

**University of Houston Law Center
Summer Mini Session 2024**

THE CURRENT CRISES IN THE MIDDLE EAST: SAUDI ARABIA VS IRAN

CONTACT INFORMATION

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**THE CURRENT CRISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST:
SAUDI ARABIA VS IRAN**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course will provide insight into substantive areas of history, religion, politics (regional and worldwide), longstanding relationships, legal systems, human rights and women's rights framed by current events in the most volatile and important region in the world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Learning Outcomes:

During your time in this course, you will develop competence in the following: • Knowledge and understanding of substantive and procedural law regulating lawyers' conduct; • Legal analysis and reasoning, legal research, problem-solving, and written and oral communication related to legal ethics and professional responsibility; • Exercise of proper professional and ethical responsibilities to clients and the legal system; • Reflection upon how to integrate conceptions of professionalism and the lawyer's role into your career; • Recognition of the trends that will influence the future of lawyers' work; and • Other professional skills needed for competent and ethical participation as a member of the legal profession.

PASS/FAIL OPTION

This course will be offered with a Pass/Fail option.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Since the beginning of civilization, the Middle East has been the hotbed of ongoing conflict. It is to the point where one conflict is almost indistinguishable from another. The current provocation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran could potentially alter the map of the Middle East and have a massive irrevocable impact on the entire world.

This course will begin by examining the issues leading up to the current hostility and continue through the potential outcomes and its potential impact on the world.

This course will be a timely and interesting way to begin to understand the issues involved in this region and how it can impact Houston and the world.

INSTRUCTIONAL MODE

The course will be taught in such a way as to allow an easy flow of discussion between the professor and the students. Class participation and preparation is highly important.

This course is designated as a face-to-face course, which means classes are in person by default, but designated classes may occasionally be held as remote classes via Zoom to accommodate other scheduling needs or other unforeseen circumstances. Students will be notified in advance of any classes that will be held remotely and a Zoom link will be posted on Blackboard at the start of the semester that is the Zoom link that will be used for any such classes.

The location of this class will be determined and announced at a later date.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

This course will be taught predominantly using articles from periodicals (to be distributed).

EVALUATION

Attendance and participation 50%

Final Exam 50%

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day	Topic	Course learning outcome	Material
1-3	Introductions Timeline of Saudi Arabia (KSA) Timeline of Iran Discuss Final Essay	To develop an understanding of the creation and development of the region and particularly the two most important regional powers	Required materials will be distributed in class
4-6	History of Islam Islam in today's world	To present a framework for understanding Islam and its impact, importance and influence on the region and the world	Required materials will be distributed in class
7-8	Constitutional Principles at work in the Islamic World (Kuwait)	To gain insight into how countries in the region merge beliefs and practices of east	Required materials will be distributed in class

		and west	
9-10	Historical Relationship Between KSA and Iran	To become aware of and comprehend the interactions between these countries: past, present and future	Required materials will be distributed in class
11-12	America's Relationships with KSA (and the new Crown Prince) and Iran	To understand the rapidly developing and changing relations between the countries	Required materials will be distributed in class
13-14	The Future of the Region		Required materials will be distributed in class
15	Review		
16	Final Exam Essay Due		

CURRENT CRISIS READING MATERIALS

Middle East Primer

<https://danielmiessler.com/blog/what-every-american-should-know-about-the-middle-east/>

Understanding the Middle East-Imperialism

<https://ohiostate.pressbooks.pub/key2mideast/chapter/the-impact-of-imperialism-on-the-region/>

MBS

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/ILGBQVCUCZ/mohammed bin salman](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/extra/ILGBQVCUCZ/mohammed_bin_salman)

KSA Timeline

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14703523>

IRAN Timeline

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14542438>

The Silk Roads

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vn3e37VWc0k&t=36s>

The Belt and Road Initiative

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACbbz0r0v6A>

History of Islam-Timeline

<http://www.religionfacts.com/islam/timeline>

The development of Islam (Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PDxKxnVZtgo&t=86s>

The 10 Largest Empires in World History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhBVaS-Z7AQ>

Sharia Law

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-27307249>

Inventions by Arabs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6SIcHMF9Y0>

Spain Under Islamic Rule

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGotnIfQaQg>

Comprehensive Iran Doc (incl. legal system)

https://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Iran_Legal_System_Research.html

The tension between KSA and Iran

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-42008809>

The Difference Between Sunni and Shia Muslims

<https://www.businessinsider.com/the-differences-between-shia-and-sunni-muslims-2015-10>

The Role of Law and Lawyers in Iran

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00210862.2018.1467266>

The Impact of Nimr al Nimr's Execution by KSA

<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2016/01/nimr-al-nimr-saudi-arabia-shiites/422670/>

Balfour Declaration (Al Jazeera)

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/10/100-years-balfour-declaration-explained-171028055805843.html>

Balfour Declaration (Britannica)

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Balfour-Declaration>

Sykes Picot Agreement (Britannica)

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement>

Sykes Picot Agreement (Yale Law)

https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/sykes.asp

Sykes Picot (New Yorker)

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/how-the-curse-of-sykes-picot-still-haunts-the-middle-east>

IRAN Lowers Temp

<https://www.shafaaq.com/en/iraq-news/iran-quietly-lowers-the-temperature-with-u-s/>

Underground life of women is KSA

<https://www.thecut.com/2017/09/young-women-living-in-saudi-arabia-interviews.html>

Underground life in Iran

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/iran-blog/2014/apr/17/tehran-the-secret-party-town>

Iran's Intellectuals go Underground

<https://newrepublic.com/article/132544/irans-intellectuals-going-underground>

Daily Life in Iran

[Daily Life in Iran - Lonely Planet](#)

www.lonelyplanet.com › [background](#) › [other-features](#) › [nar](#)

Why Iran's youth don't fly the nest

[Why Iran's youth don't fly the nest | World news | The Guardian](#)

www.theguardian.com › [iran-youth-property-job-market](#)

