

IR6600: Selected Topics in IR - Iran and Nuclear Security

Term 2, 2012-2013: 3 Credit Hours

Location: Kadena AB, Japan

Meeting Times and Dates: T, R 1800-2100

Instructor: Clifton W. Sherrill
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This course examines the institutions and policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran that bear on the Iranian regime's potential development of nuclear weapons. Specific emphasis will be placed on Shia Islamism, geopolitical factors, and the maturing of a revolutionary state, as well as on issues surrounding the development of nuclear infrastructure generally.

Course Objectives

After taking this course, students should have an understanding of the structure of the Iranian state, of Shia Islamist ideology, and of Iran's position in the greater Middle East. Students should also develop a clear appreciation of both the legal and practical impediments to developing a nuclear arms program, including basic knowledge of nuclear arms technology, the differences between civil nuclear energy programs and nuclear weapons programs, and multilateral non-proliferation efforts. Drawing upon this case study, students should be able to expand the lessons learned to a broader realm of non-proliferation study.

Required Texts

- Kenneth Pollack, The Persian Puzzle: The Conflict Between Iran and America (New York, NY: Random House, 2004). ISBN: 978-1400063154
- Frederic Wehrey, et al. The Rise of the Pasdaran: Assessing the Domestic Roles of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. (Santa Monica, CA: Rand, 2009). ISBN: 978-0833046208
(PLEASE NOTE THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE FOR FREE DOWNLOAD AT RAND'S WEBSITE)

Additional assigned readings will be available electronically through TROY library databases or through provided websites.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to keep up with the readings and to participate in class discussion. Students should obtain a TROY e-mail account and check it regularly as this will be the means of providing notice of assignment changes, class cancellations, or other matters outside of class.

A. Exams

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam in this course. The midterm will account for 20% of the course grade. The final exam will account for 30% of the course grade. Exams will include material covered in the readings and material discussed in class. Exams may include multiple choice, short answer questions, and essay questions.

B. Critical Essays

Four critical essays will be assigned, each constituting 10% of the term grade. Essays will be limited to no more than five pages. Essays will address specific questions, drawing from the assigned readings; however, essays are intended to demonstrate the student's analytic ability rather than the student's research ability. Detailed essay instructions and topics will be provided. Essay due dates are listed in the Course Schedule below.

C. Quizzes

There will be a series of quizzes covering the assigned reading for the day that will account for 10% of the semester grade. The lowest score will be dropped and the remaining scores averaged together. The quizzes will not follow a regular schedule: there may be 2 quizzes in one week or no quizzes for 3 weeks in a row. Quizzes will not be announced in advance.

Grading Policy

90 - 100	A	70 - 79	C	0 - 59	F
80 - 89	B	60 - 69	D		

Americans with Disabilities Act

Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that post-secondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link:

<http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

Academic Honesty

By their enrollment, students are responsible for following the "Standards of Conduct" as they apply in the Troy University Pacific Region. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these guidelines and to comply therewith. Cheating or plagiarism will result in an F for the course, will be reported to appropriate officials, and may subject the student to further discipline from the University. The instructor uses on-line software to help detect plagiarism. Please note that no assignment prepared for or submitted in a different course may be used in this course without prior approval of the instructor.

Library Resources

Students can access online information resources through Troy Library Services home page at <https://www.library.troy.edu> These resources include a variety of full text databases that provide complete article texts from thousands of journals, magazines and newspapers. Among the most helpful databases are JSTOR, Academic Search Complete, and Lexis-Nexis. Remote access is available via the student's Troy User ID and Password. Specific help for Global Campus students, including a dedicated librarian, is available at <https://www.uclibrary.troy.edu/>

Course Schedule

Week 1 (Oct. 15-21) Course Introduction, Iranian History

- Pollack, Ch. 1-4.
- Shmuel Bar, Iran: Cultural Values, Self Images, and Negotiation Behavior, Institute for Policy and Strategy. Herzliya, Israel: Interdisciplinary Center, 2004. (Available at <http://www.herzliyaconference.org/Uploads/2614Iranianself.pdf>)

Week 2 (Oct. 22-28) The Iranian Revolution and the Islamic State

Tuesday Oct. 23

- Pollack, Ch. 5-6
- Akbar Ganji, "The Latter-Day Sultan: Power and Politics in Iran." Foreign Affairs 87, no. 6 (November / December 2008): 45-66. (Available in Academic Search Complete).

Thursday Oct. 25

- Karim Sadjadpour, Reading Khamenei: The World View of Iran's Most Powerful Leader, (Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2008) (Available at http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/sadjadpour_iran_final2.pdf)

ESSAY # 1 DUE

Week 3 (Oct. 29 – Nov. 4) The Current Regime

Tuesday Oct. 30

- The Iranian State (Book Chapter posted on Blackboard)

Thursday Nov.1

- Pollack, Ch.7-10

Week 4 (Nov. 5-11) The IRGC, Hezbollah, and the Use of Terrorism

Tuesday Nov. 6

- Wehrey et al.

Thursday Nov.8

- Roozbeh Safshekan and Farzan Sabet, "The Ayatollah's Praetorians: The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and the 2009 Election Crisis," Middle East Journal 64, no. 4 (Autumn 2010): 543-558 (Available in Academic Search Complete)
- Shannon W. Caudill, "Hizballah Rising: Iran's Proxy Warriors." Joint Forces Quarterly 49, no. 2 (2008): 128-134. (Available at <http://www.ndu.edu/press/lib/pdf/jfq-49/JFQ-49.pdf>)

ESSAY #2 DUE

Week 5 (Nov. 12-18) Iran's Regional and Global Roles

Tuesday Nov.13

- Pollack, Ch. 11-13

Thursday Nov.15

- Shahram Chubin, "Iran's Power in Context." Survival 51, no. 1 (February-March 2009): 165-190. (Available in Academic Search Complete).

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 6 (Nov. 19-25) Nuclear Technology

Tuesday Nov. 20

- U.S. Office of Technology Assessment, “Ch. 4: Technical Aspects of Nuclear Proliferation” (Washington D.C., GPO,1993) (Available at <http://www.fas.org/spp/starwars/ota/934406.pdf>)
- William Dunlop and Harold Smith. “Who Did It? Using International Forensics to Detect and Deter Nuclear Terrorism.” *Arms Control Today* 36, no. 8 (October 2006). (Available at http://www.armscontrol.org/act/2006_10/CVRForensics)

ESSAY #3 DUE

Thursday Nov. 22 (Holiday)

Week 7 (Nov. 26 – Dec. 2) The Non-Proliferation Regime

Tuesday Nov. 27

- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (Available at <http://www.state.gov/www/global/arms/treaties/npt1.html>)
- Paul K. Kerr, “Iran’s Nuclear Program: Tehran’s Compliance with International Obligations.” *Congressional Research Service Report for Congress*, R40094. Washington, D.C.: December 23, 2009 (Available via Google search).

Thursday Nov.29

- IAEA, “Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement,” GOV/2011/65 (Nov.8, 2011) (Available at <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Board/2011/gov2011-65.pdf>)
- IAEA, “Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement,” GOV/2012/9 (Feb.24, 2012) (Available at <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Board/2012/gov2012-9.pdf>)
- Michael Spies, “Iran and the Limits of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime,” *American University International Law Review* 22 (2007): 401-43 (Available in Lexis).

Week 8 (Dec. 3-9) Iranian Nuclear Policy

Tuesday Dec. 4

- Paul K. Kerr “Iran’s Nuclear Program: Status.” *Congressional Research Service Report for Congress*, RL34544. Washington, D.C.: December 29, 2009 (Available via Google search).
- U.S. National Intelligence Council. “Iran: Nuclear Intentions and Capabilities.” *National Intelligence Estimate*. Washington, D.C.: November 2007 (*Unclassified*) (Available at http://www.dni.gov/press_releases/20071203_release.pdf)
- Colin Dueck and Ray Takeyh. “Iran’s Nuclear Challenge.” *Political Science Quarterly* 122, no. 2 (2007): 189-205. (Available in Academic Search Complete)

Thursday Dec.6

- Clifton W. Sherrill, “Why Iran Wants the Bomb and What It Means for U.S. Policy,” *Nonproliferation Review* 19,no.1 (March 2012): 31-49. (Available at http://cns.miis.edu/npr/pdfs/npr_19-1_sherrill_iran_bomb.pdf)
- Scott Sagan, Kenneth Waltz, and Richard K. Betts. “A Nuclear Iran: Promoting Stability or Courting Disaster?” *Journal of International Affairs* 60, no. 2 (Spring/Summer 2007): 135-150 (Available in Academic Search Complete)

ESSAY #4 DUE

Week 9 (*Dec. 10-16*) What is to be Done?

Tuesday Dec.11

- Whitney Raas and Austin Long. "Osirak Redux? Assessing Israeli Capabilities to Destroy Iranian Nuclear Facilities." International Security (Spring 2007): 7-33 (Available in Academic Search Complete)
- Jo-Anne Hart, "Perceptions and Courses of Action Toward Iran," Military Review 85, no. 5 (September-October 2005): 9-21. (Available at <http://merln.ndu.edu/archive/MilitaryReview/hart.pdf>).
- Matthew Kroenig, "Time to Attack Iran: Why an Attack is the Least Bad Option," Foreign Affairs 91, no.1 (Jan/Feb 2012): 76-86 (Available in Academic Search Complete)

Thursday Dec.13

FINAL EXAM

Note: The above schedule, readings and procedures in this course are subject to change.