

Draft Syllabus

ITRN 701-B05

(Cross-listed with PUBP 710-B06)

Terrorism and the Middle East: Policies for Addressing U.S.-Middle East Relations

Summer Session B: June 8 – July 22, Exam Date: July 27
Tuesdays and Thursdays
Room 332, Original Arlington Campus

Professor Amr Abdalla, Ph.D.
Peace Operations Policy Program
School of Public Policy
George Mason University

1. Specific course title

Terrorism and the Middle East: Policies for Addressing U.S.-Middle East Relations

2. Course number/number of credits

Course ITRN701-B05
Cross-listed with PUBP710-B06

3 graduate credits

3. Course description

This course will focus on providing students with comprehensive views of the causes and discourses of terrorism within the Muslim Middle Eastern context, and their implications to the relations between the United States and countries/people in the Middle East. The course will provide balanced perspectives from both sides on political, cultural, social and economic issues, and views on use of military force and terrorism. Finally the course will explore policy approaches to address those issues, with an emphasis on multilateral approaches, and ones that engage governmental and non-governmental organizations. The course will be taught by an SPP professor who is a former prosecuting attorney from Egypt with extensive experience about Islamic Jihad and other terrorist groups.

4. Instructor

Professor Amr Abdalla

aabdalla@gmu.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

5. Course meeting times and place

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Room 332, Original Arlington Campus

Summer Session B: June 8 – July 22, Exam Date: July 27

6. Readings

Text Books:

Kepel, G. (2002). *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam*. Harvard University Press. Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Lewis, B. (2003). *The Crisis of Islam : Holy war and Unholy Terror*. Modern Library. New York.

Noorani, A. (2002). *Islam and Jihad*. Zed Books. New York, New York.

Articles:

Chivers, C.J. (2003). What I Learned at the Jihad. *Esquire Magazine*. Vol. 140, No. 4. pp. 190-201.

Dale, S.F. (1988). Religious Suicide in Islamic Asia. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Vol. 32, No. 1. pp. 37-59.

Gerges, F. (1997). Islam and Muslims in the Mind of America: Influences on the Making of U.S. Policy. *Journal of Palestine Studies*. Vol. 26, No. 2. pp. 68-80.

Khashan, H. (1997). The New World Order and the Tempo of Militant Islam. *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*. Vol. 24, No. 1. pp. 5-24.

Lynch, M. (2003). Taking Arabs Seriously. *Foreign Affairs*. Vol. 82, No. 5. pp. 81-94.

Martin, J. (ed). (2002). *Defeating terrorism: strategic issue analyses*. Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College. Carlisle, PA. [Electronic resource: <http://purl.access.gpo.gov/GPO/LPS18654>]

Rahme, J. (1999). Ethnocentric and Stereotyping Concepts in the Study of Islamic and World History. *The History Teacher*. Vol. 32, No. 4. pp. 473-494.

7. Assignments

- Class attendance, participation, and reading of materials are essential. Missing two or more classes will affect overall grade. (20%)
- Two Journals due on Tuesday, June 22, and Tuesday July 13 (20% each). Each of the two journals must include 2 sections: 1) a summary of at least 60 pages of the readings assigned for the five class days prior to the due date of the journal; and, 2) your reflections and thoughts based on the readings and class discussion. Each journal will be about 10-12 pages long (font 12, 1 inch margin all around, double spaced). About 40-60% of the journal should include a summary of the selected readings, and the remaining 40-60% should include students' reflections and thoughts based on the readings and class discussion. There are no right or wrong answers, but there is an assessment of the intellectual effort made and presented.
- Final research paper due on Tuesday July 27 (40%). The research paper must provide an

analysis of the causes, contributing factors, and manifestations of terrorism in the Muslim Middle East; and policy implications and suggestions to policy makers both in the United States and the Middle East. Students may select to focus on one Middle Eastern country as a case study. More instructions will be provided during class about paper content and specifications.

8. Instructor's biographical data

Dr. Amr Abdalla is a senior fellow with the Peace Operations Policy Program, School of Public Policy, at George Mason University. He is also a Professor of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at the Graduate School of Islamic and Social Sciences in Leesburg, VA, and the United Nations' University for Peace in Costa Rica.

Both his academic and professional careers are multi-disciplinary. He obtained a law degree in Egypt in 1977 where he practiced law as a prosecuting attorney from 1978 to 1986. From 1981-1986, he worked extensively on Muslim terrorist cases, including the case of President Sadat's assassination. He then emigrated to the U.S. where he obtained a Master's degree in Sociology and a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University.

He has been teaching graduate classes in conflict analysis and resolution, and has conducted training, research and evaluation of conflict resolution programs in Egypt, Switzerland, Burundi, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Italy, Rwanda, Ireland, Nigeria and Iraq. He also pioneered the development of the first conflict resolution training manual for the Muslim communities in the United States ("...Say Peace), and founded Project LIGHT (Learning Islamic Guidance for Human Tolerance) to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence between Muslims and non-Muslims.