Arab-Israeli Relations
Dr. Zoe Levornik

Course Number: 702.2126
Class Time: Wednesday, 12:00 – 15:00
Class Location: TBD
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Course Description:
This course deals with the Arab-Israeli conflict in both historical and contemporary terms. The first part of the course deals with the increasing clash between the Zionist Yishuv and the Arabs of Palestine, examining its transformation into long-term confrontation between Israel and the Arab states. We will begin by examining the roots of Arab and Jewish nationalism, rival claims to Palestine, and the rise of conflict during the British Mandate period.

The second and main part of this course covers the years 1947-1987, analyzing the causes and effects of six wars between Israel and the Arab states; 1948, 1956, 1967, 1969-70, 1973, and 1982. Emphasis is on regional and global factors, such as inter-Arab rivalry and the Cold War, but includes an examination of the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement in 1979.

The third part begins with the Palestinian intifada of 1987-1993 and 1993 Oslo Accords. We conclude with an examination of the conflict since the mid-1990s; topics included in the last meetings are Hizbollah and the 2006 war and the rise of Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

The final part of the course will examine some of the social and cultural aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In this part of the course we will analyze the effects of culture and discourse on Arab-Israeli relations and the prospects of reaching a peace agreement. We will examine the effects of cultural and language barriers on the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations including Camp David, Oslo, and Camp David II.

Course Requirements:
- Weekly Reading Assignments
- Class Participation
- Mid-Term Exam
- Oral Presentation
- Weekly Writing Assignments
- Term Paper
Final Grade
Weekly Writing Assignments 10%
Mid-Term Exam 20%
Oral Presentation 10%
Term Paper 60%

Principal Texts

Course Outline and Reading List

Week 1: Roots of the Conflict, Zionism, and Palestinian Arab Nationalism
Required Reading:
Bickerton and Klausner, 1-32.
Tessler, 7-122.
Recommended:

Week 2: The First World War and the Rise of Arab-Jewish Conflict in Palestine
Required:
Bickerton and Klausner, 34-64 (covers period ending with 1939).
Tessler, 123-184
Week 3: Toward 1939: The British Mandate and Growing Confrontation

Required:
Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 185-246.

Recommended:

Week 4: The Second World War, Civil War, and the End of the Mandate

Required:
Bickerton and Klausner, 65-95.

Recommended:
Cohen, Origins and Evolution, 93-132

Week 5: 1948-1949 Creation of Israel, First Arab-Israeli War, and the Refugees

Required:
Bickerton and Klausner, 96-111.

Recommended:
Week 6: 1949-1956 From Secret Negotiations to a Second Arab-Israeli War

Required:
Steven Spiegel, The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict (University of Chicago Press, 1985), 50-82.
Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 269-349.

Recommended:

Week 7: The Road to the Six Day War and the 1967 Turning Point

Required:
Bickerton and Klausner, 135-153.

Recommended:

Week 8: 1968-73 The War of Attrition, Jordanian Crisis, and Yom Kippur War

Required:
Bickerton and Klausner, 154-176.

Recommended:
Spiegel, The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict, 166-267.
Week 9: 1974-1979 The Road to Camp David and Israeli-Egyptian Peace

Required:
Bickerton and Klausner, 177-205.

Recommended:

Week 10: The 1982 Lebanon War and the “Grand Strategy”

Required:
Bickerton and Klausner, 204-218.

Recommended:
Sayigh, Armed Struggle and the Search for State, 522-543.

Week 11: 1987-1996 From the Intifada to Madrid and Oslo

Required:
Bickerton and Klausner, 218-265.

Recommended:
Zittrain Eisenberg and Caplan, Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace, 75-126.
Week 12: From Oslo to the Second Intifada and Camp David 2000

Required:
Bickerton and Klausner, 266-332.

Recommended:

Week 13: 2000-2010 Hamas in Gaza, and Hizbullah in Lebanon

Required:
Bickerton and Klausner, 333-400.

Recommended:

Week 14: Culture, Norms, and Discourse in Arab-Israeli Relations

Required

Recommended