

Advanced Topics in Middle Eastern Politics **Arab Israeli Conflict**

Spring - 2011

Course #790-452 and 685:452

Instructor: Hamid Abdeljaber

M -W: 6:40-8:00

Room: Tillet- 110- Livingston)

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:30 4:30 p.m. or by Appointment

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Course Description

No other issue ever dominated modern Middle East more than the Arab-Israeli conflict which has been shaping and reshaping the landscape, history, political developments of the region for over a century.

This course is a seminar-type for graduate and junior-senior undergraduate students of Political Science and Middle Eastern Studies. The course will cover the roots of the conflict from the birth of Zionism in Europe all the way to the peace process and conflicts of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Particular attention will be paid to the different narratives and discourse of all parties involved. Each student will select a country to act as its representative throughout the course. He/she will express the view of his/her particular government on topics under discussion. At the end of the course a round table peace conference will be held for half a day or two sessions in which students will table a peace plan and debate it throughout the session. Each student will be required to give a statement on behalf of the state he/she represents. The peace plan will be voted on and endorsed as the class vision of a just, durable and comprehensive peace.

Students are required to participate in the debate, follow certain blogs and websites, and follow the development in the areas under discussion on daily basis. A number of documentaries and films will be shown throughout the course.

Course Requirements

1- Class Attendance and Participation - 10%

Participation in the discussion is not only encouraged but also required. You are expected to read the assigned chapters or articles and come to class fully prepared to engage in the debate. Attendance will be checked each class and repeated absences will affect the final grade. Participation in activities related to the issues discussed in class will also be helpful. Students will be requested to give a brief presentation on topics under discussion.

2. Mid-term examination 30%

3. Conference simulation and position paper 20%

Students will be requested to write a position paper and make short presentations in the simulation conference. The debate will commence following the statements and a resolution will be tabled by group of countries. A final peace plan will be presented on behalf of the class to be communicated to the representatives of the countries concerned. It will be also published in local and regional press.

4. End of Term Take-Home Examination 40%

The examination will cover all topics discussed during the course. Make-up examinations are given in exceptional cases with the Dean's written approval.

Core Books

There are endless lists of books that deal with the Arab-Israeli conflict. I divided the reading list in two-core and additional reading. Each student must acquire most or all these books **BUT must have Lesch's, Shulze's, Morris' and Farsoun's books.**

1. Lesch, David, The Arab Israeli Conflict, Oxford University Press NY 2008
2. Rotberg, Robert, Israeli and Palestinian Narratives of Conflict: History's Double Helix, Indiana University press, second edition, 2006)
3. Sachar, Howard, A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time, (New York, 2007, Third Edition)
4. Farsoun, Samih and Naseer Aruri, Palestine and the Palestinians: A Social and Political History, (Westview Press, Boulder, Co. 2006)
5. Laqueur, Walter and Barry Rubin, The Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict (Penguin Publishers NY-Ninth Edition 2008)
6. Morris, Benny, Righteous Victims, a History of Zionist-Arab Conflict 1881-2001, Vintage Books, New York, 2001 second edition.
7. Shlaim, Avi, The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab Wolrd, Norton and Company-London, 2001 (second edition)
8. Shulze, Kirsten, The Arab Israeli Conflict-Seminar Studies in History Series, (Pearson Education, UK, Second Edition 2008)

Additional Reading List

9. Abu Lughod, Ibrahim, The Transformation of Palestine, The Origin and Development of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, North western University Press 1971
10. Benvenisti, Meron, Intimate Enemies: Jews and Arabs in a Shared Land, Berkeley University Press 1995)
11. Bishara, Marwan, Palestine/Israel: Peace or Apartheid, Fernwood Publishing, Halifax, 2002 second edition
12. Boyle, Francis, Palestine, Palestinians and International Law, Clarity Press, Atlanta, Georgia, 2003
13. Finkelstein, Norman, Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict, (Verso, NY 2003, Second Edition)
14. Hirst, David, The Gun and the Olive Branch, the Roots of Violence in the Middle East, Thunder's Mouth press, New York, third edition 2003
15. Jamal, Amal, The Palestinian National Movement, Politics of Contention 1967-2005, Indian Univeristy Press 2005
16. Khalidi, Rashid, Palestinian Identity, Columbia University Press, 1997
17. Laqueur, Walter, A History of Zionism: From the French Revolution to the State of Israel, (Schocken Books NY 2003)
18. Migdal, Joel, Through the Lens of Israel: Exploration in State and Society, (State University of NY Press, 2001)
19. Pappé, Ilan, A History of Modern Palestine: One Land , Two Peoples.
20. Rotberg, Robert, Israeli and Palestinian Narratives of Conflict, Indiana University press, 2006
21. Rubensberg, Cheryl, The Palestinians in Search of a Just Peace, (Lynne Reinner Press, Boulder-London 2003
22. Thomas Baylis, How Israel Was Won: A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Lexigton Books Boulder, Co. 1999)

Classes

1st Week (18-22 January)

(First session to be held on Wednesday, January 19)

Introduction of the course and materials

Stage I: From the Birth of Zionism to the Birth of Israel as a state 1881-1948

2nd Week (24-28 January)

(Documentary Film laying the Background)

- Palestine under the Ottomans

Farsoun, Chp. 2, pp. 21-56, Lesch- Chapter one: pp.1-15, Morris, Chap. 1 pp. 3-36

-The Birth of Zionism

Hirst, Chap. 1, pp. 133-157, Morris, Chap. 2, pp. 37-66, Rotberg, Chap. 3 pp. 47-71

Schulze, Part one: Background 1-12

3^d Week (31 January- 4 February)

- WWI- Sykes Picot Agreement

- Balfour Declaration and the British Mandate

Hirst, Chap. 1, pp. 158-165, Morris, Chap. 3, pp. 67-120

4th Week (7-11 February)

- Palestine under British Mandate

- Jewish Immigration and Arab reaction

Farsoun, Chap. 3, pp. 57-104, Hirsh, Chap. 3, pp. 198- 231, Migdal, Chap. 3pp. 51-79, Rotberg, Chap.3, pp.47-72

(First UN Trip is scheduled for Friday 12)

5th Week (14-18 February)

- The UN Partition Plan (Resolution 181) and the aftermath

- Declaration of the State

(Documentary film)

Lesch, Chap. Five pp. 126-161, Farsoun Chap. 3 pp. 57-104, Schulze, Part two, pp.13-19

6th Week (21-25 February)

- First Arab- Israeli War 1948

Morris, Chap. 5, pp. 161-258 Rotberg, Chap. 4, pp. 72-114

- Palestinian exodus - the refugee issue and Resolution 194

Farsoun, Chap. 4, pp. 105-142, Lesch, Chap. Six, pp. 162-194, Morris, Chap. 6, pp. 259-301, Rotberg, Chap. 4 pp. 72-114, Shlaim, Chap. 1 99.28-53

Stage II – The Conflict Years- 1949-1978

- Nasser Coup- the Suez Canal Crisis 1956
- The Birth of the PLO and the Palestinian guerilla groups

7th Week (28 February- 4 March)

- Suez Crisis 1956
- 1967 War and its aftermath - The new factors
- Occupation of Arab land- Reaction- SC Resolution 242 (1967)

Shlaim, Chap.4, pp. 143-186, Migdal, Chap. 7 pp. 149-171, Morris, Chap. 7, pp. 302-346

8th Week (7-11 March)

- The War of Attrition and the rise of Palestinian presence

Farsoun, Chap. 6, pp. 175-206, Morris, Chap. 8, 347-386

- Mid-term exam

9th Week (12-20 March)

No Classes- Spring Break

10th Week (21-25 March)

The 1973 War

The Palestinian factor- PLO is recognized

Farsoun, 6, pp. 175-206, Morris, Chap. 9 pp. 387-443, Shlaim, Chap. 8, pp. 325-351

Stage III- Unilateral Peace- Conflict continues- 1978-1993

11th Week (28 March-1 April)

- The Camp David Accords

Morris, Chap. 10, pp.444-493

- Wars on Lebanon -1978, 1982

Lesch, Chap. Nine, pp. 286-316, Morris, Chap. 11, pp. 494-560, Shlaim, Chap. 9, 352-383 and Chap. 10 (Lebanon) 384-423

12th Week (4-8 April)

- The First Palestinian *Intifada*

- The rise of the peace camps

Farsoun, Chap. 7, pp. 207-238, Lesch, Chap. Ten, pp. 317-362, Morris, Chap. 12 and 13 , pp. 561-651, Schulze, Chap. 8, pp. 64-73

Stage IV- The Oslo Accords- 1993-Present

13th Week (11-15 April)

-The Oslo Accords

- The rise of extremism

- Wadi Araba Peace Agreement with Jordan

Farsoun, Chap. 8, pp. 239-274, Finkelstien- Chapter 7- Oslo-172-183, Bishara, Chap. 3, pp. 61-77, Lesch, Chap. Eleven, 365, Schulze, Chap. 9-10, pp.75-103, Shlaim, Chap. 13, pp. 502-545

14th Week (18-21 April)

- The Obstacles to Peace- The Second Palestinian *Intifada*
- Bishara, Chap. 1 pp. 29-45, Farsoun, Chap. 9, pp. 275-300, Jamal, Chap. 7, pp. 155-166, Shlaim Chaps. 14-15 pp.546-496
- The War in South Lebanon 2006 and the War in Gaza -2008-2009

15th Week (25-29 April)

ME Peace Conference-

16th Week (2-6 May)

Take-Home Exam