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Spring 2005

The Persian Gulf in the 21st Century

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SETON HALL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Persian Gulf in 21st Century (Dipl 6510)

Spring 2005

Wednesday 1-3:10 pm

Instructor: Professor M.Taghi Razavian

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Introduction:

The Persian Gulf in the past hundred years has been playing an excessively important role in international relations and will continue to perform this role in the first decades of the 21st century, in both regional and global dimensions. The governments, communities, energy resources and activities of supra-national groups in the area will occupy a significant part of the United States, European, Russian and Chinese foreign policies. Persian Gulf is a region not only producing 60 % of the world's total supply of oil, but encompasses the holiest and most sacred places of the second largest and probably the most controversial religion of the world, Islam, [for both Sunni and Shiite followers]. It introduces some of the world's largest and longest hostilities and conflicts, provides the largest trade center between the Far East and Europe, includes some of the fastest rates of urbanization and population growth, while embracing highly unstable and volatile minority and ethnic groups. Persian Gulf is a region of great geopolitical importance to neighboring countries as well as international powers. Although foreign countries attention to and domination of the Persian Gulf has a long 500 years history (the Portuguese colonialism, the British imperialism, the Russian "access to warm water" policy, the Nasserism, the Israeli's security spectrum, the American and indeed the whole world demand for energy, and most recently the Chinese expanding presence) , but events in the beginning of 21st century and the focus of the US foreign policy on the region has given the area a significance never achieved by any single body of water in the past. The Persian Gulf, undoubtedly, will remain one of the most important foreign policy issues of the United States in decades to come.

Course Description:

This course is designed to look beyond an introductory survey class on one of the most important geo-political areas of the world, playing significant roles in the US foreign policy in the years to come. It will be taught in lecture/seminar style, with strong emphasis on students research, overlooking contemporary issues.

The course examines the communities and poli-economies of the region, historical background and causes of conflicts both at the domestic and international levels, as well as US policies to manage or resolve such conflicts. It begins with a general discussion of the settlements around the Gulf and explores social, cultural and political variables in the area. After an examination of the present problems of the region and its importance in today's (and future) international relations, the course proceeds to case studies of individual states and issues which present significant challenges to global peace and security in 21st century. Among the case studies to be examined in the course are countries surrounding the Gulf and issues with international dimensions (oil, border disputes, ruling and government systems, the resurgence of Islamic fundamentalism, etc.).

The main goal of the course is not limited to provide descriptions but rather to find the roots and origins of problems and their solutions. The case studies analyzed individually during the semester are related to the Instructor's area of expertise (the Persian Gulf countries and communities).

The course consists of three parts:

First , we will gain a broad perspective of the region, its history and political background and state-making processes.

Second , the regional and global importance of the Persian Gulf will be discussed through investigations of its economy, cultures, religions and political dimensions, including country studies and foreign powers roles and rivalries in the region (the British and other European countries, the United States, Russia, China,...).

Third , the importance of the Persian Gulf in American foreign policy will be explored with emphasis on the US involvement in the area and the Diplomacy of War on Terror towards the littoral states of the Gulf. By semester's end, students should have a good sense of how critical the Persian Gulf area and its surrounding countries will be (for the world, in general, and the United States, in particular) in the coming decades of the 21st century.

Having completed the course, students should be able to apply the concepts, skills and competencies acquired to analyze more effectively the variety of cases that the United States might be facing in future in the world.

Required Reading Materials:

Books, Papers, Reports, Articles, ...

We will be reading a number of chapters and articles from various books and journals. Yet, there are six main required reading materials: a reading packet (prepared by the Instructor), a text-book, and four books.

Text Book: Zahlan, Rosemarie S., The Making of the Modern Gulf States, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE and Oman, ITHACA Press, Garnet Publishing Ltd. Reading, UK, 1998, ISBN: 0-86372-229-6.

Books:

- 1 -Byman, Daniel L., John R. Wise “The Persian Gulf in the coming Decade: Trends, Threats and Opportunities”, Rand, Santa Monica,2002.
- 2 -Kapiszewski, Andrzej, “Nationals and Expatriates, Population and Labour Dilemmas of the Cooperation Council States”, ITHACA Press, Garnet Publishing Ltd., Reading, UK, 2001, ISBN: 0-86372-275-X.
- 3 -Kechichian, Joseph A.,(ed), “Iran, Iraq, and the Arab Gulf States”, Palgrave, New York, 2001, ISBN: 0-312-29388-7.
- 4 -Sick, Gary & Lawrence G. Potter ,The Persian Gulf at the Millennium: Essays in Politics, Economy, Security, and Religion”. Publisher: St. Martin's Press; (September 1,1997) ISBN: 0312175671

Further Readings:

- US Department of Energy, “ Persian Gulf Fact Sheet”, 2003.
- Katzman, Kenneth, “ The Persian Gulf States: Post-War Issues for US Policy”, CRS Report for Congress, 2003 .
- Hunter, Shireen T.; Iran, Between the Gulf and the Caspian Basin : Strategic and Economic Implications

The Emirates Occasional Papers No. 38 ,Abu Dhabi :
The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and
Research (ECSSR) , 2000.

- *Special references will be provided according to students' case studies.*

Assignments and Grading:

Students are expected to attend classes regularly and participate in discussions and class activities, as well as contribute to the creation of a positive learning environment .

Student grades for this course will be assessed via three graded assignments, arriving at the end of each section of the course. After our introductory overview of the region, students will write a 5 page single-spaced paper assessing the background to the problem with a look at each individual state and/or issue (20 points). The second portion of the course will be followed by a take-home essay exam on the region's global importance (40 points). Finally, the section on the Persian Gulf in American foreign policy will end with students writing a 10 page term paper, explaining American policy towards individual countries or issues of the region, offering advice on the means and feasibility of improving US policy in the region with justifications for their conclusions (40 points).

Grading Summary:

- Background Paper (Feb. 16, 05) 20 points
- In-class exam (March 23, 05) 40 points
- Term paper (April 27, 05) 40 points

Total points 100

Remarks

1. The mid-term, take-home examination questions will be based on reading assignments, personal assessments and creativity. It is imperative that students do the readings and take class notes.
2. Students are expected to attend classes regularly and will be held responsible for materials covered in class. Students are expected full attendance in the class. Late arriving and/or early leaving will disrupt the ongoing activities of the class.
3. It is very important that the research/term papers be completed individually. The topic of the term paper will be selected by the student with consultation with and the approval of the instructor.

4. Before submitting term paper(s) each student will make class presentation of his/her research results. These papers/presentations are based on case studies selected by the student and approved by instructor .

- **Students with Special Needs:** Under the Americans With Disabilities Act and §504 of the Civil Rights Restoration Act, students at Seton Hall University who have a disability may be eligible for accommodations in this course. Should a student require such accommodations, he or she must self-identify at the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 67, Duffy Hall and work with DSS to develop a plan for accommodations. The contact person is Mrs. Linda Walter at 973.313.6003

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

The course is comprised of three parts. The first four sessions will be devoted to introduce the region and its communities with a background to the foreign powers presence in the area. During the following six weeks major issues of the region, the resources and geo-strategic significance of the Persian Gulf will be dealt with. The main goal is to put what is learned into work. Finally, to allow each student to further focus on a specific topic of his/her interest, the last sessions will be used to concentrate on particular topics. In these sessions, everybody will have equal opportunity to contribute.

Weekly Agenda and Reading Materials:

Part One:-----

Week 1 :

Introduction:

- Understanding the issue and concepts of the course.
- An introduction to the background and history of settlements around the Gulf.

Read:

Instructor's Reading Paper, ch. 3.

Week 2:

- The physical settings, environmental issues.
- Communities surrounding the Gulf.

Read:

Zahlan pp. 1-18
Instructor's Reading Paper, ch. 1 & 2

Week 3 :

- History of foreign powers in the region, their presence and impacts.

- The Portuguese, the British, former Soviets, Asians, etc.

Read:

Zahlan pp.19-32

Week 4 :

- Population/cultural diversities/social values.
- The Arabs, Iranians, minority groups.

Read:

Kapiszewski, chs. 1, 2, 3. pp.33-68

Instructor's Reading Packet, ch.4

Part Two:------

Week 5 :

- The Economy (agriculture, industry, oil, trade...).
- Post-modernity versus traditional values.

Read :

Sick & Potter, chs. 5 to 8

Kapiszewski, chs. 4-5 pp.69-100

Instructor's Power Point Representation (students should make copies for further review.

Week 6 :

- Socio-economic issues, the distribution of wealth.
- Rapid Urbanization.

Raed:

Kechichian, pp. 131-212

Kapiszewski, chs. 5, 8, 9

Instructor's Reading Paper

Week 7 :

- The political systems, ruling families and power centers.
- Issues of democracy, political freedom and participation, human rights, women's role, civil rights, etc.

Read:

Zahlan, pp. 33-156

Kapiszewski, ch 6

Kechichian, ch 12

Week 8 :

- Fundamentalism, extremism, terrorism.

Read:

Sick & Potter, chs. 1-2

www.Gulf2000

Instructor's Reading Paper

Week 9 :

- The geo-strategic importance.
- Regional power players.

- Foreign powers in the area (European countries, U.S.A., Russia, Israel, China, etc.).

Read:

Zahlan, ch 10
 Kechichian, Part II, pp. 213-312
 Sick & potter, ch 7
 Hunter, (total paper)

Week 10 :

- American policy towards the Persian Gulf.
- The future perspective.

Read:

US Dept of Energy, Persian Gulf Fact Sheet 2003
 Kutzman, (total report)
 Byman & wise, chs. 5-8

Part Three:-----

Weeks 11 - 13:

- Individual student research presentation. Each student will have about 30 minutes to present his/her findings. Oral presentations is best to be accompanied with power point show and a two pages explanatory abstract to present a better scenario and understanding of the country/issue concerned. Other students are requested to take note of the highlights of each presentation so that they will gain a general and comprehensive knowledge of the whole area.

Week 14 :

- Group discussion. Students share their acquired knowledge of the area and the issues involved in a brain-storming format. Each student is expected to participate actively in discussion and offer his/her ideas on problems and resolutions.

Week 15-16 :

- Conclusion sessions; present problems, future outlook, guidelines for American policy makers.
- Term papers are delivered in this session.

Academic Calender

Spring 2005	
January 3 (Monday)	New Year's Day (observed) - University Closed
January 10 (Monday)	Classes Begin
January 15 (Saturday)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday No Classes
January 17 (Monday)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day -University Holiday Classes in session, Core services available
February 21 (Monday)	Presidents' Day - University Holiday Classes in session, Core services available
February 25 (Friday)	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Charter Day (tentative)
February 28 - March 5 (Mon. - Sat.)	Spring Recess - No Classes
March 24-27 (Thurs. - Sun.)	Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday University Closed
March 28 (Monday)	Easter Monday - No Day Classes; All weekly Evening Classes will be held
March 31 (Thursday)	Summer 2005 Book Orders Due
April 15 (Friday)	Fall 2005 Book Orders Due
April 28 (Thursday)	Last Day of Classes
April 29 - May 5 (Friday - Thursday)	Final Examinations
May 9 (Monday)	Commencement