

**Centre for West Asian Studies
School of International Studies**

Course	Ph.D.
Course No	WA604N
Course Title	Politics and Foreign Policy of Saudi Arabia
Course Type	Optional
Course Teacher	Dr. Vrushal T Ghoble
Credits:	Two
Contact Hours:	Two per week

Course Objectives: This course will provide a sound basis for understanding of the history and development of Area Studies, the Gulf in general and Saudi Arabia in particular. Saudi Arabia being an important member of the GCC and an important regional actor, the course will be crucial for the students to understand its geopolitical significance. With the discovery and production of the Gulf oil, there has been a change in the dynamics of the region that led to tremendous development of the country in specific, also giving it a greater leverage. As a learning outcome, the course will help students understand and build their analysis towards the rise and growth of Saudi Arabia and its regional and global engagement.

Learning Outcomes: The course seeks to achieve the following learning outcomes: to develop research skills in the learners to undertake rigorous and cutting-edge research in domain-specific or related ones; encourage analytical and critical thinking among the learners to expand their depth in the field; and to broaden the learners' scope of knowledge and open up new avenues for innovative research.

Evaluation Methods: Assignments and End Semester Examination

Course Content

1. An Overview of Saudi Arabia

- Profile: Geography / Demography
- Process of Saudi State Formation

2. Political System and Institutions

- Al-Saud, and Tribes
- Majlis, Basic Laws, & Petitions
- Determinants of Saudi Foreign Policy

3. Role of Religion in Saudi Society

- Wahhabism and the Role of Ulema

4. Economic Bases of Regime Legitimacy

- Rentierism
- Economic Diversification and Vision 2030
- Arab Uprising and Economic Implications
- Instrument of Foreign Policy (aid, security, regional dependencies, trade, etc.)

5. Regional and Foreign Linkages

- Look East Policy
- Regional policy and Sectarianism

- Relations with the US, shale, and OPEC Plus

Suggested Reading List

Books

- Aburish, Said K. (1994), *The Rise, Corruption and Coming Fall of the House of Saud*, New York: St. Martin's Griffin.
- AburiAl-Yassini, Ayman (1985), *Religion and State in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia*, California: Westview Press.
- Al-Rasheed, Madawi (2006), *Circles of Power: Royalty and Society in Saudi Arabia*, in Aarts and Nonneman (eds.), *Saudi Arabia in the Balance*, New York University Press.
- (2002), *A History of Saudi Arabia*, Cambridge University Press.
- (2007), *Contesting the Saudi State: Islamic Voices from a New Generation*, UK: Cambridge University Press.
- (1999), *Political Legitimacy and the Production of History: The Case of Saudi Arabia*, in L. Martin (eds.), *In New Frontiers in Middle East Security*, New York: ST. Martin's Press.
- Ahari, M.E. (ed.) (1996), *Change and Continuity in the Middle East: Conflict Resolution and Prospects for Peace*, New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Al-Farsy, Foud (1982), *Saudi Arabia: A Case Study in Development*, , London: Kegan Paul International.
- Ayoob, Mohammed and Hasan, Kosebalaban (2009), *Religion and Politics in Saudi Arabia: Wahhabism and the State*, University of Michigan: Lynne Rienner Publisher.
- Beblawi, Hazem and Giacomo Luciani (1987), *The Rentier State: Nation, State and Integration in the Arab World*, London: Croom Helm.
- Clement, Henry and Jang Ji Hyang (2013), *The Arab Spring*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Cordesman, Anthony H. (1987), *Western Strategic Interests in Saudi Arabia*, London: Croom Helm.
- (2003), *Saudi Arabia Enters the 21st Century: The Military and International Security Dimensions*, Westport, CT: Praeger.
- Dietl, Gulshan (2006), *Saudi Arabia: People, Politics & Policies*, New Delhi: National Book Trust.
- Gause, F. Gregory III (1994), *Oil Monarchies: Domestic and Security Challenges in the Arab Gulf States*, New York : Council on Foreign Relations Press.
- Glosemeyer, Iris (2004), *Saudi Arabia: Dynamism Uncovered*, in Volker Perthes (ed.), *Arab Elites: Negotiating the Politics of Change*, Boulder: Lynne Rienner.
- Hameed, Mazhar A. (1986), *Saudi Arabia, the West and the Security of the Gulf*, London: Croom Helm.
- Holden, David and Johns, Richard (1981), *House of Saud*, London: Siagwick and Jackson.
- Herb, Michael (1999), *All in the Family: Absolutism, Revolution, and Democracy in the Middle Eastern Monarchies*, Albany: SUNY Press.
- Huyette, Summer Scott (1985), *Political Adaptation in Saudi Arabia: A Case Study of the Council of Ministers*, Boulder: Westview Press.
- Lacey, Robert (1981), *The Kingdom*, London: Hutchinson.

Lackner, Helen (1978), *A House built on Sand: A Political Economy of Saudi Arabia*, London: Ithaca.

Niblock, Tim (2006), *Saudi Arabia: Power, Legitimacy and Survival*, London: Routledge.

Owen, Roger (2000), *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*, London and New York: Routledge.

Pant, Girijesh, et. al. (eds.) (2007), *Contemporary Saudi Arabia and The Emerging Indo - Saudi Relations*, Delhi: Shipra Publications.

Peterson, J. (2002), *Saudi Arabia and the Illusion of Security*, New York: Oxford University Press.

Journal and Online Articles

Al-Rasheed, Madawi (2009), "Modernising Authoritarian Rule in Saudi Arabia", *Contemporary Arab Affairs*, 2(4):587-601.

Adelman, Morris, 1974, "Politics, Economics and World Oil," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 64 (May), pp. 58–67.

Al-Rasheed, Madawi (2013), "Saudi Arabia: Local and Regional Challenges", *Contemporary Arab Affairs*, 6(1):28-40.

Baffes, J.M. et al. (2015), "The great plunge in oil prices: Causes, consequences, and policy responses", *World Bank Group* [Online: web] Accessed on 12 November 2017 URL: pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/339801451407117632/PRN01Mar2015OilPrices.pdf

Benedetta Berti & Yoel Guzansky (2014) Saudi Arabia's Foreign Policy on Iran and the Proxy War in Syria: Toward a New Chapter?, *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, 8:3, 25-34.

Behar, A. and Ritz, R.A. (2017), "OPEC vs US shale: Analyzing the shift to a market-share strategy" *Energy Economics* (63): 185-198, [Online: web] Accessed on 12 November 2017 URL: ceepr.mit.edu/files/papers/2016-006.pdf

Barnett, Michael N., "Regional Security after the Gulf War", *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol.111(4): 597 - 618.

Colgan, Jeff. (2012), "The emperor has no clothes: The limits of OPEC in the global oil market", [Online: web] Accessed 7 November 2017 URL: www.uni-heidelberg.de/md/awi/peio/colgan_13.09.2012.pdf

Ghoble, Vrushal T. (2019) Saudi Arabia–Iran Contention and the Role of Foreign Actors, *Strategic Analysis*, 43:1, 42-53.

Lemons, K. (2014), "The Shale Revolution and OPEC: Potential Economic Implications of Shale Oil for OPEC and Member Countries", *The Larrie and Bobbi Weil Undergraduate Research Award Documents*, [Online: web] Accessed on 12 November 2017 URL: scholar.smu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1004&context=weil_ura

Common Data Sources

British Petroleum - www.bp.com

Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) - www.opec.org

United Nations Human Development Report (UNHDR) - <http://hdr.undp.org/en>

Arab Human Development Report (AHDR) - <http://www.arab-hdr.org/>