This course explores American foreign policy in various Middle Eastern states during the 20th and 21st centuries, before and after the Arab revolutions. It examines U.S. cultural, military, diplomatic, and economic presence in, or hegemony over, the region during many crucial moments in history, including WWI, WWII, the Cold War, the Iranian Revolution, the Gulf War, the Arab-Israeli peace process, September 11, the occupation of Iraq, and the recent Arab uprisings. The course begins with scrutinizing the cultural images and representations of the Middle East in the American mind during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Then it moves to investigating U.S. relation with Arab nationalist leaders during the Cold War in the 1950s and 1960s. Then it investigates U.S. “imperial” foreign policy toward Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and Libya. It explores American economic domination in the region, through controlling oil production in countries such as Saudi Arabia and through applying the neo-liberal Washington Consensus in countries such as Egypt. The course also gives a special attention to the American essential role in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process. The course focuses on matters of terrorism and Jihad as perceived inside the U.S. and shaping its foreign policy in the region. Finally, it looks at U.S. reaction to the Arab Spring and the ways it has attempted to influence its outcomes.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation in class discussions (30%)
2. A discourse analysis paper of a primary document from U.S. diplomatic records, CIA files, newspapers and magazines, TV and Radio shows, etc. On the subject of any session of your choice. Due first half of semester, 4-5 pages (20%)
3. Midterm Paper: historiography/critical review of secondary sources on the subject of final paper, 7-8 pages (25%) (Due Friday March 21st, 5:00pm)
(4) Final paper using archival and secondary sources and presentation, 18-20 pages (25%) (Due date TBA)

Required Readings: (Available at Oberlin bookstore)

1- Melani McAlister, *Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. interests in the Middle East since WWII*
2- Salim Yaqub, *Containing Arab Nationalism: the Eisenhower Doctrine and the Middle East*
3- Ali Ansari, *Confronting Iran: The Failure of American Foreign Policy and the Next Great Crisis in the Middle East*
4- Tom Lansford, *A Bitter Harvest: US Foreign Policy and Afghanistan*
5- Robert Vitalis, *America's Kingdom: Mythmaking on the Saudi Oil Frontier*
6- Thomas E. Ericks, *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq*
7- Kathleen Christopher, *Perceptions of Palestine: Their Influence on U.S. Middle East Policy*
8- Luis Martinez, *The Libyan Paradox*

Schedule of Classes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>Road to Empire? Melani McAlister, <em>Epic Encounters: Culture, Media, and U.S. Interests in the Middle East since WWII</em></td>
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<td>Librarian Jennifer Starkey presentation on archival sources accessible at Obies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Reading Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. and Turkey</td>
<td>March 24</td>
<td><strong>Enjoy Fall Break</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- U.S. role in the Libyan Revolution [TBA]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Conclusion + Final paper presentations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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