Sultan Qaboos University
College of Economics and Political Science
Political Science Department

MASTER OF ARTS in
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
& SECURITY STUDIES

HANDBOOK
Executive Summary

International Relations and Security Studies Program provides high level training for professionals especially in the foreign, defense and security services and some other private sectors related with International relations and security in the Sultanate of Oman. It was initiated as a MA Program in the Department of Political Science, in the College of Economics and Political Science at Sultan Qaboos University in the Fall 2012. The Department offers MA in International Relations and Security Studies with two specializations: International Relations and Security Studies. The program is offered over three years for part-time students and based on 24 credits of course work and a thesis. A core component of 18 credit hours of courses will be common and mandatory for all students. Students thereafter select 6 credits from an available pool of 24 credits of courses in one of two specializations, either International Relations or Security Studies.
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1. Dean's Message

As the oldest university in Oman, Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) takes pride in our accomplishments and in the quality of our undergraduate and master programs. College of Economics and Political Science (CEPS) offers three different master programs, Master of Science in Information Systems, Master of Business Administration and Master of Arts in International Relations and Security Studies. Especially in the last years, our college has been investing significantly in graduate education and research. The college has expanded the faculty and recruited selective researchers in many fields including our master programs.

With over 3,000 students, CEPS continues to develop and grow our enrollments each year. During the past decade the college engaged in several high impact research initiatives in partnership with several institutions. This is one of the most crucial components of being a research university and also for master programs. Every student coming to the college receives personalized attention and is supported through effective student services, including mentorship, peer-tutoring, advising, academic residential living and learning, internships, scholarships and pioneering supervising.

Faculty in our college and in the MA in International Relations and Security Studies Program are our real strength. They are highly accomplished in their field and practical experience. We are committed to further enhancing the research interest of our faculty and engaging in outreach activities to provide the best response to regional needs.

We in the CEPS bring great minds together to consider some of our world’s most pressing challenges. Importantly CEPS is known not only as a place where your intellect will be challenged, but also as a place that will give you the training skills necessary to enhance your life. We train our students to think analytically, carefully and thoughtfully, and also give serious attention to practical training with practical courses, negotiating and theory.

If you are here in SQU for the Postgraduate study, I hope that you will relish the opportunity to expand your knowledge. I wish you every success in the years ahead at Sultan Qaboos University.

Dr. Saeed Mubarak Al-Muharrami
2. Welcome Message of HoD

I am delighted to welcome you to our new, challenging and inspirational MA Program of International Relations and Security Studies (MA-IRSS) designed for the next generation. The MA-IRSS is committed to stimulate your thinking and give you the opportunity to learn how to understand, orchestrate and find solutions in a turbulent political world. Our highly qualified faculty members, through their long-standing experience in teaching and research, will help you acquire the theoretical and practical knowledge to tackle real-life international issues efficiently and effectively in order to gain competitive advantage for your organization wherever you are based. The Department admits a very small number of well-qualified candidates to its graduate program each year. Our relatively small size of class yields us to provide high quality of graduate instruction and mentorship.

This program has just opened its doors in September 2012. Although it is a new program, it is unique in the country and one of the three master programs in International Relations and Security Studies in the Gulf Region. International Relations will enhance your understanding on foreign affairs, international actors, international political economy and comparative political science in the today's complex world. Security Studies is a new developing field and will deepen your knowledge of strategic studies, international conflicts, defense studies and conflict management. Acquiring new capabilities and building on your expertise, you will be able to redefine your career goals and shape your future.

The program is designed as a part time program with 18 credit hours from mandatory courses and 6 credit hours from elective courses. It offers a degree of MA of International Relations or Security Studies specialization. After completing 18 credit hours (6 Courses), students are offered 6 more elective credit hours (2 courses) for their specialization. Both streams provide comprehensive and in-depth coverage of current leadership and management practices through core courses, electives and specialty courses in the fields. Students are required to write a thesis to receive their MA degree in our program. Students have free access to major journals and e-books via SQU libraries, free textbooks and scholarships. Our teaching techniques include a high level of teaching technologies, such as virtual learning, prepared power points, online ‘Moodle’ learning platforms, short IR movies etc. Our Program with its dynamic and stimulating environment, along with tailor made prepared courses, welcomes you to study at SQU.

Dr. M. Cuneyt Yenigun

Political Science Department

International Relations and Security Studies MA Program
3. Introduction

International relations is an interdisciplinary area that deals with issues such as world politics, diplomacy, negotiation, security and intelligence, international law, international political economy, international trade, sovereignty, development, international communications and human rights in the context of global affairs. It is also focused on the policies of individual states and their impact at regional and international levels. In International Relations Program students deal with politics, law and economics, but they are also given aspects of other specializations, in particular sub-fields such as security and intelligence, environmentalism and intercultural communication. The proposed program aims at providing students with the knowledge and skills required to develop professional careers in International Relations and Security fields.

International Relations program covers a complex network of factors that influence relations among nations and the way certain events in one part of the world can have consequences in another. Students are introduced to different theories, approaches and concepts as a basis for analyzing and understanding international relations’ issues. Studying International Relations provides students with great opportunities for careers in various public and private sectors, such as diplomacy, security institutions, research centers, media, social policy development, non-governmental organizations, international trade institutions and businesses, to name but a few. The program assists in developing highly sought-after knowledge and skills, such as research and analytical skills, cross-cultural understanding, negotiation and communication skills, which can be applied in many fields.

Security Studies program aims at providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the complex challenges facing nations. It addresses issues such as evaluation and formulation of national security policy, the way to confront terrorism and political violence, how to maintain stability at the national and international level, and how to avoid war and unrest. Security Studies prepare students for positions in agencies responsible for national and inter-national security policy, security and intelligence analysis, dealing with terrorism and counter terrorism, political violence and related fields. Graduates of this program could be found end up in the military, security services and the police, or as policy-makers, action-officers, teachers, researchers, analysts and consultants.

Both International Relations and Security Studies are important areas where high level training is uniquely offered by SQU in Oman.
4. Rationale

The international environment has changed rapidly during the last two decades and has become more complex than ever. Globalization has dominated in an increasingly integrated world, creating new trends in economic, political and military interactions among nations. Issues of cultural, social, and environmental dimensions are becoming as crucial as political, military and commercial matters in this new climate. This atmosphere requires in every country the preparation of specialists in International Relations and Security Studies equipped with the knowledge and skills needed for balanced and secure relationships among nations. Moreover, international issues specialists and experts are crucially important for any state to analyze and predict where world trends are going in terms of strategic questions such as politics, economics, military and cultural issues. This program is essential for the Sultanate of Oman and the region for graduating specialists in the aforementioned specialization areas. It also creates new opportunities for Omanis and others in the region to find employment in the government and the private sector. There are currently no programs of this nature offered in Oman, despite clear need from the Foreign Service and the Security Services.

5. Program Vision, Mission and Objectives

5.1. Program Vision

This program will be a leading program in the region and offers a distinguished education in International Relations and Security Studies.

5.2. Program Mission

Through excellent instruction and creative work this program will provide Omani society and the region with high caliber graduates equipped with knowledge and skills to perform effectively at professional levels in fields related to international relations and security.

5.3. Program Objectives

The main objective of this program is to graduate high caliber specialists in International Relations and Security Studies who have the following:
• Academic knowledge and practical skills in International Relations and Security Studies, with the ability to meet the needs of the Sultanate of Oman and the region in these areas.

• Expertise in international relations and security studies in order to operate effectively as professionals in both public and private sectors.

• Communication, negotiation and persuasion skills, which enable them to make presentations and construct arguments and articulate rigorous debates in international relations and security studies.

6. Program Description

6.1. Program Title

The program title is "Master of Art in International Relations and Security Studies".

6.2. Degree

The program awards degree in international relations and security studies. The title of the degree is granted according to the specialization as follows:

i. Master of Art in International Relations and Security Studies (International Relations)

ii. Master of Art in International Relations and Security Studies (Security Studies).

6.3. Language of Instruction

The program is presented in English.

6.4. Degree Structure

The program is based on course work and a research-based thesis. This requires students to pass eight courses (24 credit hours) and a thesis defence as per the Postgraduate Academic Regulations Master Option 10.4.2. This offers two streams or specializations:

- International Relations
- Security Studies

The program structure is the following:
Core Courses - Compulsory
International Relations and Security Studies – 18 Cr.H.

Specialization
Security Studies – 6 Cr.H

Specialization
International Relations - 6 Cr.H

Thesis

6.5. Entrance Requirements
This program is open to students who have:

- Bachelor’s degree with a GPA of at least 2.5 (Conditional) /3.00
- 2 years working experience and
- English language test score of IELTS 6.0 or TOEFL 550.

6.6. Mode of Study
This program is designed to accept part time students only, for three years of study. The program was implemented in the Fall of the academic year 2012-2013.

5. Target Audience
The program targets candidates who hold Bachelor’s degree in different programs, though priority will be given to those specialized in the humanities, in accordance with the conditions specified in the Postgraduate Academic Regulations. It is expected that many participants will be drawn from the Foreign Service, as well as the military, police and security services in the Sultanate. It is also open to international students including citizens of other Gulf countries.

6. Program Administration
The program will follow the University Postgraduate Academic Regulations (Fall 2008 version). It is presented by the Department of Political Science in the College of Economics and Political Science in coordination with the College Postgraduate Studies Committee and the office of the Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Studies and Research.
7. Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate, participants in this program must meet all of the following requirements:

- Attend classes regularly.
- Complete the theoretical and practical requirements of the program in terms of credit hours (graduation cumulative average should be 3.00 out of 4.00 in the program) and the thesis defense.
- Meet all requirements of the assessment system in the University Postgraduate Academic Regulations, including projects, assignments, reports and examinations.
- Meet the general graduation requirements as listed in the Postgraduate Academic Regulations.

8. Curriculum

The curriculum consists of a compulsory core of 6 courses followed by the student choosing 2 out of a pool of 8 electives in one of the two available specializations. This is followed by research leading to a thesis. All courses are 3 credit hours. (See the courses’ descriptions).
9. Study Plan

The work plan for part-time students is given below and includes six regular semesters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRSS 6001</td>
<td>International Relations: Theory and Practice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRSS 6002</td>
<td>Political Economy of the Middle East.</td>
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<th>Semester 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>IRSS 6003</td>
<td>International Law and Organization.</td>
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<th>Semester 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>IRSS 6005</td>
<td>Negotiation and Conflict Resolution.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRSS 6006</td>
<td>Defence and Strategic Studies.</td>
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<th>Semester 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRSS 6XXX</td>
<td>Select one specialized course.</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRSS 6XXX</td>
<td>Select one specialized elective course (International Relations or Security Studies).</td>
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<th>Semester 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>IRSS 7001</td>
<td>Thesis.</td>
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<th>Semester 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>IRSS 7001</td>
<td>Thesis.</td>
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Course Descriptions

1. Compulsory Courses

1-1 International Relations: Theory and Practice (IRSS 6001)

This course discusses international relations theories and its practical applications in order to expand understanding of policy issues on international level. The main goal of this course is to raise questions regarding how major scholars have theorized about international relations in the past, contemporary, and emerging inter-national system. Conflict and war, international cooperation development, foreign policy, international political systems, international relations crisis are concepts to be discussed and analyzed in this course. Students will be exposed to the growing literature on international relations theory, classical and modern, including realism, idealism, behavioralism, globalism, and Marxist and Imperialist theories.

1-2 Political Economy of the Middle East (IRSS 6002)

The Middle East is a large, complex and diverse region of strategic global importance which faces a wide range of economic and political issues. This course offers students an overview of modern Middle East economies and their recent efforts to adapt to the global economy. At a broad level, the course will examine the challenges and opportunities facing societies, economies and states of the region. Emphasis will be placed on underlying forces that propel national and regional developments, patterns and strategies of economic and political development, their interrelationships and the capabilities of the Middle East states in implementing innovative and effective development strategies.

1-3 International Law and Organizations (IRSS 6003)

This covers the definition and evolution of International Public Law including the compulsory force of I.P. Law rules; the relation between international and domestic law; and sources of I.P. Law. A state and its fundamental elements are defined including: population, territory, land, territorial sea, territorial space, recognition and international inheritance. External relations of states are covered including: diplomatic and consular representation, amicable settlement of disputes and international responsibility. International organizations are outlined in terms of their elements and categories including, membership, structure, authorities and juristic personality. The United Nations creation, charter, objectives and principles, membership, bodies and affiliates (General Assembly, Security Council, Economic and Social Council, Trusteeship Council, International Court of Justice) and regional
organizations (Arab League and the Cooperation Council of Arab Gulf Countries) are covered.

1-4 Security Issues: Theory and Practice (IRSS 6004)

This is a basic introduction to the field of security studies, examining theoretical approaches to the study of international relations and core concepts. It will cover the causes of war, deterrence and coercion, engagement and arms control, and approaches to transnational security; the outbreak of the two world wars, the course and conduct of the Cold War, and an examination of the current international security environment.

1-5 Negotiation & Conflict Resolution (IRSS 6005)

This course aims at providing students with theoretical knowledge and practical skills needed to be effective negotiators. Students will be exposed to topics such as successful strategies for negotiation, communication skills designed to better understand the nature of conflict and its resolution through persuasion, collaboration, and negotiation. Special emphasis will be placed on cross-cultural negotiation. Theories of interpersonal and organizational conflict and its resolution as applied to personal, corporate, historical, and political contexts will be discussed and analyzed. Students will learn how to maximize the potential of making favorable agreements, identifying strengths and weaknesses in personal negotiating style and improving ability to make good choices in negotiation strategy.

1-6 Defence and Strategic Studies (IRSS 6006)

This course deals with issues related to management, technology and defence. It provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to evaluate the important strategic relationships between these three components. The study of these relationships within a strategic view can be of great help for students to identify the crucial mutual impact of effective management of military-related industrial and technological resources that represents an integral component of contemporary global power. Issues to be presented in this course include defence and technology, the economics of defence, innovations in military affairs, defence management; defence science and technology strategy. Case studies will be discussed.
2. Elective Courses

2-1 International Relations

2-1-1 Comparative Politics (IRSS 6101)
An introduction to comparative politics, starting with an examination of the behaviors, organizations and institutions involved in national policy-making: voting and electoral systems, political parties and interest groups, legislatures, and executives. The focus will be on relating system types to policy outcomes – are the kinds of policies enacted by parliamentary democracies different from those of presidential systems? What is the impact of unitary vs. federal government structure? Institutions and behaviors will be compared across political systems (such as the UK, Canada, India, Brazil, South Africa).

2-1-2 Contemporary Diplomacy (IRSS 6102)
This course covers the institutions and processes by which states represent themselves to one another. The knowledge, language, and skills necessary in diplomacy and the modes of diplomacy (for example, ambassador and summity) and its functions (for example, negotiation and information-gathering) will be considered. Contemporary events, the origins of diplomatic institutions and the development of diplomatic law are covered, touching on disciplines such as history, international law, as well as political science and international relations.

2-1-3 Geostrategic Studies (IRSS 6103)
This course deals with the effects of geography on political, economic, military, and cultural aspects in historical and contemporary dimensions. Specific emphasis is placed on the role of geography in the formulation of military-political policy. Geopolitical theories will be used as analytical tools in this course to provide clear understanding of the mutual impact between geography on the one hand and politics, economy, military and culture on the other. It also focuses on the effects of geography and political organization on the behavior of states, including strategy and power.

2-1-4 The Media and World Politics (IRSS 6104)
This course examines both the constructive and destructive roles of the media in international relations and world political affairs. It is designed to introduce
students to the media role in world politics. Topics covered include media systems freedom of mass media, the free flow of information, media bias, the role of international broadcasting in world politics, the effects of censorship and communication monopoly on foreign and domestic policies, truth versus falsehood in international communication, global media and international journalism, public diplomacy, and propaganda.

2-1-5 International Relation Crises: Case Studies (IRSS 6105)

This course examines a wide range of questions of current international conflicts and problems with analysis of possible solutions. At the same time students will be exposed on crisis management theories and concepts and how these can be applied in time of crises on the international level. These challenges include political, economic, military, climate and environmental change, resource scarcity, natural disasters and others. This course is organized mainly to present case studies.

2-1-6 Globalization, Governance and Development (IRSS 6106)

This course is designed as an introduction to the newly emerging field of political economy of development. It examines how globalization and the increased interconnectedness between politics, economics, and policy have fundamentally altered the context of development. Emphasis is on the relationships – the interface – between development, globalization and governance, in the context of examining the many meaning associated with the terms. The course also explores a range of issues, actors and institutions and addresses questions such as: How central is politics and governance to economic development? What are the potential benefits and costs of advancing globalization for individuals and states? Does globalization demand institutional transformations and new forms of global governance? What are the impacts of multilateralism versus regionalism?

2-1-7 Global Political Economy (IRSS 6107)

Global Political Economy (GPE) is an interdisciplinary field that focuses on the interplay between politics and economics in international relations. This course provides a broad understanding of the current international economic system and tools for analyzing and assessing policy and historical developments. The course provides an historical overview of key features of the international economic system, surveys the most prominent theoretical approaches to the field and considers a range of core issue areas of GPE: the impact of globalization on the current global political economic system, the role of domestic and international institutions in creating/managing conflicts and facilitating cooperation, the relationship
between states and markets, the evolution and contemporary functioning of international trade, the international financial system, transnational production, regional integration and economic development.

2-1-8 International Penal Law (IRSS 6108)

This course deals with international crime, which includes the violation of international order and values. It relates to both criminal and international law. The course deals with the general elements of international crime and the causes of permissibility in this branch of law such as: the legitimate defence, restoration, the fighter’s rights within war and the intervention by force for humanity. The course focuses on criminal liability and sanction in the international criminal law. The course will also cover acts that are considered international crimes: aggression, war crimes, unlawful use of weapons, genocide, crimes against humanity, apartheid, slavery, piracy, crimes relating to international air communication, threat and use of force against internationally protected persons and taking of civilians hostages.

2-1-9 Oman Foreign Policy: Seminar (IRSS 6109)

This course examines the main themes of Oman foreign policy from 1970 to the present. It analyses various internal and external factors that influence formulation of Oman foreign policy. Focus is placed on studying Oman’s relations on the international, regional and inter-Arab levels, including the Arab league and the Gulf Cooperation Council. Relations with the Non-aligned Movement, the Islamic Conference and the Organisation of African Unity are also considered as well as other policy concerns of national interest. Several of the presentations will be made by external specialists.

2-2 Security Studies Elective Courses

2-2-1 National and Regional Security Issues (IRSS 6201)

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge, skills and networks related to national and regional security issues. The course aims at providing students with strategic analysis and profound understanding of major security trends and challenges on both the national and the region levels. It also provides students with processes and tools as prerequisite to maintain national and regional security. This course also focuses on building skills in critical thinking, negotiation, creative communication, coordination, collaboration and decision-making.
2-2-2 Selected Topics in Security: Seminar (IRSS 6202)

This will be a series of seminar discussions on topics related to security. It will be presented mostly by external specialists, many drawn from the Internal Security Services of Oman. The focus will be on issues relevant to Oman and may include topics such as: deception, surprise and warning intelligence; and social, economic and political issues relevant to stability, security and prosperity.

2-2-3 Terrorism and Counter-terrorism (IRSS 6203)

The course examines a wide range of questions in order to provide students with a deeper understanding of the threat of terrorism today. This course explores the nature of terrorism, the motivations of terrorists, and the tactics that terrorists use. It surveys state-sponsored terrorist groups, as well as several leading past and current radical groups. It will assess different methods of countering terrorism, ranging from law enforcement to covert action.

2-2-4 Conflict in the Middle East: Case Studies (IRSS 6204)

Topics include a history of states and empires in the Middle East; the emergence of nationalism and the modern state system; significant security issues, including the Arab-Israeli dispute from 1948 and water and other resource disputes; the role of the Arab League and GCC; the global context of security issues; including the roles played by European colonialism, the Cold War and American policy in the region.

2-2-5 Intelligence: Theory and Practice (IRSS 6205)

This course focuses on clandestine operations, intelligence technology, analysis, covert action, and policy support; the role of national intelligence in security, policy formation, and other national priorities; partnerships between the community of intelligence agencies, military services, academic, scientific, and industrial institutions in developing practices and powerful technological system. The challenges of conducting secret activities within a democratic society and defining success and failure will be considered.

2-2-6 Military Operations and Technology (IRSS 6206)

The course will explore the development of national decisions to use military force, the derivation of war fighting strategy and strategic aims that follow, and the operational plan and execution of campaigns to achieve them. How modern
military forces are organized, equipped and trained for conventional combat operations. Also, how military forces have evolved as well as how military technology has changed in the past century and how those changes have influenced the way operations are conducted. This course will examine both the technological issues surrounding missile and other defence systems. It will provide a primer on the technology behind missiles, and the proposed missile defence systems designed to defeat them. The majority of the of course will focus on conventional combat, but “low intensity” operations such as counter insurgency, will also be covered.

2-2-7 International Cooperation in Criminal Justice Administration (IRSS 6207)

This course will explore the development of the administration of criminal justice nationally and internationally. It will also provide the students with knowledge related to criminal justice themes. Topics that will be covered include: introduction to criminal justice, criminology and criminal law, introduction to policing, international cooperation in criminal justice, crime and delinquency, deviant behavior, criminalization, victimization, and women and minorities in criminal justice.

2-2-8 Media and Security (IRSS 6208)

This course will examine the role of the media in national and international security issues. Topics covered include the impact of media reporting on security policy, the role of a war correspondent, the relationship between media and officials in crisis situations, investigative journalism and security issues. This course will also concentrate on the two-way street between the media and government about security policy, in particular in crisis situations such as conflicts (internal and international), exceptional or catastrophic events. The notion of professional and ethical responsibility of journalists will be discussed and media campaigns in the area of security will be analyzed.
DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM
FACULTY and STAFF MEMBERS
Dr. Mahmut Cuneyt Yenigun
Associate Professor, Head of Department
Political Science Department,
College of Economics and Political Science
Sultan Qaboos University
Room 2056, CEPS

Tel: +968 2414 1986; Email: cuneyt@squ.edu.om

Qualifications
- Post-Ph.D. In Political Science, Florida State University, 1999.
- PhD in International Relations, Istanbul University, 1997.
- MA in International Relations, Istanbul University, 1994.
- MA in International Relations and Political Science, Bosphorus University, 1993.
- BA in International Relations, Istanbul University, 1991

Professional Associations
- TASAM Public Diplomacy Institute Board Member
- Co-editor, European Studies Journal
- Reviewer, EJEG Journal of E-Government, UK
- Editorial Board Member, International Journal of Research in Business and Social Sciences

Biography
Cuneyt Yenigun is an Associate Professor of International Relations/Political Science and Acting Head of Department of Political Science. He worked in several universities, Florida State University, Malmo University, Beykent University, International Balkan University and American University in the Emirates. He is author of four books including Balkans: Foreign Affairs, Politics and Socio-Cultures. His articles have been published in several international and indexed journals. He was awarded with Karavelioglu Fellowship in the USA and three times by European Union Socrates Program at Malmo University (Sweden), Katholieke University (Belgium) and Barcelona Autonomous University (Spain). He was awarded as Best/Top lecturer six times in different universities. He is co-editor of Journal of European Studies. Dr. Yenigun conducted five different projects, presented more than thirty papers in international conferences. He is the member of editorial boards of eight international peer-review journals. He supervised around thirty master and doctoral dissertations in several universities. His subfield intensifies on International Relations, International Conflicts and Solutions, Strategic Studies, Security Studies and Balkan and the Middle East Studies. Dr. Yenigun speaks four languages and two more in intermediate level.
Research Specializations:
- International Conflicts and Solutions Alternatives
- International Systems
- Middle East/ Gulf Foreign Affairs
- Security and Strategic Studies

Courses Taught at SQU:
- International Relations: Theory and Practice (IRSS6001)
- Security Issues: Theory and Practice (IRSS 6004)
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (IRSS 6005)
- International Law and Organizations (IRSS 6003)
- International Relations Theory (POLS 3908)
- International Security (POLS 4912)
- Introduction to International Relations (POLS 1902)
Dr. Houchang HASSAN-YARI
Full Professor
Political Science Department,
College of Economics and Political Science
Sultan Qaboos University
Room 2062, CEPS

Tel.: +968 - 2414 2962; Email: Houchang@squ.edu.om

Qualifications
- Ph.D. in International Relations (Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada), 1991-92
- M.A. in Political Science, International Relations —Middle East— (Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada), 1982
- B.A. in Sociology, French literature (Ferdowsi University, Mashhad, Iran), 1975

Professional Associations
- International Studies Association
- Middle East Studies Association of North America (USA, 1996)
- Center for Iranian Research and Analysis (CIRA) (USA, 1995)
- The Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies (Canada, 1991)
- Association franco-canadienne en études stratégiques (France, Canada)
- Institut québécois des hautes études internationales (Canada, 1995)
- Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (Canada, 1997)
- Canadian Political Science Association (Canada, 1998)
- Senior Fellow, Queen’s Centre for International Relations (Canada, 1998)

Biography
Dr. Houchang Hassan-Yari is Professor of Military and Strategic issues and International Relations. He is a Senior Analyst at Wikistrat Next Generation Strategy and a Senior Research Fellow at the Center for International and Defence Policy at Queen’s University. He is also an external member to the Observatory on the Middle East and North Africa at the Raoul-Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies at the University of Quebec in Montreal, and member of the Development Council of the Academy Geopolitics and the International Institute for Strategic Studies (Paris). His publications include “L’évolution des relations de l’OTAN avec la Lybie », in Brahim Saidy, ed., L’OTAN et le Maghreb, Paris, L’Harmatan, 2014, “The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and Contemporary International Politics and Economy”, in Brian JC McKercher, ed., Routledge Handbook of Diplomacy and Statecraft London, New York, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2012, “Clashology Within Islam: Not civilizational, but

Professor Hassan-Yari has provided expert comments and analysis on political, military and strategic issues in the Middle East and beyond for the benefit of the general public by according over 9500 interviews with national and international mass media.

Research Specialization:
- Middle East and State Security
- Military, Defence and Strategic Issues
- Comparative Political systems
- Canadian Foreign and Defence Policy
- Sovereignty in Arctic Political Science
- Post-conflict regional cooperation

Courses Taught at SQU
- Defence and Strategic Studies (IRSS 6006)
- Terrorism and Counter Terrorism (IRSS 6203)
- International Relations Crises (IRSS 6105)
- Conflict in the Middle East (IRSS 6204)
- Research Methodology in Social Sciences (POLS 2906)
Qualifications
PhD. In Politics (University of Otago, New Zealand), 2012.

Biography
Leon Goldsmith is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science of Sultan Qaboos University. He specialises in Middle East politics, contemporary conflict and identity politics. He is an expert on Levant politics and has specialised in Syrian sub-national politics since 2007. In 2010 he was awarded a Claude McCarthy Fellowship for his research on Syria’s Alawite community and has published extensively in academic journals and books on that subject. His current research interests are in neutrality, social integration, resilience and reconciliation from an identity politics perspective. He teaches undergraduate and master courses in political science and comparative politics. Prior to arriving at Sultan Qaboos University he taught political science and Middle East politics at the University of Otago and Massey University in New Zealand.

Research Specializations:
- Comparative Politics
- Identity Politics
- Middle East Politics
- Syrian Politics

Courses Taught at SQU
- Introduction to Political Science (POLS1900)
- Introduction to Comparative Politics (POLS1901)
- Comparative Politics (IRSS6101)
- Globalization, Governance & Development (IRSS6106)
- Comparative Politics of the Middle East (POLS3915)
- Political Economy of the Middle East (IRSS6002)
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