University of Miami
Department of Political Science
Conflicts in the Middle East and Africa
the regional security complex

Dr. Bradford R. McGuinn
Politics 586J
Spring 2013

Description
This course seeks to examine the conflict ecologies of subregional spaces. Taking the “regional security complex” as a point of departure, three neighborhoods will be examined: Syria and the Levant, Mali and Sahelian space and Somalia and the Horn of Africa. Insights provided from the Copenhagen School, and other perspectives, will be engaged for what they tell us about the causes, characteristics and consequences of multidimensional conflicts in these areas.

Office Hours
The office is located on the third floor of the Jenkins Building, 314S. Regular office hours are kept between 10:30 and 12:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Additional meeting times can be made by appointment and communication is possible at bmguinn@miami.edu. Also, please check the blackboard before each class session for procedural and substantive information as the course goes along.

Reading Materials
Selected Articles

Grading
First essay: 30% [13 February]
Second essay: 30% [20 March]
Third essay: 30% [6 May]
Participation and Attendance: 10%

Rules of Order
Regular attendance is essential as the frameworks for the essays will be presented in class. A deduction of half a letter grade will accompany late papers for each day beyond the deadline. Plagiarism, of course, will not be tolerated. Much the same can be said about late arrivals, early departures and such. Enough said.
Course Outline

Lecture One [14 January]
**Overview**

Introduction

Lecture Two [16 January]
**Handful of Dust**

Readings

I. Spaces

Lecture Three [23 January]
**Epistemology**

Readings

Suggested Readings
Lecture Four [28 January]

Liminality

Readings

Suggested Readings

II. Constructs

Lecture Five [30 January]

Ontology

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Six [4 February]

Teleology

Readings

Suggested Readings
Lecture Seven [6 February]

**Framing**

Readings

Suggested Readings

III. Stress

Lecture Eight [11 February]

**Order**

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Nine [13 February]

**Decay**

Readings

Suggested Readings


Lecture Ten [18 February]

**Violence**

Readings


Suggested Readings


IV. Landscapes

**A. Syria and the Levant**

Lectures 11 through 16 (20 February through 6 March)

1. Landscape

Readings


Suggested Readings


Yaron Friedman and Yaron Friman, “Al-Husayn ibn Hamdan al-Khasibi: A Historical Biography of the

2. Evolution

Readings

Suggested Readings
Raymond Hinnebusch, “Toward a Historical Sociology of State Formation in the Middle East,” *Middle East Critique*, V. 19, N. 3 (Fall 2010): 201-216.

3. Contention

Readings

Suggested Readings
Oren Barak, “Intra-Communal and Inter-Communal Dimensions of Conflict and Peace in Lebanon,”
B. Mali and the Sahel
Lectures 17 through 22 (18 March through 3 April)

1. Landscape

Readings

Suggested Readings

2. Evolution

Readings

Suggested Readings

3. Contention

Readings

Suggested Readings

C. Somalia and Horn of Africa
Lectures 23 through 27 (8 April through 24 April)

1. Landscape

Readings

Suggested Readings
Francois-Xavier Fauvelle-Aymar and Bertrand Hirsch, “Muslim Historical Spaces in Ethiopia and the Horn

2. Evolution

Readings: evolution

Suggested Readings

3. Contention

Readings

Suggested Readings
Tobias Hagmann and Benedikt Korf, “Agamben in the Ogaden: Violence and Sovereignty in the Ethiopian-