

The Middle East and the United States; A Study in the Politics of Conflict, Violence and Power

This unit is quite different from previous units, both in its material and in how you can earn high marks. There is an extra-ordinary amount of information in this unit, and there are many excellent websites, documentaries, and sources for information, as well as a host of books. If you wish to do well in this unit, I urge you to use these resources or follow the news closely. I should also add that many strong views swirl around these topics – another reason to look at a variety of sources.

Your goal for the test is to be able to write an intelligent informed essay about several key aspects of the Middle East (ME) for US policy (see the four listed below). You may emphasize two more than the others; that is, you may focus your attention in this unit on two of the topics (but do not utterly neglect the other two!). One of the key goals of this unit is to discover the very different, complex and interrelated problems that are bundled under simplistic names such as “Middle East Crisis”, “terrorism”, or “Islamic fundamentalism.”

The material in this unit, moreso than earlier units, is quite controversial. Prepare for this by speaking up for views you value or wish to examine, and by analytically addressing views you find mistaken or offensive. Remember, “Diplomacy is not talking to your friends; it is talking to your enemies.”

Topics covered:

1. Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the evolving US entanglement in the ME (1948-2010).
2. Islamic fundamentalism and Iran (1979-2010).
3. The US wars in Iraq (1991, 2003 to present).
4. The Crisis moves east: Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
26 <i>Spring Term Research Paper Due.</i>	27 Lesson #1 Brzezinski article.	28 Lesson #2 Israel MP 154-161.	29 Lesson #3 Israel MP 161-165. <i>SPC reading.</i>	30 Lesson #4 Israel MP 165-170. <i>SPC reading.</i>
3 Lesson #5 Goldstone summary. Map quiz.	4 Lesson #6 "No End in Sight" Handout	5 Lesson #7 "No End in Sight" T&S 1010-11, 1022-23, 1054- 1058.	6 Lesson #8 Catch-up day.	7 Lesson #9 Islam & Iran MP 538-543.
10 Lesson #10 Iran MP 547-553.	11 Lesson #11 Iran <i>Election & Nuclear</i> Handout	12 Lesson #12 Afghanistan & Central Asia	13 Lesson #13 Afghanistan & Central Asia	14 Test Review
17 TEST	18 "What have we learned, if anything." Handout.	19 <i>Exam Review</i>	20 <i>Exam Review</i>	21 <i>Exam Review</i>

The final exam will be on Thursday, May 27th.