**The Arab-Israeli Conflict**

Dr. Lawrence Rubin INTA 3XXX

Habersham 149 Spring 2013

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Office Hours: 1:30-3:00pm T/R and by appointment

***This syllabus is subject to change.***

**Course description:**

This course will provide an in-depth understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict using theories of international relations and comparative politics. Students will gain a greater appreciation of the complexities of this subject through an examination of the origins of the conflict and key events relating to both war and peace. In addition to focusing on the international dimensions of the conflict, students will gain an understanding of how domestic politics affect international politics. The course will proceed chronologically and focus more heavily on the last two decades. There are no prerequisites for this course but familiarity with either the Middle East or social science theories would be helpful.

Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior. Students will also be able to describe how these forces influence the global system. In doing so, students will also be able to think critically, collaborate with others, and demonstrate reading, writing, and presentation skills.

This course has no prerequisites. It fulfills both Social Science General Education and Global Perspectives requirements.

**Learning outcomes:**

Student will demonstrate proficiency in the process of articulating and organizing rhetorical arguments in written, oral, visual, and nonverbal modes, using concrete support and conventional language. Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior. Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system.

INTA specific learning outcomes are as follows:

* *Problem Solving in International Affairs.* Students will be able to use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical problem-solving way to address issues of immediate international concern.  Includes knowledge of key issues, familiarity with methods to assess solutions, data-gathering research skills through which to put different methods into place.
* *Scientific analysis of international politics.* Students will be proficient in basic mathematical skills and be able to formulate problems in international affairs mathematically if appropriate.  Use software, process and analyze information, quantitative and qualitative methods.
* *Effective communication skills.* Students will be able to express their arguments clearly and effectively both in written reports and in their research and oral presentations.
* *Teamworking skills.* Students will be able to work in small groups in a way that demonstrates respect for their colleagues and efficiency in working collaboratively towards projects and goals.

**Structure of the course:**

The course will be of in-class discussions based on the assigned readings, lectures by the instructor, guest lectures, and a simulation game. You will also be sent news articles from time to time.

**Requirements and grading:**

*Participation (25%):* Students are expected to attend class, read the assigned material, and participate actively in all course discussions. You will also be assigned short articles on current events that we will discuss from time to time. Students will take turns presenting these short articles and news items about current political developments. There will be a short film during the course as well.

*Simulation Game* (15%): Details for this game will be explained throughout the course of the semester. It is scheduled to take place in class during the first two weeks of April (2-11th). The grade will be based on individual performance, group performance, and written assessment.

*Mid-term (30%):* In-class March 14, 2013.

*Final Exam (30%)*: Take home exam. Due May 2, 2013

The mid-term and final exams will be based on lectures, class discussions, and readings.

The mid-term and final exams will be based on lectures, class discussions, and readings. Late papers will lose half a letter grade every day unless the instructor has given prior approval. There will be no make-up exams except for excused absences due to a documented medical condition, official university team activity, or religious holiday. Students with a disability or a health related issue who require special accommodation should speak with me as soon as possible. \*Smartphones must be turned off during class. The use of computers is not allowed unless stated otherwise.

**Honor Code**: All coursework must meet the Georgia Tech standards of academic honesty. <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9>

**Articles can be found on t-square.** **Required texts are available for purchase at the bookstore and on-reserve at the library:**

* Rashid Khalidi 2006. *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press (hereafter Khalidi, 2006).
* Daniel C. Kurtzer, Scott B. Lasensky, William B. Quandt, Steven L. Spiegel, Shibley Z. Telhami, *The Peace Puzzle: America's Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace*, 1989–2011 (Cornell University Press, 2012)
* Mark Tessler 2009. *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.* Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press (hereafter Tessler).

Additional readings will be assigned in advance of selected weeks.

**WEEK ONE: Introduction: Approaching the Arab-Israeli conflict. (January 8, 10)**

Required:

Tessler, 1-36; 69-108.

Recommended:

Isacoff, Jonathan B. March, 2005. "Writing the Arab-Israeli Conflict: Historical Bias and the Use of History in Political Science," *Perspectives on Politics* 3(1): 71-88.

Nusseibeh, Sari. March, 2005. “A formula for narrative selection: comments on “writing the Arab-Israeli conflict” *Perspectives on Politics* 3(1).

Jeremy Pressman, “Historical Schools and Political Science: An Arab-Israeli History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict,” *Perspectives on Politics* 3, no. 3 (September, 2005), pp. 577-582.

**WEEK TWO: Zionism (Jan 15, 17)**

Required:

Tessler 37-68; Selected readings from A. Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*: “Leo Pinsker: Auto-Emancipation” pp. 179-198; “Max Nordau”, pp. 242-245; “Theodore Herzl: The Jewish State (1896)”, pp. 201-226; “Vladimir Jabotinsky: Evidence Submitted to the Palestine Royal Commission (1937)”, pp. 557-570; “Ahad Ha-am (Asher Zvi Ginsberg): The Jewish State and the Jewish Problem (1897)”, pp. 249-251, 262-269; E.J. Hobsbawm, “Preface/Introduction” in *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990)

Recommended:

A. Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, “Afterward” 621-630; “Hayyim Nachman Bialik: Bialik on the Hebrew University”, pp. 279-288; Walter Laquer, Chapter 2: "The Forerunners" pp. 40-83 in *A History of Zionism* (New York: MJF Books, 1996).

**WEEK THREE: Arab and Palestinian Nationalism (Jan 22[[1]](#footnote-1)\*, 24)**

Required:

Tessler, Ch2, 68-123; R. Khalidi, Haj Amin al- Husseini testimony before the Peel Commission: Chapter 2 in *Palestinian Identity* “Contrasting Narratives of Palestinian Identity” 19-35; Muhammad Y. Muslih, “Introduction” and “Arab Reaction to Zionism” in *The Origins of Palestinian Nationalism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1988), pp.1-10 and pp. 69-88, respectively; Alan Dowty, “The Arab Story” in *Israel/Palestine* (Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2008), p. 45-68.

Recommended:

Rashid Khalidi, “The formation of Palestinian Identity: The Crucial Years, 1917-1923” and “The ‘Disappearance’ and Reemergence of Palestinian Identity” in *Palestinian Identity*, pp. 145-176 and pp.177-209, respectively.

**WEEK FOUR: Mandate Palestine and 1948 (Jan 29, 31)**

Required:

Tessler, Chapters 3 and 4; Khalidi, *Iron Cage*, 9-64; Avi Shlaim, “The Debate about 48”; Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited* (Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 39-64, 588-601. R. Khalidi, 105-139.

Recommended:

Tessler, Chapter 5; Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim, “Introduction.” In *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948*, 2ed., eds. Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim, 1- 7. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007; Benny Morris, “Revisiting the Palestinian Exodus of 1948.” In *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948*, 2ed., eds. Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim, 37-59. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007; Shabtai Teveth, “Charging Israel with Original Sin.” *Commentary* 88, no.3 (September 1989): 24-33; Nur Masalha, “A Critique of Benny Morris.” *Journal of Palestine Studies* 21, no.1 (Autumn 1991): 90-97. Benny Morris, “Response to Finkelstein and Masalha.” *Journal of Palestine Studies* 21, no.1 (Autumn 1991): 98-114; Walid Khalidi, “Plan Dalet: Master Plan for the Conquest of Palestine.” *Journal of Palestine Studies* 18, no.1 (Autumn 1988): 4-33; Efraim Karsh, “1948, Israel, and the Palestinians—The True Story.” *Commentary* 125, no.5 (May 2008): 23-29.

**WEEK FIVE: From the first Arab-Israeli War to the Third 1948-1967 (Feb 5, 7)**

Required:

Dan Horowitz, “The Israeli Concept of National Security,” in A. Yaniv (ed.), *National Security and Democracy in Israel* (Boulder, 1993), pp. 11-53.

Tessler, Chapter 6.

**WEEK SIX: 1967-1973 (Feb 12, 14)**

Required:

Tessler, Chapter 7; *Israel in the Middle East* (eds. Rabinowitz and Reinhard), p. 238-276; Zeev Maoz, *Defending the Holy Land*, p. 113-168.

Recommended: Aviezer Ravitzky, *Messianism, Zionism, and Jewish Religious Radicalism*, trans. by Michael Swirsky and Jonathan Chipman. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996: 1-7; 82-92; 131-136;

**WEEK SEVEN: 1973 and after (February 19, 21)**

Required:

Tessler, Chapter 8, TBA

Recommended:

Tessler, Chapter 9, 10.

**WEEK EIGHT: The Peace Process: from Madrid through Oslo (February 26, 28[[2]](#footnote-2)\*)**

Required:

Kurtzer et.al, Chapters 1,2, 3

Recommended:

Tessler, Chapter 11

**WEEK NINE: Beyond Oslo (March 5,7)**

Required:

Tessler: 819-846,

Hussein Agha and Robert Malley, “Camp David:  The Tragedy of Errors,” *New York Review of Books*, August 9, 2001 <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/14380>

“Setting the Record Straight,” Interview with Dennis Ross, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, August 8, 2001 – available at: <http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/templateC05.php?CID=2031>

Jeremy Pressman, "Visions in Collision: What Happened at Camp David and Taba?." *International Security* 28, no. 2 (Fall 2003): 5-43.

Recommended:

Kurtzer et al, Chapter 4.

**WEEK TEN: Special Topic: Arabs citizens of Israel and the Israeli-Arab conflict (March 12)**

Required:

Ilan Peleg and Dov Waxman, Israel’s Palestinians (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), pp. 19-46.

Elie Rekhess, “The Arabs of Israel After Oslo: Localization of the National Struggle” *Israel Studies* Vol. 7, No. 3 (Fall 2002), pp.1-44.

International Crisis Group, “Back to the Basics Israel’s Arab minority and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict”, Middle East Report, No. 119, March 14, 2012, <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/middle-east-north-africa/israel-palestine/119-back-to-basics-israels-arab-minority-and-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict.aspx>

Recommended:

Arik Rutnitzky (ed.) “Arab Politics in Israel and the 19th Knesset Elections”, Issue 3, March 7, 2013, Kondrad Andenauer Program for Jewish Arab Cooperation

**Religion and the Arab-Israeli conflict (March 14)**

Hillel Frisch, “Has the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Become Islamic?: Fatah, Islam, and the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, *Terrorism and Political Violence* 17:3 (2005), pp. 391-406.

Ehud Sprinzak *Brother Against Brother* (New York: Free Press, 1999), pp.180-285.

See also Hamas charter on t-square.

Recommended:

Ziad Abu-Amr, Hamas Development: A Historical and Political Background”, *Journal of Palestine Studies* Vol. 22, No. 4 (Summer 1993)

Meir Litvak, “The Islamization of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict” *Middle East Studies*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (January 1998), pp. 148-163

“Hamas: Waiting for Secular Nationalism to Self-Destruct: An interview with Mahmud Zahhar”, *Journal of Palestine Studies* XXIV, no. 3 (Spring 1995), pp. 81-88.

**SPRING BREAK**

**WEEK ELEVEN: \*\*Mid-term (March 26); Science and Technology in the Arab-Israeli conflict (March 28)**

**WEEK TWELVE AND THIRTEEN: SIMULATION**

**WEEK FOURTEEN: Special Topic: WMDs in the Middle East (April 16,18)**

**WEEK FIFTEEN: US Foreign Policy in the Middle East (April 23, 25)**

Required:

Kurtzer et. Al, “Introduction”, Chapters 4, 5.

**TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE, May 2, 2:30pm.**

1. \* There will be a special presentation on Israeli elections for part of this period. See T-square for additional readings and information. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. \* (Mandatory) Guest Lecture by former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Dr. Tamara Cofman Wittes. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)