WINTER QUARTER 2018 TOPICS COURSES

The following course numbers—INTS 4706, 4708, 4709, 4710, 4711—refer to special “topics” courses that are new and/or special course offerings. Topics courses may be added to the INTS curriculum at the discretion of the department, in order to accommodate special opportunities (e.g. a temporary visiting faculty member), or to focus on timely developments, debates, or trends in international affairs. Topics courses are generally offered only once. In the event that a topics course is offered more than once, the assigned course number is subject to change in subsequent quarters.

Because topics courses are not a part of our regular curriculum, details such as course title and description are not included in the permanent course catalog. As a supplement, therefore, we hope the course descriptions provided below will be a helpful resource to you as you prepare for registration.

INTS 4709 (CRN 4631): TOPICS: CURRENT CHALLENGES IN THE U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY
Instructor: Gary Grappo

In the fall of 2017, students studied American policy in the Middle East since World War II. Subjects included U.S. policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Iran, Iraq, terrorism, oil and a number of others. While successful completion of that class will be helpful as we tackle current challenges for the U.S. in the Middle East, it is not a requirement.

Americans as well as America’s friends and allies in the Middle East and elsewhere are asking if the United States is surrendering its preeminent position of power in the Middle East after more than 70 years of almost unchallenged dominance. Why is the question being asked? Does it make a difference? How positive a role can the U.S. now play in the politics and security of the region?

The course will examine these questions and more in light of these issues and others:

- American disengagement from the Syrian civil war and the major roles played by Russia, Iran and others in the course of that conflict,
- The rise of the Islamic State in Iraq after the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 2011 and its subsequent U.S. re-engagement as a result,
- The inability of the U.S. to capitalize on the Arab Spring of 2011 to promote democratic development in the region and the U.S. approaches to some of the those countries affected, e.g., Egypt, Yemen, Libya and others,
- Frustration over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict following two failed attempts to bring the sides together by President Obama and new initiatives by the Trump administration,
- Iran and the Iran nuclear accord and direction of U.S.-Iran relations, and
• The perception among predominantly Sunni Arab governments that America is turning away from them.