**SIS619.002**

**Understanding Conflict in Syria and Iraq**

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| Fall 2015 | Mohamed Alaa Abdel-Moneim |
| Tuesdays 5:30pm 8:00pm | moneim@american.edu |
| Classroom: SIS102Office: EQB 308 | Office Hours:  Wednesday 10:30pm-3:30pm Thursdays 10:30am-3pm Or by appointment |
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**Introduction**

About a century ago, the present map of states in the Middle East was drawn, mainly in Western capitals, following WWI and the defeat of the Ottoman Empire. This map has survived with some adjustments to the present day. It witnessed the creation of new states and the disintegration of others, the development of independence movements and the end of “classical” colonialism, the rise of Arab nationalism and political Islam, and the interplay of Cold War dynamics followed by a new international system dominated by the United States. While the US under President Obama aimed at reducing its military and security commitments in the region, Middle Eastern issues have proven too intertwined with the global system to abandon.

The development of mass politics in the region toward the end of 2010, widely known as the Arab Awakening or the Arab Spring, created hopes that the Middle East, like other regions throughout the world, could be going through a democratic transition. Decades of research on Arab exceptionalism and authoritarian resistance in the Arab world opened way to discussions of the region’s potential for change through the role of youth activism, social media, and pro-democracy mobilization. But the history of authoritarianism and repression in the region seemed too prevalent to navigate through. Autocratic tendencies, both domestically and regionally, moved quickly to consolidate their presence. The rise of sectarianism, civil wars, and institutional collapse are reflections of historical legacies as well as regional and international power dynamics.

 The conflicts in Syria and Iraq exemplify historical trajectories, nation building projects, identity conflicts, authoritarian upgrading, regional and global competition, and the obstacles to peaceful democratic transitions in the region. The rise of ISIS in two countries that have witnessed sectarian rule and repressive Baathist regimes testify to the divisive role played by post-independence regimes supported by networks of regional and international allies. Despite their unintended consequences in terms of sectarian violence, the Arab popular revolts reflect the agency of Arab youth and educated middle classes. These forces could be mobilized as assets for peaceful democratic transition in the region.

While a number of observers argue that the rise of sectarianism and terrorist organizations in Syria and Iraq reflect the failure of the nation state project in Arab countries generally, other scholars and practitioners believe that peaceful settlement can be achieved through inclusion and learning from previous mistakes.

This course provides a background for understanding state creation and state-society relations in the Middle East. It focuses on state creation, the rise of Arab nationalism and political Islam, the role of regional and international forces, and authoritarian structures in Syria and Iraq. The purpose is to create a framework for understanding the conflict in both countries through a perspective that encompasses domestic, regional, and international dynamics. The course addresses solutions to addressing the situation in both countries as one conflict that needs an integrated approach to solve, while recognizing the differences in context between both countries.

As conflicts with regional and international implications, different approaches can be used to address the issues involved; i.e. international relations, US foreign policy etc. Class discussions and input from students therefore play central roles in this class.

**Class Structure**

In order to enhance the benefits from class discussions and exchange of knowledge, each student will be required to post 5 questions about the readings by noon each Monday. The questions you pose could be fact-based or more analytical.

Fact-based questions are more of the “What” questions. For example: “What are the main arguments in Sayyed Qutb’s ‘Milestones?’” Analytical questions could be in the form of “Why” and “How” questions. For example, “How has different interpretations of Islamic Shari’a shaped the interactions among Islamic groups, and the relations between these groups and their governments?”

In summary, student input will be the main foundation of the class. Starting the third week of classes, each class will be structured as follows:

1. ***News Updates***: At the beginning of each class, each student should bring at least one update from the region. These updates could include domestic, regional, or international news relevant to the region.
2. ***Summary of the Readings***: I will present a summary of the readings and introduce topics for discussion.
3. ***Discussion Questions***: Each student will choose one of the discussion questions he or she has posted to discuss. Each student will be assigned 10 minutes to lead a discussion on his or her questions. If you find that you have common question that another colleague wants to discuss, you are welcome to coordinate together and lead a discussion on your shared questions.

These questions and the discussions you introduce in class will be part of the participation grade.

1. ***Class Presentation***: In the second week of classes, each student will sign up to present at least one of the readings in one week of classes.
2. ***General Discussion***

**Assignments**

In addition to the news updates, class presentations, and discussion questions, three written assignments are required for this course.

1. Op-ed: written for a newspaper such as the Washington Post. The purpose here is to address a current issue and present the readers with a specific perspective to view and understand it in a concise and attractive manner.
2. Policy memo: This is a short policy memo (2-4 pages double-spaced) written to inform the reader (typically a decision maker) of a current issue that requires taking action, and an evaluation of the policy options available.
3. Research Paper: This research paper should reflect your understanding of methods and approaches to studying the conflict in Syria and Iraq. The final paper should be 15-20 pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman, font 12. It should address a clear research question, methodology to answering this question, definitions of key concepts and variables, and main results.

Guidelines for the Op-ed, policy memo, paper proposal, and the Research Paper will be posted on Blackboard.

Extra assignments are always welcome. Please feel free to e-mail me if you have an article, a book, or a paper that you are working on and is relevant to the topics we discuss in case you want to present it in class. You can do your presentation before we start discussing our readings. Extra assignments will be graded for an extra credit.

**Required Readings**

All class readings will be made available on E-Reserve, and the textbooks that we will rely upon will be available on 2-hour reserve in the library.

**Evaluation**

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| Participation (discussion questions and participation in class discussion) | 20% |
| Weekly Updates | 10% |
| Op-Ed | 10% |
| Policy Memo | 15 |
| Paper Proposal | 10% |
| Final Paper | 35% |

**General Advice**

Class participation is a main pillar for this class. In order to participate effectively, please remember that quality is more important than quantity. A strong participation grade requires that you have consistently demonstrated critical understanding of the assigned readings, carefully listened to and respected the opinions of your classmates and the instructor, and contributed through constructive comments.

Time management is critical to your success in this course. A number of sessions will include a lot of readings, and it is important to manage your time to be able to complete the readings before class and come prepared for presentation, participation, and other activities in class.

I understand that people have different participation styles and that participating in class discussions might not be everyone’s preferred alternative for participation. Having said this, discussion, debates, and presentations are integral parts of this class, and every student is expected to contribute to these activities. If you have any concerns regarding the rules of participation, please discuss them with me no later than the second week of classes.

**Late Work, Extensions, Make-up Assignments, and Incompletes**

Late assignments will be penalized one full letter grade (for example; from A to B). Exemptions can only be granted in cases of emergencies that are certifiable (example, proven illness or medical treatment that is sufficiently severe to render the completion of the assignment or activity on time impossible). Similarly, extensions or Incompletes will not be granted except in cases of certified sever illnesses or emergencies. Any of these accommodations can be discussed only if the certified excuse is presented in time to grant these exemptions prior to the due date of the assignment.

Please note that technology related problems such as a computer crash or internet connectivity problems do not qualify as excuses for late assignments or Incompletes. You are responsible for backing up your work regularly and giving yourself enough time to finish the assignment before its due date.

**Assignment Dues Dates**

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| Op-Ed | October 6 |
| Policy Memo | October 27 |
| Paper Proposal | November 3 |
| Final Paper | December 2 |

**Course Objectives**

The objectives of the course can be summarized in the following points:

* Understand and critique some prevalent approaches to addressing conflict in Syria and Iraq
* Explore the origins and historical developments of conflicts in Syria and Iraq.
* Gain an understanding of how the creation of the modern nation state in the region, the role of regional and international powers, nationalist movements, and political Islam created a context conducive to authoritarianism and sectarian conflict; and how this situation can be transformed.
* Debate how pro-democracy movements in Syria and Iraq have opened door for ethno-sectarian conflict, and how to address these developments.
* Explore possible avenues for peaceful settlement in the two countries and the role the US can play in this process.

**Intended Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students are expected to be able to:

* Conceptualize for analysis how state creation, regional politics, and international dynamics shaped current conflicts in Syria and Iraq.
* Account for the effects of identity politics and regional competition in understanding conflict in Syria and Iraq
* Identify the main domestic, regional, and international factors affecting conflict in the region.
* Understand the role of (relative) history and discourse in inter-communal relations and the formation of political identity in Syria and Iraq.
* Gain the ability to provide policy advice to US policy makers on how to approach and play a constructive role in settling the conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

**Academic Integrity**

All students are required to adhere to the Academic Integrity Code, which can be found at:

(<http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/reg80.cfm>).

**Classroom Protocol**

Students should attend all classes and should arrive ready to discuss the material. Students should arrive on time and stay in class until it ends. If circumstances require an absence, please contact me about it before class. Students should be respectful of the opinions of each other, and should show respect by being attentive to comments by the instructor and their peers.

This class abides by the University’s Academic Integrity Code which can be found at: <http://www.american.edu/provost/registrar/regulations/reg80.cfm>.

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| September 1 | **Introduction: A History of the Modern Middle East*** Georges Corm. A History of the Middle East from Antiquity to the Present Day. Berkshire: Garnet Publishing. Introduction and Chapter 1. pp. 11-30.
* Edward Said. Orientalism. New York: Vintage Books. pp. 1-9; 12-14.
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| September 8 | **State Creation in the Middle East: Theoretical and Historical Background*** Anderson Benedict. 2006. *Imagined communities: reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism*. Chapters 5.
* Martha L. Cottam and Richard W. Cottam. 2001. *Nationalism and Politics: The Political Behavior of Nation States*. Boulder, London: Lynne Rienner Publishers. pp. 195-240.
* William Cleveland. 2013. A History of the Modern Middle East. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. PART I. pp. 1-52, PART II: Chapters 4-13.
* Arthur Goldschmidt Jr. and Lawrence Davidson. 2006. “The Roots of Arab Bitterness.” In Karl Yambert (ed). The Contemporary Middle East: A Westview Reader. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. pp. 27-40.
* James L. Gelvin. 2011. *The Modern Middle East: A History*. Third Edition. New York: Oxford University Press. pp.184-195.
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| September 15 | **Modern History of Syria and Iraq*** Fred H. Lawson. 2013. Iraq. In Michelle Penner Angrist (ed). *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East*. Second Edition. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers. pp. 285-306.
* William Cleveland. 2013. A History of the Modern Middle East. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. pp. 204-213; 217-225; and Chapter 19 (397-421).
* John F. Devlin. 1991. The Baath Party: Rise and Metamorphosis. *The American Historical Review*  96(5): 1396-1407.
* G. H. Jansen. 1986. Iraq-Syria: The Battles of Baathists. *Los Angeles Times*. 15 June. Available through: <http://articles.latimes.com/1986-06-15/opinion/op-11484_1_syria-and-iraq>.
* Fred H. Lawson. 2013. Syria. In Michelle Penner Angrist (ed). *Politics and Society in the Contemporary Middle East*. Second Edition. London: Lynne Rienner Publishers. pp. 445-471.
* Alasdair Drysdale. 1992. Syria and Iraq - The Geopathology of a Relationship. *GeoJournal* 28(3): pp. 347-355.
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| September 22  | **The Rise of Political Islam*** Sayyid Qutb. *Milestones.* Cedar Rapids. Iowa: Unity Publishing Co., 1981; or Chicago: Kazi Publishers, 2003). Selection available through: <http://majalla.org/books/2005/qutb-nilestone.pdf>.
* Raphael Lefevre. Ashes of Hama: *The Muslim Brotherhood in Syria*. New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 3-11; 19-40; 44-49; 64-70; 82-107; 138-147; 162-170; 181-200.
* James L. Gelvin. 2011. *The Modern Middle East: A History*. Third Edition. New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 307-318.
* Jocelyn Cesari. 2014. The Awakening of Muslim Democracy: Religion, Modernity, and the State. New York: Cambridge University Press. pp. 19-109; 123-166. (focus on the discussion of Islamic institutions in Syria and Iraq).
* Paull Valley. 2014. The vicious schism between Sunni and Shia has been poisoning Islam for 1,400 years - and it's getting worse. The Independent. Available through: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/the-vicious-schism-between-sunni-and-shia-has-been-poisoning-islam-for-1400-years--and-its-getting-worse-9139525.html>.

**RECOMMENDED*** Schwedler, J. 2011. Can Islamists Become Moderates? Rethinking the Inclusion-Moderation Hypothesis. World Politics 63(2): 347-376.
 |
| September 29 | **Aftermath of the Iraqi Invasion*** James L. Gelvin. 2011. *The Modern Middle East: A History*. Third Edition. New York: Oxford University Press. pp.277-282.
* Fanar Haddad. 2011. *Sectarianism in Iraq: Antagonistic Visions of Unity*. New York: Columbia University Press. pp. 94-116.
* Juan Cole. 2006. A Shiite Crescent? The Regional Impact of the Iraq War. Current History 105(687): 20-26.
* Mohamed M. Hafez. 2007. Suicide Bombers in Iraq: The Strategy and Ideology of Martyrdom. Washington DC: US Insitute of Peace Press. pp. 35-87.
* Louis Fawcett. 2013. The Iraq War ten years on: assessing the fallout. *International affairs* 89 (2): pp. 325 - 343.
* W. Andrew Terrill. 2012. Lessons of the Iraqi de-Ba'athification program for Iraq's future and the Arab revolutions. US Army College: Strategic Studies Institute. Available through: <http://permanent.access.gpo.gov/gpo22478/pub1106.pdf>. Summary and pages 48-63; 78-83; 85-95.
* Toby Dodge. 2014. Seeking to explain the rise of sectarianism in the Middle East: The case study of Iraq. In Iraq Between Maliki and the Islamic State. POMEPS Briefing. Available through: pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/POMEPS\_BriefBooklet24\_Iraq\_Web.pdf. pp. 4-9.
* Mark Wilbanks and Efraim Karsh. 2010. How the "Sons of Iraq" Stabilized Iraq. *Middle East Quarterly.* Available through: <http://www.meforum.org/2788/sons-of-iraq>.
* Aryn Baker. 2014. Why Iraq’s Awakening Councils Can’t Save the Country From al-Qaeda This Time. Time Magazine. Available through: <http://time.com/2894757/iraq-al-qaeda-awakening-council/>.
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| October 6 | **Authoritarian Upgrading in Syria*** Farid N. Ghadry. 2005. Syrian Reform: What Lies Beneath. *Middle East Quarterly* 12(1): pp. 61-70.
* Joshua Stacher. 2011. Reinterpreting Authoritarian Power: Syria's Hereditary Succession *Middle East Journal* 65(2). Richard B. Parker Memorial Issue (Spring 2011), pp. 197-212.
* Steven Heydemann. 2007. Upgrading Authoritarianism in the Arab World. Washington DC: The Brookings Institution.
* Steven Heydemann. 2013. Syria and the Future of Authoritarianism. *Journal of Democracy* 24(4): 59-73.

**OP-ED DUE** |
| October 13 | **Radicalism: From Wahabism to the Arab Awakening*** F. Gregory Gause III. 2011. Why Middle East Studies Missed the Arab Spring. Foreign Affairs. 90(4): 81-90.
* John McHugo. 2013. A Concise History of the Arabs. New York and London: The New Press. Chapter 9. pp. 265-292.
* Azeem Ibrahim. 2015. Why the West Is Losing the Battle Against Radical Islam Yale Global Magazine. Available through: <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/why-west-losing-battle-against-radical-islam>. ***AND/OR*** - [Alastair Crooke](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alastair-crooke/). 2014. You Can't Understand ISIS If You Don't Know the History of Wahhabism in Saudi Arabia. Huffington Post. Available though: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alastair-crooke/isis-wahhabism-saudi-arabia_b_5717157.html>. (*Both articles discuss similar ideas. I recommend reading them both, but you can choose to focus on one or the other*).
* Jamie Tarabay. 2013. How the Afghan jihad went global. AlJazeera. Available through: <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/11/12/how-afghan-jihadwentglobal.html>.
* HayatAlvi. The Diffusion of Intra-Islamic Violence and Terrorism: The Impact of the Proliferation of Salafi/Wahhabi Ideologies. MERIA. Available through: <http://www.rubincenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/v18n02a05_alvi_PDF.pdf>.

**RECOMMENDED*** Mark Lynch. 2014. How Arab Bakers of the Syrian Rebel See Iraq. In Iraq Between Maliki and the Islamic State. POMEPS Briefing. Available through: <http://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/POMEPS_BriefBooklet24_Iraq_Web.pdf>.
* Watch *Charlie Wilson’s War*, starring Tom Hanks.
 |
| October 20 | **ISIS: The Roots and Trajectories** |
|  | * Rosa Brooks. 2015. Making State by Iron and Blood.Foreign Policy. August 19.
* Jubin M. Goodarzi. 2014. Iran and the Syrian and Iraqi Crises. The Wilson Center. Available through: <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/iran_syrian_iraqi_crises.pdf>.
* Jessica Lewis. 2013. Al-Qaeda in Iraq Resurgent. Institute for the Study of War. Available through: <http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/AQI-Resurgent-10Sept_0.pdf>.
* Azeem Ibrahim. 2014. The Resurgence of Al-Qaeda in Syria and Iraq. US Army College: Strategic Studies Institute. Available through: <http://permanent.access.gpo.gov/gpo49290/pub1210.pdf>.
* Charles Lister. 2014. Profiling the Islamic State. Washington DC: The Brookings Institution. Available through: <http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Research/Files/Reports/2014/11/profiling%20islamic%20state%20lister/en_web_lister.pdf>.
* Kenneth Katzman et.al. 2014. The “Islamic State” Crisis and U.S. Policy. CRS Report. Available though: <http://fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R43612.pdf>.
 |
| October 27 | **The Roots of Violence: Sectarianism and Tribalism*** Juan Cole. 2006. A Shiite Crescent? The Regional Impact of the Iraq War. Current History 105(687): 20-26.
* [Ibrahim Marashi](http://www.mei.edu/profile/ibrahim-marashi). 2014. [Reconceptualizing Sectarianism in the Middle East and Asia](http://www.mei.edu/content/map/reconceptualizing-sectarianism-middle-east-and-asia). Middle East Institute. Available through: <http://www.mei.edu/content/map/reconceptualizing-sectarianism-middle-east-and-asia>.
* [Michael Knights](http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/experts/view/knights-michael)*. 2013.* Iran's Foreign Legion: The Role of Iraqi Shiite Militias in Syria. The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Available through: <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/irans-foreign-legion-the-role-of-iraqi-shiite-militias-in-syria>.

Fanar Haddad. 2013. The Language of Anti-Shiism. *Foreign Policy*. 9 August. Fanar Haddad. 2014. ["Marked" for Exclusion: The Problem of Pluralism, State-building, and Communal Identities in Iraq and the Arab World](http://www.mei.edu/content/map/marked-exclusion-problem-pluralism-state-building-and-communal-identities-iraq-and-arab-world). Middle East Institute. Available through: <http://www.mei.edu/content/map/marked-exclusion-problem-pluralism-state-building-and-communal-identities-iraq-and-arab-world>. * Haian Dukhan. 2012. Tribes and tribalism in the Syrian revolution. Open Democracy. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/haian-dukhan/tribes-and-tribalism-in-syrian-revolution>.

**RECOMMENDED**Watch *Charlie Wilson’s War*, starring Tom Hanks. POLICY MEMO DUE |
| November 3 | **The Roots of Violence: The Domestic Scene*** Tarek Osman. 2013. Contested Syrian Identities. The Cairo Review of Global Affairs. 18 October. Available through: <http://www.aucegypt.edu/gapp/cairoreview/pages/articleDetails.aspx?aid=440>
* Romano, D. 2014. Iraq’s Descent into Civil War: A Constitutional Explanation. *Middle East Journal*, *68*(4), 547–566. doi:10.3751/68.4.13.
* [Maha Yahya](http://carnegie-mec.org/experts/?fa=926). 2014. Iraq’s Existential Crisis: Sectarianism Is Just Part of the Problem. Washington DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Available through: <http://carnegie-mec.org/2014/10/31/iraq-s-existential-crisis-sectarianism-is-just-part-of-problem/htt0>.
* [Raed El-Hamed](http://carnegieendowment.org/sada/experts/?fa=879). 2014. A New Sectarian Force for Iraq. Washington DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Available through: <http://carnegieendowment.org/sada/2014/11/13/new-sectarian-force-for-iraq/huf3>.
* Till F. Paasche. 2015. Syrian and Iraqi Kurds: Conflict and Cooperation. *Middle East Policy* 22(1): 77-88.
* International Crisis Group. 2015. Arming Iraq’s Kurds: Fighting IS, Inviting Conflict. Available through: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/iraq-iran-gulf/iraq/158-arming-iraq-s-kurds-fighting-is-inviting-conflict.aspx>.

**PAPER PROPOSAL DUE** |
| November 10 | **The Roots of Violence: The Regional Players*** F. Gregory Gause III. 2014. Beyond Sectarianism: The New Middle East Cold War. Washington DC: Brookings Institution. Available through: <http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/papers/2014/07/22%20beyond%20sectarianism%20cold%20war%20gause/english%20pdf.pdf>.
* Hassan Hassan. 2015. Could the Iran Deal Lead to a Syria Deal? *Foreign Policy*. 15 July.
* Steven Cook. 2014. [Argument](http://foreignpolicy.com/category/section/argument) [Fiddling While Kobani Burns](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/10/07/fiddling_while_kobani_burns_turkey_islamic_state): Turkey is talking tough about the Islamic State; But it’s still not ready for war. *Foreign Policy*. Available through: <http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2014/10/07/fiddling_while_kobani_burns_turkey_islamic_state>.
* Chris Kozak. 2015. Turkey Expands Campaign Against ISIS and the PKK. Institute for the Study of War. Available through: <http://understandingwar.org/backgrounder/turkey-expands-campaign-against-isis-and-pkk>.
* Daniel Byman and Bilal Y. Saab. 2014. Hezbollah in a Time of Transition. Atlantic Council. Available through: <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/publications/hezbollah-in-a-time-of-transition>.
* Jonah Schulhofer-Wohl. 2014. How the U.S. fragmented Syria’s Rebels. pp. 21-23. In Syria and the Islamic State. POMEPS Briefing. Available through: <http://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/POMEPS_BriefBooklet25_Syria_web.pdf>.
 |
| November 17 | **The Roots of Violence: The Role of the US and Other International Players*** Elliott Abrams. 2014. Next Steps for U.S. Foreign Policy on Syria and Iraq. Testimony before United States House of Representatives. 2nd Session, 113th Congress. Available through: <http://www.cfr.org/iraq/next-steps-us-foreign-policy-syria-iraq/p33808>.
* Chuck Hagel. 2014. Testimony on U.S. Policy towards Iraq and Syria and the Threat Posed by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Senate Armed Services Committee. Washington DC. Available through: <http://www.armed-services.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Hagel_09-16-14.pdf>.

Roy Allison. 2013. Russia and Syria: explaining alignment with a regime in crisis. *International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs* 89(4): pp.795-823.[Alexey Malashenko](http://carnegie.ru/experts/?fa=369). 2014. Russia’s Policy in the Middle East and the Fight Against Extremism. Washington DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Available through: <http://carnegie.ru/2014/10/28/russia-s-policy-in-middle-east-and-fight-against-extremism/hsy6>.  |
| **November 24-29: Thanks Giving Break – No classes** |
| November 14 | **What could come next?*** Rafael Lefevre. 2014. Can Syria’s Muslim Brotherhood Salvage Its Relations With Riyadh? Washington DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Available through: <http://carnegieendowment.org/syriaincrisis/?fa=55052>.
* Marc Sievers. 2015. Questions About Egypt's Syria Policy. Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Available through: <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/questions-about-egypts-syria-policy>.
* Aron Lund. 2015. What Does the Iran Deal Mean for Syria? Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Available through: <http://carnegieendowment.org/syriaincrisis/?fa=60707>.
* Anthony H. Cordesman. 2015. The Uncertain U.S. “Game Changers” in the ISIS, Iraq, and Syria War. Center for Strategic and International Studies. Available through: <http://csis.org/files/publication/150728_Game_Changers%20_in_the_Syria_Iraq_ISIL_War_final_letterhead.pdf>.
* Friedman, T. L. (2012). Syria Is Iraq. *New York Times*, *161*(55,843), 25.
* F. Gregory Gause III. 2014. 40. Is this the end of Sykes-Picot? In Syria and the Islamic State. POMEPS Briefing. Available through: <http://pomeps.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/POMEPS_BriefBooklet25_Syria_web.pdf>.
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| December 2 | **Presentations** |
| December 10 | **Final Paper due on Blackboard by 10:40pm.**  |

**Helpful Links**

**Newspapers and Media Sources**

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| Al-Ahram Weekly | [http://weekly.ahram.org.eg](http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/index.htm) |
| Asharq Al-Awsat | <http://www.asharqalawsat.com/english/> |
| The Daily Star | <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/> |
| Dar Al-Hayat | <http://english.daralhayat.com/> |
| Guardian  | <http://www.guardian.co.uk/> |
| The Independent | <http://www.independent.co.uk/> |
| The New York Times | <http://nytimes.com/> |
| Ha’aretz | <http://www.haaretz.com/> |
| The Jerusalem Post | <http://www.jpost.com/> |
| The Mulim Brothers English website | [http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?zPage= Systems&System=PressR&Lang=E](http://www.ikhwanweb.com/Home.asp?zPage=Systems&System=PressR&Lang=E) |
| Al-Jazeera | <http://english.aljazeera.net/English> |
| ABC News | <http://www.abcnews.go.com/> |
| CNN | <http://www.cnn.com/> |
| The Middle East Media Research Institute | <http://www.memri.org/> |
| Middle East Review of International Affairs (MERIA) | <http://meria.idc.ac.il/>  |

**Institutions and Think Tanks**

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| Carnegie Endowment for International Peace | <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/> |
| The Brookings Institution | http://www.brookings.edu/  |
| Center for Strategic and International Studies | http://csis.org/ |
| Institute for the Study of War | http://www.understandingwar.org/ |
| International Crisis Group | http://www.crisisgroup.org/en.aspx |
| Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars  | <http://www.wilsoncenter.org> |
| The Heritage Foundation | <http://www.heritage.org/> |
| American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research | <http://www.aei.org/> |
| Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies | <http://www.iasps.org/index.php> |
| Council on Foreign Relations | <http://www.cfr.org/> |
| The Middle East Forum | <http://www.meforum.org/> |
| The Washington Institute for Near East Policy | <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateI01.php> |
| Middle East Research and Information Project | <http://www.merip.org/index.html>  |
| Middle East Economic Association | <http://meeaweb.org/>  |

**International Organizations**

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| UNDP Human Development Reports | <http://hdr.undp.org/en/>  |
| UNDP Arab Human Development Reports | <http://www.arab-hdr.org/>  |
| World Bank’s Website on the Middle East and North Africa | [http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/MENAEXT/0,,menuPK:247603~pagePK:158889~piPK:146815~theSitePK:256299,00.html](http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/MENAEXT/0%2C%2CmenuPK%3A247603~pagePK%3A158889~piPK%3A146815~theSitePK%3A256299%2C00.html) |

**Journals**

International Journal for Middle East Studies

Middle East Journal

Review of Middle East Economics and Finance