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.
**Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Presentation/Report</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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](http://www.uwec.edu/sdd/publications.htm) in the section titled, “Chapter UWS 14—Student Academic Disciplinary Procedures.”

**TEXTS**


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:**

- MIDDLE EAST REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS [http://meria.idc.ac.il/](http://meria.idc.ac.il/)
- SALAM [http://www.salaam.co.uk/index.php](http://www.salaam.co.uk/index.php)
Some background books on the topic you may find helpful


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


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


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, @

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

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” @

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 @

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 @

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:


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


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

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 Israeli/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: "Israel-PLO Recognition," September 9, 1993
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