NISS 5305 – U.S. Policy in the Middle East and North Africa
Summer 2024 (Twelve Week Session)
Department of Government, SFASU
Course Meeting Times: Online
Course Location: Online
Instructor: Dr. Steven E. Galatas
Office Location: Liberal Arts North #134
Office Hours: TBA
Phone: (936) 468-2003
E-mail: galatasse@sfasu.edu

Course Description:
“"This course focuses on American relations and national security policy as it has evolved in the Middle East and North African countries. The course examines the evolution of the region; the changing political, economic and demographic dynamics; and the impact that has on American national security. The end of World War II, the fall of the Soviet Union and the rise of radical Islam are pitted against demands for democracy, as epitomized by the Arab Spring, and growing pressures of globalization more generally."

Program Learning Outcome:
The following program learning outcomes are addressed in this course
• The student will differentiate current challenges and issues confronting U.S. national security and intelligence policy

Student Learning Outcome:
By the end of the course, you will be able to
• Evaluate the role of the United States in the Middle East and North Africa
• Assess the challenges that the United States faces in the Middle East and North Africa
• Discuss possible policy options and outcomes for U.S. policy in the region.

Texts:
Rolf Schwarz, 2020. NATO and the Middle East: In Search of a Strategy. (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.)

In addition, you are required to access the following articles. These articles are marked on the course schedule / outline below by the names of the authors and an asterisk (*).


Note: The ongoing conflict between Hamas and Israel necessitates an updated set of readings for the week of July 21 (Israeli-Palestinian Conflict II). Those readings will be assigned and posted later in the Summer Term.

**Grades:**

Grades for this course are derived from the following sources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductory Activity</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (Four [4] Discussion Boards)</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Papers (Five [5] of six [6])</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter grades will be assigned using the following criteria:

- A: 90.0% to 100.0%
- B: 80.0% to 89.9%
- C: 70.0% to 79.9%
- D: 60.0% to 69.9%
- F: 0.0% to 59.9%

Grades are not curved or adjusted at the end of the term. Extra credit work is not permitted.

**Introductory Activity:**

To begin the class, you will participate in a Livestream Session on ZOOM on **Wednesday, May 15, 2024 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Central Time**. At this session, the course instructor will review course requirements, including the course syllabus and course calendar. Your professor will also introduce himself, and you will introduce yourself to your colleagues in this course. You should be prepared to introduce yourself by discussing your academic background, career goals and aspirations, and interesting facts about yourself.

In addition, you will read two introductory articles and participate in a discussion forum associated with these articles. Your professor will initiate the forum, and you must post responses to the initial post and to the responses of your colleagues in the class. All responses should be completed by **11:59 p.m. on Saturday, May 8, 2024**.

All introductory activities are collectively worth five (5) percent of your grade for this course.

To access this ZOOM session on Monday, May 15, use the following link, meeting ID, and passcode:

- Topic: NISS 5305 Introductory Session
- Time: May 15, 2024 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)
- Join Zoom Meeting
  https://sfasu.zoom.us/j/95863146185?pwd=Q09QbmVmSk05VG9hQ1Jubm11RkVsQT09
  Meeting ID: 958 6314 6185
  Passcode: 518002

**Participation**

Your participation grade will be based upon discussion of the course readings online via the course’s website on Brightspace by D2L. Your participation will be graded based upon your service as a discussion lead and as a participant in discussion threads associated with assigned readings.
You will be assigned randomly as a discussion lead by your course instructor. As the discussion lead, you will post a video in the appropriate drop box in Brightspace by D2L for your week’s reading assignments. The video should provide a summary of the key points from the reading, including as needed synthesis of the readings. You should then identify three or four critical questions posed by the assigned readings for that week. You will start a thread with your video post. You are expected to continue participation by responding to other students’ posts as well.

For each discussion post, you will be expected to contribute to the thread posted by the discussion leader and the posts of other students in the class. Your initial response is due by \textbf{11:59 p.m. on the Friday} of each week there is a discussion board. Your final responses are due no later than \textbf{11:59 p.m. on Saturday} of the week the post is due. Your grade for participation will be assigned based upon the quality, accuracy, and depth of your comments.

Collectively, participation is worth twenty-four (24) percent of your grade.

\textbf{Critical Papers:}

You will develop critical papers addressing a substantive issue found in the weekly assigned readings. These papers are assigned at the beginning of most modules, according to the class calendar below. Your papers must review the fundamental theoretical as well as practical aspects of the week’s reading assignment. You must also discuss the implication of the readings for American national security and intelligence policy. You must complete five (5) of the six (6) papers during the semester.

Your papers should be typed, double-spaced using an appropriate font. Papers are due at \textbf{11:59 p.m. on Saturday} of the week that the material is covered in the course, according to the course outline at the end of this syllabus. Papers should be approximately three to four pages in length. You will upload your paper to the appropriate Dropbox on Brightspace by D2L.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for these paper is prohibited. This prohibition extends to any and all grammatical correction software that engages in predictive re-writing or suggesting of content beyond simple spell and punctuation correction. In all cases of these kinds of software, the program itself is ultimately now doing the writing for you. Thus, the assignment is no longer your original work. Students who use Artificial Intelligence, including predictive grammatical suggestion or correction software will be referred to the appropriate campus authorities for violation of Academic Integrity.

Collectively, these papers are worth thirty-five (35) percent of your grade in the class.

\textbf{Final Exam}

During the last weeks of the term, you will complete a final exam. This exam will cover a variety of topics and concepts that you have studied during this course. The exam will emulate the comprehensive exams that you must take to complete your degree in National Security Studies from SFASU. The format of the exam will consist of a series of questions related to topics in this course, both theoretical and practical. The exam will contain both required questions and opportunities to choose some questions to answer. You should expect to answer a total of three questions. Answers must be typed, double spaced using an appropriate font. Each answer should be several pages in length, with a maximum of five (5) pages or 2,500 words per question. Your exam should include appropriate citations in text and appropriate bibliographic references for each source. The Final Exam is worth thirty-six (36) percent of your final grade of this course.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for these paper is prohibited. This prohibition extends to any and all grammatical correction software that engages in predictive re-writing or suggesting of content beyond simple spell and punctuation correction. In all cases of these kinds of software, the program itself is ultimately now doing the writing for you. Thus, the assignment is no longer your original work. Students who use Artificial Intelligence, including predictive grammatical suggestion or correction software will be referred to the appropriate campus authorities for violation of Academic Integrity.
Technical Support:
For D2L technical support, contact student support at d2l@sfasu.edu or 936-468-1919. If you call after regular business hours or on a weekend, please leave a voicemail. For general computer support (not related to D2L), contact the Technical Support Center (TSC) at 936-468-HELP (4357) or at helpdesk@sfasu.edu. To learn more about using D2L, visit SFA ONLINE at http://sfaonline.sfasu.edu, where you’ll find written instructions and video tutorials.

Course Hour Justification:
In compliance with SFA HOPS 02-207, you are expected to spend 450 minutes each week engaged in class-related activities. These activities include reading and reviewing material from your assigned readings, as well as reviewing notes from readings, working on class assignments, and engaging in research related to your papers.

Institution Absences:
An Institutional Absence (HOPS 04-110) may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance.
Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts.
For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date. More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences.

Academic Integrity:
The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (HOPS 4-106) outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy.
Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student, (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test, (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member, (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test, (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit, (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities.
Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree requirements.
Collusion is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam.

Misrepresentation is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Withheld Grades:**

The **Course Grades** (HOPS 2-206) policy ordinarily allows faculty at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/02-206.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/docs/hops/02-206.pdf)

**Students with Disabilities:**

To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Student Wellness and Well-Being:**

SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Dean of Students Office</th>
<th>SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby</td>
<td>Human Services, Room 202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents">www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp">www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>936.468.7249</td>
<td>936.468.1041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:dos@sfasu.edu">dos@sfasu.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**The Health and Wellness Hub** “The Hub”

Corner of E. College and Raguet St.

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
- Alcohol and Other Drug Education

[www.sfasu.edu/thewhub](http://www.sfasu.edu/thewhub)

936.468.4008

thewhub@sfasu.edu
On-campus Resources:
Crisis Resources:
  • Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
  • National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
  • Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
  • johCrisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741
Course Calendar

Dates may change at the discretion of the instructor. Should a date change be required, it will be announced in the course news or on the discussion board. All times listed are Central Standard Time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>MODULE</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Week of May 12 | Getting Started                                  | • Read Get Started module content, including Course Syllabus and Semester Calendar.  
                                               | • Participate in Livestream Session on ZOOM on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.  
                                               | • Read Gause (2019) and Parsi (2020)  
                                               | • Submit responses to discussion forum by Saturday, May 18 at 11:59 p.m. |
| Week of May 19 | U.S Democracy Promotion in MENA I                | • Read module content.                                                   
                                               | • Read Boduszyński (2019), Chapters 1 – 3.                             
                                               | • Discussion Leaders: Hailee Mouch and Sophia Laneri. Initial post by Hailee and Sophia due by May 22 at 11:59 p.m.  
                                               | • Submit your initial response to Discussion Board #1 by May 24 at 11:59 p.m. |
| Week of May 26 | U.S Democracy Promotion in MENA II               | • Read module content.                                                   
                                               | • Read Boduszyński (2019), Chapters 4 – 6.                             
                                               | • Submit Critical Review #1 by Saturday, June 1, at 11:59 p.m.          |
| Week of June 2 | U.S. Security Interests I                        | • Read module content.                                                   
                                               | • Read Schwarz (2020), Chapters 1 – 4.                                 
                                               | • Discussion Leader: Ana Salmean. Initial post by Ana due by June 5 at 11:59 p.m. |
| Week of June 9 | U.S. Security Interests II                       | • Read module content.                                                   
                                               | • Read Schwarz (2020), Chapters 5 – 7.                                 
                                               | • Submit Critical Review #2 by June 15 at 11:59 p.m.                   |
| Week of June 16 | Nuclear Proliferation and Iran                   | • Read module content.                                                   
                                               | • Read Bas and Coe (2016), Hunt (2017), and Posch (2017).              
                                               | • Submit Critical Review #3 by June 22 at 11:59 p.m.                   |
| Week of June 23 | Oil and Energy | • Read module content.  
• Discussion Leader: **Nick Stebel and Brian Mauer**. Initial post by Nick and Brian due by June 26 at 11:59 p.m.  
• Submit your initial response to Discussion Board #3 by June 28 at 11:59 p.m.  
• Submit responses to other students’ posts by June 29 at 11:59 p.m. |
| Week of June 30 | Environment and Climate Change | • Read module content.  
• Discussion Leader: **Carolanne Voss**. Initial post by Carolanne due by July 3 at 11:59 p.m.  
• Submit your initial response to Discussion Board #4 by July 5 at 11:59 p.m.  
• Submit responses to other students’ posts by July 6 at 11:59 p.m. |
| Week of July 7 | U.S. Rivals: Russia and China | • Read module content.  
• Read Kamel (2018), Therme (2018), and Hiim and Stenslie (2019).  
• Submit Critical Review #4 by July 13 at 11:59 p.m. |
| Week of July 14 | Israeli – Palestinian Conflict I | • Read module content.  
• Read Imam (2018), Indyk (2020), Carafano and Milstein (2021), and Robinson (2021).  
• Submit Critical Review #5 by July 20 at 11:59 p.m. |
| Week of July 21 | Israeli – Palestinian Conflict II | • Read module content.  
• Read TBA  
• Submit Critical Review #6 by July 27 at 11:59 p.m. |
| Week of July 28 | Final Exam I | • Read module content.  
• Participate in Participate in Livestream Session on ZOOM on Tuesday, July 30 at 7:00 p.m. Central Time.  
• No assignments due this week |
| Week of August 4 | Final Exam II | • Read module content.  
• Submit Final Exam by Monday, August 5 at 11:59 p.m. |