

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 Hizballah 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

Ian J. Bickerton and Carla L. Klausner, A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2010). [Includes texts of documents].

Mark Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, second edition, 2009).

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:

George Antonius, The Arab Awakening: The Story of the Arab National Movement (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1939).

Shlomo Avineri, The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1981), 2-13.

Israel Kolatt, "The Zionist Movement and the Arabs," Studies in Zionism 8, 1 (1987), 25-49.

David Waines, "The Failure of the Nationalist Resistance," in Ibrahim Abu-Lughod (ed.), The Transformation of Palestine (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1987), 217-235.

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:

Michael Cohen, The Origins and Evolution of the Arab-Zionist Conflict (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987), 58-105.

Kenneth Stein, The Land Question in Palestine, 1917-1939 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1984).

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

Required:

Bickerton and Klausner, 65-95.

Walter Laqueur, A History of Zionism (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972), 528-562.

Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 246-268.

Steven Spiegel, The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict (University of Chicago Press, 1985), 16-39.

Recommended:

Cohen, Origins and Evolution, 93-132

David Tal, "The Forgotten War: Jewish-Palestinian Strife in Mandatory Palestine," Israel Affairs 6,3 (March 2000), 3-21.

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

Required:

Bickerton and Klausner, 96-111.

Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 273-330.

Recommended:

Hadara Lazar, Out of Palestine: The Making of Modern Israel (Fayetteville, NC: Atlas Publishing, 2011).

Benny Morris, The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949 (Cambridge University Press, 1987).

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

Required:

Bickerton and Klausner, 114-131.

Itamar Rabinovich, *The Road Not Taken* (Oxford University Press, 1991), 209-222 (entire book recommended).

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:

Peter L. Hahn, *Caught in the Middle East: U.S. Policy Toward the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1945-1961* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2004), 133-209.

Zach Levey, *Israel and the Western Powers, 1952-1960* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1997), 7-79.

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

Required:

Bickerton and Klausner, 135-153.

Tessler, *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, 349-405.

Recommended:

Michael B. Oren, *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Yezid Sayigh, *Armed Struggle and the Search for State: The Palestinian National Movement, 1949-1993* (Oxford: Clarendon Press), 1997, 71-142.

Moshe Shemesh, "Prelude to the Six Day War: The Arab-Israeli Struggle Over Water Resources," *Israel Studies* 9, 3 (2004), 1-45.

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

Required:

Bickerton and Klausner, 154-176.

Tessler, *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, 407-464.

Recommended:

Spiegel, *The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 166-267.

William Quandt, *Peace Process: American Diplomacy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict Since 1967* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), 55-129.

Week 9: 1974-1979 The Road to Camp David and Israeli-Egyptian Peace

Required:

Bickerton and Klausner, 177-205.

Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 465-531.

Recommended:

Kenneth W. Stein, Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat, Kissinger, Begin, and the Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace (New York: Routledge, 1999), 187-268.

Saadia Touval, The Peace Brokers: Mediators in the Arab-Israeli Conflict, 1948-1979 (Princeton University Press, 1982), 284-320.

Laurie Zitrain Eisenberg and Neil Caplan, Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace: Patterns, Problems, Possibilities (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998), 28-42.

Week 10: The 1982 Lebanon War and the "Grand Strategy"

Required:

Bickerton and Klausner, 204-218.

Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 535-633.

Recommended:

Itamar Rabinovich, The War for Lebanon: 1970-1985 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1985), 108-173.

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

Avraham Sela, The Decline of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: Middle East Politics and the Quest for a Regional Order (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998), 247-272.

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

Required:

Bickerton and Klausner, 218-265.

Tessler, A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 677-761.

Recommended:

Rashid Khalidi, The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006).

Itamar Rabinovich, Waging Peace: Israel and the Arabs at the End of the Century (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999), 41-81.

Zitrain 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:

Yezid Sayigh, "Arafat and the Anatomy of a Revolt," *Survival* 43, 3 (Autumn 2001), 47-60.

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

Required:

Bickerton and Klausner, 333-400.

Recommended:

Joshua L. Gleis and Benedetta Berti, *Hezbollah and Hamas: A Comparative Study* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012).

Shaul Mishal and Avraham Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas: Vision, Violence, and Coexistence* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), 147-172.

Jonathan Spyer: "Lebanon 2006: Unfinished War," *Middle East Review of International Affairs* (MERIA) Journal 12, 1, (March 2008 – see online).

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

Required

Cohen, Raymond. (1990). *Culture and Conflict in Egyptian-Israeli Relations: A dialogue of the Deaf*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. Chapters 1, 2 & 3. (entire book recommended).

Ben-Dor, Gabriel. (1973, June). *Middle East Politics: The Case for a Political Culture Approach*. Haifa, Israel: University of Haifa Israel. Pp. 10-34.

Cofman Wittes, Tamara. (2005). *How Israelis and Palestinians negotiate: a cross-cultural analysis of the Oslo peace process*. Washington, D.C. : United States Institute of Peace Press. Chapters 1, 2 & 3.

Recommended

Kelman, Herbert C. (1978, Summer). *Israelis and Palestinians: Psychological Prerequisites for Mutual Acceptance*. *International Security*, 3(1), 162-168.

Ajrami, Ashraf. (2013, December). *The Palestinian Political Discourse: The Impact of Different Social Components. Discourse, Culture, and Education in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. S. Daniel Abraham Center for Strategic Dialogue, Netanya Academic College.

Ashley, John., & Jayousi, Nedal. (2013, December). *The Connection between Palestinian Culture and the Conflict. Discourse, Culture, and Education in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. S. Daniel Abraham Center for Strategic Dialogue, Netanya Academic College.