

**Inside the Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives
Congressional Fellowship Program II
Overview & Curriculum**

The Inside the Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives Congressional Fellowship is designed to equip Congressional Staffers with the knowledge and the tools to accurately analyze and decipher current events in the Middle East and successfully navigate future events in the region.

The program in its sixth year of operation and its second year on Capitol Hill, consists of **lectures on selected topics to provide the history and in depth understanding** critical to interpreting the Middle East today, **real-time Middle East updates** on current and evolving events, and each session will have time for **Q's & A's and dialogue so you can learn more about issues of particular personal or professional interest.**

The DC based sessions will be followed by a **Field Seminar to Israel & The Palestinian Territories.**

ITME looks beyond Western media sources, narratives and explanations, and encourages participants to adopt a new critical lens for broader media and political analysis.

The three-dimensional perspectives the program offers, the understanding of the connectivity of events, the motivation, interest and mindset of the players - plus the intelligence tools which are incorporated throughout the program, guarantee a better ability to accurately understand, analyze and contextualize regional events. ITME will provide US policy makers valuable insight, knowledge, and understanding critical to build an effective and positive US policy in the Middle East.

Instructor:

Middle East Strategic Intelligence Analyst, Avi Melamed, is the President and CEO of Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives, a registered 501(c)(3) in the State of Maryland.

Avi is a former Intelligence Official and Senior Israel Official on Arab Affairs. In his public service, he held Government, Senior Advisory, Intelligence and Counter-Terrorist intelligence positions in Arab cities and communities throughout the region. From 2013 - 2018 he served as the Salisbury Fellow of Intelligence and Middle East Affairs for The Eisenhower Institute where he launched and piloted ITME.

Avi's outstanding record of accurate analysis regarding events and developments in the Middle East is the outcome of the professional skills and tools which he rigorously applies to his analysis. These same skills and tools are the backbone of the Inside the Middle East – Intelligence Perspectives.

As an Author, Educator, Expert, Strategic Intelligence Analyst, and Teacher, Avi provides intelligence analysis, briefings and tours to diplomats, Israeli and foreign policy makers, global media outlets, and a wide variety of international businesses, organizations, and private clients on a range of Israel and Middle East Affairs. Through all of his efforts he is a bridge builder, and dedicates himself to enhancing the Arabic, English and Hebrew speaking audience's comprehensive understanding of the Middle East and of each other.

His most recent book, Inside the Middle East: Making Sense of the Most Dangerous and Complicated Region on Earth, was published in 2016. Given his fluency in Arabic, English and Hebrew he is often called upon to contribute to Al-Jazeera Arabic, Al-Jazeera English, Al-Hurra, BBC, BBC Arabic, Bloomberg, CBN, Elaph, Ha'aretz Israel, The Jerusalem Post, I-24, Israel Radio, MediaLine, RT(TV), Sky News, TBN, USA Today, Voice of Islam, Washington Post, etc. He publishes articles which can be found on his [website](http://www.avimelamed.com) - www.avimelamed.com, as well as The Atlantic Council, CipherBrief, Forbes, RealClear Politics, The Hill, etc. And has just begun Podcasting which can be found on his [website](#) as well as [Anchor](#), [Itunes](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Spotify](#), etc.

**Inside The Middle East: Intelligence Perspectives – “ITME”
Congressional Fellows Program II
Spring 2019 Curriculum**

Program Overview:

Number of Sessions: **9***

Dates: **February 25, 26, 27, 28
March 4, 5, 6, 7 and 18**

Start Time: **6:00 pm** (Dinner will be served) with the goal of beginning the session by **6:30 pm** or when everyone has arrived

Length of Each Session: **About 3 Hours**

Location: Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, 144 Constitution Ave, NW

Sessions:

Monday, February 25: Opening Session: **Building the Database & Lexicon to Understand the Contemporary Middle East**

Tuesday, February 26: **The Struggle over Path, Identity & Direction in The Arab World:** Political Islam, Militant Islam, Statehood, & Civil Society in the Arab world - Part 1

Wednesday, February 27: **The Struggle over Path, Identity & Direction in The Arab World** - Part 2

Thursday, February 28: **The West & Islam:** Tension in the Academic, Intellectual & Popular Discourse between Arab Society & The West

Monday, March 4: Milestones of the **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** – Part 1

Tuesday, March 5: Milestones of the **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict** – Part 2

Wednesday, March 6: The Iranian Shi'ite Crescent Vision and the **Eight Arenas of the Iranian-Arab Power Struggle**

Thursday, March 7: **Israel & The Middle East – Adversaries & Alliances:** The Impact of the Changing Geopolitical Climate in the Region & What's on the Horizon?

Monday, March 18 Concluding dinner: Building an **Intelligent GPS to Navigate the Middle East** in the 21st Century

Optional Additional Sessions: *

The Kurds

Skype sessions on specific evolving and current events - should participants request

Middle East Field Seminar:

To **Israel and the Palestinian Territories - August 2019** (exact dates are still being determined based on Congressional Schedule)