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilization?" in *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, No. 3 (Summer 1993).

OPTIONAL: Francis Fukuyama, "The End of History?" in *National Interest*, (Summer 1989).

OPTIONAL: Stephen G. Brooks and William C. Wohlforth, "American Primacy in Perspective," in *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 81, No. 4 (July/August 2002).

Feb 13: American Foreign Policy: Presidential Leadership

* Eugene Wittkopf, Charles Kegley, Jr., and James Scott, *American Foreign Policy Pattern and Process*, 6th edition (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson, 2003), ch. 10, pp. 321-348, 354-356. On Reserve.

Feb 20: American Foreign Policy: Bureaucracy and Agencies

1st Mid-Tern Exam

* Eugene Wittkopf, Charles Kegley, Jr., and James Scott, *American Foreign Policy Pattern and Process*, 6th edition (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson, 2003), ch. 11, pp. 359-394, 399-400. On Reserve.

Feb 27, March 5: Nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran

* Patrick H. O'Neil, Karl Fields, and Dan Share, "Iran," in *Cases in Comparative Politics*, 2nd ed. pp. 311-349. On Reserve.

* Masoud Kazemzadeh, "Ahmadinejad's Foreign Policy," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (2007). Available at our library.

* watch the PBS Newshour program on Iran's nuclear program:

part 1 (9 minutes): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7K-ftQtNx8&eurl=>

part 2 (8 minutes): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mZ3FtntA5wk>

OPTIONAL: International Crisis Group, "Iran: Ahmadi-Nejad Tumultuous Presidency," February 6, 2007; <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4647>

OPTIONAL: Elliot Hen-Tov, "Understanding Iran's New Authoritarianism," *The Washington Quarterly*, vol. 30, no. 1 (Winter 2006-07), pp. 163-179.

http://www.twq.com/07winter/docs/07winter_hentov.pdf

No Class on March 12 (enjoy your Spring Break)

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March 19: Iranian Politics

* Danny Postel, *Reading Legitimation Crisis in Tehran: Iran and the Future of Liberalism* (Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press, 2006). Read the entire book.
Review of Postel's book due at 6:00 p.m.

March 26: History of U.S.-Iran Relations

* film: BBC, "End of Empire: Iran"
I will be attending ISA annual meetings. This class will last only 1 hour. Someone will show the film.

April 2: U.S. Policy Options on Iran

* Masoud Kazemzadeh, "The Perils and Costs of a Grand Bargain with the Islamic Republic of Iran," *American Foreign Policy Interests*, Vol. 29, Issue 5 (October 2007). On Reserve.
* Flynt Leverett, "Dealing with Tehran: Assessing U.S. Diplomatic Options Toward Iran," December 4, 2006, (<http://www.tcf.org/list.asp?type=PB&pubid=595>).

April 9: U.S. Policy Options on Iran

* Masoud Kazemzadeh, "U.S.-Iran Confrontation in the Aftermath of the November 2007 National Intelligence Estimate: Policy Options for the Next President." Handed out in class.
* Norman Podhoretz, "The Case for Bombing Iran: I hope and pray that President Bush will do it," *Wall Street Journal*, May 30, 2007, (<http://www.opinionjournal.com/federation/feature/?id=110010139>). This is a neo-conservative perspective. Podhoretz is foreign policy advisor to Rudy Giuliani.
* watch this Dan Rather interview with Iranian Baloch guerrilla leader AbdulMalik Rigi at: <http://www.hd.net/iran.html> (It is about 54 minutes).

OPTIONAL: David Hastings Dunn, "'Real men want to go to Tehran': Bush, pre-emption and the Iranian nuclear challenge," *International Affairs*, vol. 83, no. 1 (2007).

April 16: U.S. Policy Options on Iran

* Julia Bauder, ed., *Is Iran a Threat to Global Security?* (New York: Greenhaven Press, 2006).
Read the entire book.
Review of Bauder's book due in class at 6:00 p.m.

April 23-30: Is Iran's Possession of Nuclear Weapons Desirable or Dangerous?

* Mehdi Khalaji, *Apocalyptic Politics: On the Rationality of Iranian Policy* (Washington, D.C.: The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, January 2008) available at <http://washingtoninstitute.org/download.php?file=PolicyFocus79.pdf> (this is about 40 pages)

* watch video debate between Kenneth Waltz and Scott Sagan, February 8, 2007 held at SIPA, Columbia University (89 minutes video): http://www.dkv.columbia.edu/demo/video/sipa-nuclear_iran.html

* watch video: watch the following talk (and Q&A) by Graham Allison on Iran. Click on the icon “View the video” at this link:

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC07.php?CID=294>. There are 4 small video files that you have to click and watch one by one. Total time is about 45 minutes. I also recommend that you watch the talk and Q&A with Richard Haass if you have time (another 45 minutes).

May 7: Iran and the Bomb

* Therese Delpech, *Iran and the Bomb: The Abdication of International Responsibility* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007). Read the entire book.

Review of Delpech’s book due at 6:00 p.m.

We might devote May 7 to remaining oral presentations, and postpone the book review due date to May 14. The final decision will be made by a majority vote of students by April 16.