

University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Political Science 336/536: Arab-Israeli Conflict

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Winterim 2006: M-F, 9:00-12:00
Office Hours: M-F, 12:00-1:00
or by appointment/drop-by

Course Objectives

The goal of this course is to enrich our understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict in its various dimensions. After a general introduction to the Middle East, we will first proceed with an examination of the evolution of the conflict in the 20th century that along with some pre-20th century historical events are relevant to the Arab-Israeli relations. We will then pay considerable attention to the local/national, regional, and international dimensions of the conflict, examining the conflict from the points of view of the Arab states, the Palestinians and the Israelis, as well as the United States' and the world community in general. We will finally discuss the present state of the conflict and the prospects for peace. There are no prerequisites for this class, although familiarity with some of the characteristics of the region is helpful. [\[The goals of this class will match the following University's Baccalaureate Goals: Goal 3, An ability to inquire, think, and analyze; Goal 6, An historical consciousness; Goal 7, International and intercultural experience; Goal 10, An understanding of values; Goal 11, An understanding of human behavior and human institutions.\]](#) **For a complete list of Baccalaureate goals, go to <http://webportfolio.uwec.edu>**

Course Requirements

Students are expected to: (1) do the assigned readings for each day and actively participate in class discussions; (2) take midterm and final examinations on scheduled days; and, (3) participate in mock peace-conference presentations. The exams will include both short and long essay-type questions. In terms of group activity, students will be divided into four groups, with each group representing one of the parties involved in the conflict (Israel, the Palestinian Authority/entities, the Arab States, and the United States and other interested parties). We will have a mock peace conference on the third week of the semester, simulating actual debates over issues in the dispute. Every student in each group must submit a five-page report, summarizing/analyzing the position of the disputing parties with regards to the particular issue in dispute (e.g., security, borders, settlements, Jerusalem, water, refugees, etc.). All class reports must be typed and are due on the day of the in-class presentation. I will provide you with additional information on this part of your assignment in the first day of the class. Please note that, if necessary, the course outline is subject to change but I will inform you in advance of any amendments. As far as attendance goes, you miss the class at your own risk. I will be taking attendance on daily basis and remember, each day counts as a week.

<u>Grading:</u> Midterm	25%
Final	25%
Attendance/Class participation	10%
Class Presentation/Report	40%

ABOUT ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

In accordance to the University handbook, “I consider any academic misconduct in this course as a serious offense, and I will pursue the strongest possible academic penalties for such behavior.” The disciplinary procedures and penalties for academic misconduct are described in the UW-Eau Claire *Student Services and Standards Handbook* (<http://www.uwec.edu/sdd/publications.htm>) in the section titled, “Chapter UWS 14— Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures.”

TEXTS

1. Smith, Charles D., *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 5th edition (New York: Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2004).
2. Assigned articles on specific topics from the Internet, included in your daily reading list.
3. Forwarded Emails on daily basis dealing with the Conflict and the Middle East in general.

USEFUL INTERNET SITES:

WASHINGTON REPORT OF MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS <http://wrmea.com/index.htm>

MIDDLE EAST RESEARCH AND INFORMATION PROJECT <http://www.merip.org/>

MIDDLE EAST REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS <http://meria.idc.ac.il/>

PALESTINE CHRONICLE <http://palestinechronicle.com/index.php>

ISRAEL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS <http://www.israel-mfa.gov.il/mfa/>

ARAB ELECTRONIC MAIL JOURNAL <http://www.mideast.org.uk/>

GUSH SHALOM <http://zope.gush-shalom.org/home/en>

CHALLENGE <http://www.hanitzotz.com/challenge/index.html>

SALAM <http://www.salaam.co.uk/index.php>

IF AMERICANS KNEW <http://www.ifamericansknew.org/>

TRUTHOUT <http://truthout.org/>

THE GUARDIAN <http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

RAND CORPORATION <http://www.rand.org/>

THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION <http://www.brook.edu/default.htm>

US DEPARTMENT OF STATE <http://www.state.gov/>

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY <http://www.cia.gov/index.html>

Some background books on the topic you may find helpful

Spiegel, Steven L., ed. 1992. The Arab-Israeli Search for Peace. Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Spencer, William. 1992. Global Studies: The Middle East, 4th ed. Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group.

Aruri, Naseer, Palestinian Refugees: The Right of Return (London/Sterling, Virginia: Pluto Press, 2001).

Aruri, Naseer, The Obstruction of Peace: The U.S., Israel and the Palestinians (Monroe, Maine: Common Courage Press, 1995).

Noam Chomsky, Fateful Triangle: The United States, Israel and the Palestinians (Cambridge, Massachusetts: South End Press, 1999).

Flapan, Simha. 1987. The Birth of Israel. Pantheon.

Kedourie, Elie. 1992. Politics in the Middle East. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Laqueur, Walter and Barry Rubin, ed. 1984. The Israel-Arab Reader. New York: Penguin Books.

Lukacs, Yehuda and Abdalla M. Battah, eds. 1988. The Arab-Israeli Conflict: Two Decades of Change Boulder and London: Westview Press.

Piscatori, James P. 1986. Islam in a World of Nation-States. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Quandt, William B., ed. 1988. The Middle East: Ten Years after Camp David. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution.

COURSE OUTLINE

Part I: BACKGROUND TO THE REGION AND THE CONFLICT

Tuesday (January 3)

1. Syllabus
2. Why Study the Arab-Israeli Conflict
3. General Comments on Causes of Peace and Conflict (historical, cultural, political and economic)
4. Middle East: General Characteristics

Readings:

1. Begin reading Charles Smith's Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict
2. General Readings on the Middle East @ <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>
- 3) Barry Rubin, "The Politics of the New Middle East" @ <http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1997/issue3/jv1n3a8.html>

Wednesday (January 4)

1. Middle East: General Characteristics (continues)
2. General Comments on Politics, Peace and Conflict in the Middle East

Readings:

- 1) General Readings on the Middle East @ <http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html>
- 2) Ali R. Abootalebi, "Middle East Economies: A Survey of Current Problems and Issues" @ <http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1999/issue3/jv3n3a6.html>
- 3) Bruce Maddy-Weitzman, "Middle East States and the Approaching 21st Century," MERIA, Volume 1, Number 4 - December 1997, @ <http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1997/issue4/jv1n4a7.html>
- 4) Lawrence Joffe, "Research Guide: The Military in the Middle East, MERIA," February 2001 <http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/research-g/military.html>
- 5) Gabi Sheffer, Middle Eastern Diasporas: Introduction and Readings, MERIA, Volume 1, No. 2 - July 1997 <http://www.biu.ac.il/Besa/meria/journal/1997/issue2/jv1n2a4.html>

Part II: Nationalism, Nation-States and Wars

Thursday-Friday (January 5 and 6)

The Decline of the Ottomans, Colonial Intrusion, and the Rise of Arab and Jewish Nationalisms

Readings:

Smith, Chs. 1-4, pp. 1-161

2) Documents:

<http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/>

<http://www.israel-mfa.gov.il/mfa/>

ATTENTION: THESE DOCUMENTS CAN BE FOUND IN EITHER THE SMITH'S BOOK OR THROUGH THE ABOVE LINKS:

DOCUMENT: "The Sykes-Picot Agreement," 1916

DOCUMENT: "The Balfour Declaration", November 2, 1917

DOCUMENT: "The Mandate for Palestine," July 24, 1922

DOCUMENT: "UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (Partition Plan) November 29, 1947

DOCUMENT: "The Feisal-Weizmann Agreement and Feisal-Frankfurter Letters"(1919)**

DOCUMENT: "The King-Crane Report, August 28, 1919**

DOCUMENT: "The McMahon Letter:(1915) **

DOCUMENT: "V. Jabotinsky, "A Jewish State Now...." (1937)**

DOCUMENT: "The White Paper"(1939)**

DOCUMENT: "The Zionist Reaction to the White paper....." (1939)**

DOCUMENT: "Basle Declaration"***

DOCUMENT: "Peace Treaty of Versailles, June 28, 1919**

DOCUMENT: "Peace Treaty of Sevres, August 10, 1920**

DOCUMENT: "The Churchill White Paper," 1922**

DOCUMENT: "Memorandum Presented to the King-Crane Commission by the General Syrian Congress, 1919**

3) The Middle East Research and Information Project, "Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Primer @ http://www.merip.org/palestine-israel_primer/toc-pal-isr-primer.html

4) If Americans Knew "A Synopsis of the Israel/Palestine Conflict," @

<http://www.ifamericansknew.org/history/>

5) If Americans Knew, "The Origin of the Palestine-Israel Conflict," @
<http://www.ifamericansknew.org/history/origin.html#partition>

Saturday. January 7

Arab-Israeli Wars and Their Consequences (territorial, human, political and economic)

Readings:

Smith, Chs. 5-7, pp. 163-292

2) Documents:

<http://www.lib.byu.edu/~rdh/wwi/>

<http://www.israel-mfa.gov.il/mfa/>

ATTENTION: THESE DOCUMENTS CAN BE FOUND IN EITHER THE SMITH'S BOOK OR THROUGH THE ABOVE LINKS:

DOCUMENT: "The Declaration of the Establishment of the state of Israel," May 14, 1948

DOCUMENT: "U.N. Security Council Resolution 242," November 22, 1967

DOCUMENT: "U.N. Security Council Resolution 338," October 22, 1973

DOCUMENT: "Camp David Accord," September 17, 1978

DOCUMENT: "Peace Treaty Between Israel and Egypt," March 26, 1979

DOCUMENT: "The Palestinian National Charter"(1968)

DOCUMENT: "The Law of Return" (1950)**

DOCUMENT: "Abba Eban: The Refugee Problem"(1958)**

DOCUMENT: "UN Resolution on the Internationalization of Jerusalem"(1949)**

DOCUMENT: "Draft Constitution of the Palestinian Liberation Organization"(1963)**

DOCUMENT: "The Seven Points Passed by the Central Committee of Al Fatah"(1969)**

DOCUMENT: "Yasir Arafat: Address to the U.N. General Assembly" (1974)**

DOCUMENT: "Rabat Conference Resolution"(1974)**

DOCUMENT: "PLO Six Point Program"(1977)**

DOCUMENT: "Yasir Arafat: Speech to Palestine National Congress:(1983)**

DOCUMENT: "PNC Political Statement"***

DOCUMENT: "PNC Political Resolution"(1988)**

Part III: National Security and Development in Israel

Monday, Jan. 9

Arab-Israeli Wars (Continued.)

Smith, Chs. 8-9, pp. 301-392

2) Barry Rubin, "Israel, The Palestinians Authority, and the Arab States," MERIA, Volume 1, Number 4 - December 1997 @

<http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1997/issue4/jv1n4a6.html>

3) Michael M. Laskier, "Israel and the Maghreb at the Height of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: 1950s – 1970s," MERIA, Volume 4, No. 2- June 2000

<http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/2000/issue2/jv4n2a7.html>

Tuesday-Wednesday (January 10-11)

1) Israel and the First 50 Years

2) Midterm Exam

3) Documentary Movie

Readings:

Smith, Ch. 10, pp., 393-436

2) Barry Rubin, "External Factors in Israeli's 1999 Elections," MERIA, Volume 3, No. 4 - December 1999, @ <http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1999/issue4/jv3n4a3.html>

3) Efraim Inbar, "Israel Strategy," MERIA, Volume 2, No. 4 - November 1998, @

<http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1998/issue4/jv2n4a2.html>

4) Alan Dowty, "Israeli Foreign Policy And The Jewish Question," MERIA, Volume 3, No. 1 - March 1999, @ <http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1999/issue1/jv3n1a1.html>

Part IV: The International Context of the Conflict

Thursday-Friday (January 12-13)

1) The Global (United States) and the Regional Context of the Peace Process

2) Conflict Resolution and Prospects for Peace

Readings:

Smith, Chs. 10-11, pp., 393-466

1) Robert J. Lieber, "U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS SINCE 1948" @

<http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1998/issue3/jv2n3a2.html>

2) Gerald M. Steinberg, "Israel And the United States: Can the Special Relationship Survive the New Strategic Environment?" MERIA, Volume 2, No. 4 - November 1998 @

<http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1998/issue4/jv2n4a7.html>

3) Robert O. Freedman, "US. Policy Toward The Middle East in Clinton's Second Term," MERIA, Volume 3, No. 1 - March 1999, @

<http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1999/issue1/jv3n1a5.html>

4) Caroline Taillandier, Middle East Connected Anti-American Terror Attacks @

<http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/2001/issue4/jv5n4a5.htm>

5) Kenneth W. Stein, THE BUSH DOCTRINE: SELECTIVE ENGAGEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST, Volume 6, No. 2 - June 2002 @

<http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/2002/issue2/jv6n2a5.html>

6) Abdel Mahdi Abdallah, CAUSES OF ANTI-AMERICANISM IN THE ARAB WORLD: A SOCIO-POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE, Volume 7, No. 4 - December 2003 @

<http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/2003/issue4/jv7n4a6.html>

7) U.S. Financial Aid To Israel: Figures, Facts, and Impact: Washington Report on Middle East Affairs @

http://www.washington-report.org/us_aid_to_israel/index.htm#Taxpayer

8) Chris Toensing and Ian Urbina, "Israel, the US and "Targeted Killings" MERIP, February 17, 2003 @ <http://www.merip.org/mero/mero021703.html>

ATTENTION: THIS DOCUMENT CAN BE FOUND IN EITHER THE SMITH'S BOOK OR THROUGH THE ABOVE LINKS:

Documents:

DOCUMENT: "US-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Cooperation, November 10, 1981.

Part V: Issues, Peace Conference Simulation, and Prospects for the Future

Monday, Jan. 16

MLK DAY, NO CLASSES HELD

Tuesday, Jan. 17

1. Conflict Resolution and Prospects for Peace

2. The Peace Process: Issues and Debates

a. The Potential for Economic Cooperation in the Middle East

b. The Potential for Arms Control in the Middle East

3. Documentary Movie

Readings:

Smith, Ch. 12, pp., 487-538

2) George E. Irani, "Islamic Mediation Techniques For Middle East Conflicts," MERIA, Volume 3, No. 2, June 1999, @

<http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1999/issue2/jv3n2a1.html>

3) Barry Rubin, THE TERROR AND THE PITY: YASIR ARAFAT AND THE SECOND LOSS OF PALESTINE, Volume 6, No. 1 - March 2002 @

<http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/2002/issue1/jv6n1a6.html>

4) Rachele Marshall, "A Formula for Perpetual War," Washington Report, November 2004, pages 6-8

http://www.washington-report.org/archives/November_2004/0411006.html

5) Barry Rubin, "After Arafat, Middle East Quarterly, Spring, Vol XI: Number 2, 2004

http://gloria.idc.ac.il/publications/after_arafat.html

6) Omar Karmi, Weary, Guarded Hope in Gaza, February 8, 2005

<http://www.merip.org/mero/mero020805.html>

7) Graham Usher, The New Hamas: Between Resistance and Participation, August 21, 2005

<http://www.merip.org/mero/mero082105.html>

8) Mouin Rabbani and Chris Toensing, Mahmoud Abbas' Mission Improbable, June 1, 2005

<http://www.merip.org/mero/mero060105.html>

9) If Americans Knew, "The Impact of the Conflict on Daily Life," @

http://www.ifamericansknew.org/cur_sit/daily_life.html

10) If Americans Knew, "Efforts for Peace in Israel and Palestine," @

http://www.ifamericansknew.org/cur_sit/peace_efforts.html

11) If Americans Knew, "The Peace Process in Israel/Palestine," @

http://www.ifamericansknew.org/cur_sit/process.html

ATTENTION: THESE DOCUMENTS CAN BE FOUND IN EITHER THE SMITH'S BOOK OR THROUGH THE ABOVE LINKS:

DOCUMENT: "Letter of Invitation to Madrid Peace Conference," October 30, 1991

DOCUMENT: "Israel-PLO Recognition," September 9, 1993

- DOCUMENT: "Declaration of Principles on Interim Self Government Arrangements,"
September 13, 1993
- DOCUMENT: "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area," May 4, 1994
- DOCUMENT: "Agreement on Preparatory Transfer of Powers and Responsibilities," August
29, 1994
- DOCUMENT: "The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza
Strip," Washington, D.C. September 28, 1995
- DOCUMENT: "Protocol Concerning the Redeployment in Hebron: Main Points," January 17,
1997
- DOCUMENT: "Israel-Jordan Common Agenda," September 14, 1993
- DOCUMENT: "Israel-Lebanon Negotiations
- DOCUMENT: "Treaty of Peace Between the State of Israel and the Hashimite Kingdom of
Jordan," October 26, 1994
- DOCUMENT: "Israel-Syria Negotiations"

Wednesday-Thursday (January 18-19)

Group Presentations/Peace Conference:

Group One: The Palestinian Authority Perspective (issues and debates) on the Peace Process

Group Two: The Israeli Perspective (issues and debates) on the Peace Process

Group Three: The Arab States (conservatives and radicals) and the Peace Process

Group Four: The United States and other Major Powers' Perspectives on the Peace Process

Friday (January 20)

Review and the Final Exam