Dr. Daniel C. Kurtzer served as the United States Ambassador to Egypt and later as the United States Ambassador to Israel.

Ambassador Kurtzer holds the S. Daniel Abraham Chair in Middle East Policy Studies at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. During a 29-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service, Ambassador Kurtzer also held a number of other senior positions, including political officer at the American embassies in Cairo and Tel Aviv, speechwriter for Secretary of State George P. Shultz, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research. He was instrumental in formulating and executing American policy in the Middle East peace process.

Dr. Kurtzer has authored numerous articles on U.S. policy, including “Old City, New Regime” (Foreign Affairs) proposing a creative way to resolve the problem of Jerusalem, and “Do Settlements Matter” (Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs), and co-authored, with Scott Lasensky, Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: American Leadership in the Middle East. He served as advisor to the Iraq Study Group and is currently on the Advisory Council of the American Bar Association’s Middle East-North Africa Rule of Law Initiative and on the Board of Trustees of the American University of Cairo.

Ambassador Kurtzer is the recipient of The Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the Secretary of State’s Distinguished Service Award and the U.S. Intelligence Community Award for Distinguished Service.

8:00 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. Dr. Michael Rubin

The Iran Dilemma: Avoiding a Cascade of Instability in the Region

A resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and senior lecturer at the Naval Postgraduate School, Dr. Rubin is also editor of the Middle East Quarterly. He earned his Ph.D. in history from Yale University, where his dissertation, The Making of Modern Iran, 1858-1909: Communications, Telegraph and Society, won Yale’s John Addison Porter Prize. Dr. Rubin has received numerous awards and fellowships, including from the Council of Foreign Relations, Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs, and the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. He is author of Into the Shadows: Radical Vigilantes in Khatami’s Iran (Washington Institute, 2001), co-author of Eternal Iran: Continuity and Chaos (Palgrave, 2005), and co-editor of Dissent and Reform in the Arab World: Empowering Democrats (American Enterprise Institute Press, 2008).

8:50 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Response: Dr. Jeffrey LeFebvre

Professor of Political Science, UConn Stamford

9:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Q&A