

IR 82 – CRN: 45876  
Syllabus

Fall 2009  
Professor Smolansky

**The Middle East in World Affairs**  
**The Post-World War II Era**

Textbooks:

Ian Bickerton and Carla Klausner, *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (5<sup>th</sup> edition, paperback)  
Thomas Ricks, *The Gamble: General David Petraeus and the American Military Adventure in Iraq, 2006-2008*

Course Description:

One half to two-thirds of this course will be devoted to the study of the Arab-Israeli conflict which has remained a constant feature of Middle Eastern politics from the creation of the State of Israel to the present time. The remainder of the course will cover the conflicts in Iraq and, to a lesser extent, in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Grading:

90 percent of the course grade will be based on the student's performance in the following two exams:

1. The midterm exam. An essay exam, based primarily on class discussion since the beginning of the term, will be given on **Wednesday, October 7, 2009**, and will be worth 30 percent of the course grade.
2. The final exam will consist of two essays. One will be based on class discussion since the midterm and the other on assigned reading. Each will be worth 30 percent of the course grade.
3. The remaining 10 percent will be based on 4 quizzes, given without prior notice. These quizzes will focus on the discussion of Middle Eastern affairs in the New York Times. This means that the students are required to read the Monday through Friday editions of the New York Times.