Independent Study Project Spring 2018
INST 4192 Sindelar
Academic Essay & Analysis – Saudi Arabia’s Regional Pretensions

Phone:  713-525-3819
Email:  sindelh@stthom.edu
Office Hours:  Mon-Thursday 1:00-5:00 p.m. or by appointment

This independent study will require the student to review the literature and current events concerning the rapid changes in Saudi internal governance, and that monarchy’s pretensions to become a regional Middle East and North Africa leader, as well as achieve a higher standing on the international stage. Particular attention will be paid to the history of the Saud clan, their rise to power, and their role as perhaps the biggest player in OPEC and the international oil market. Will their new drive for more prominence contribute to, or detract from, regional stability in the short and medium terms?

Assignment

Student will prepare an essay worthy of journal or media publication, 12-15 pages. Work will include a thorough review of scholarly sources from peer-reviewed journals/books/book chapters, as well as recent media reporting on evolving events. Student will propose ways in which the U.S. and other nations may deal with the rise in Saudi regional influence, to the extent a policy response, if any, is needed.

Formatting

12 point, Times New Roman font  No extra spacing between sections
Re-set all margins to 1 inch  No quotes exceeding two lines of text
Insert page numbers on each page  Works cited page (APSA style)

Reviewed articles should be drawn from current media and also:

- Scholarly journals available through JSTOR (accessed through UST webpage) and/or Project Muse available from a campus computer at http://muse.jhu.edu/
- Most recent hard copy articles of those stored electronically are permissible.
- Reviewed articles must be at least 15 pages in length.
- Scholarly books (typically published by a university press; M.E. Sharpe; Praeger; and/or Routledge Press.

Due Date:  May 1, 2018

Meetings with professor:  By-weekly meetings to discuss issues with the professor, evolve the essay’s content (once every two weeks). Other communication as needed via email and office visits to discuss progress, identify deficiencies, and review written material.
Sample of annotated bibliography:


This article discusses the aftermath of a conflict and its affect on the next generation, their collective memory. It also focuses on the need to make use of the collective memory of the post-conflict generation in order that history won’t repeat itself and conflict arises again. Hoffman uses the South Truth and Reconciliation Committee as an example to prove that the “world of violence cannot be righted but it can be rectified (source).”

The author explains that systematic violence which is meant to humiliate such as torture is the worse kind that affects collective memory and the way it is interpreted could affect the resurgence or reduction of conflict. As the post-generation is the hinge between the past and future and much depends on how it turns from one to another. Therefore the method of transmission of these memories is important in order to “remember without hating”. When the author talks about post generation she defines it as the children of both the victims and the perpetrators, who through collective memory and guilt could re-start the conflict in a reverse manner where the children of the victim would turn on the children of the perpetrator.

The author concludes that the only way that remembering without hurting could occur is if there is dialogue between the children of the victim and perpetrator so that memory would be truly collective in the sense that each would hear the others memories as well would understand and identify with the other.