

JSTU-J 204
The Arab-Israeli Conflict
Professor Daphne Tsimhoni
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:00-5:30 pm
Class: BH 345

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The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Course Description and Objectives:

The course's aim is to introduce the students to the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict, its main phases from the late 19th century up to the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks and their collapse. The course will analyze the changing patterns of the conflict, its transformation from a local, inter-communal conflict into a regional, inter-state one. A special attention will be given to the political, cultural and religious background of the conflict. The course will further focus on Israeli and Palestinian national emergence, Arab-Israeli wars, and the subsequent diplomacy attempts to unfold the conflict. We will examine several processes combined with the conflict: the declining power of Pan-Arabism versus the growing role of the individual Arab states as actors in the conflict. Another major topic for discussion will be the Powers' involvement in the conflict and their influence on the conflicting parties. The course will discuss divergent historiographic researches and approaches to the conflict as bases on reading material, documents, websites and videos that will be shown during the course.

Course Requirements:

Two short mid-term papers and a final essay. Specific requirements will be announced in due course. Active participation in class meetings is required.

Final Grades will be weighed as follows:

Two short mid-term papers: 50 percent (25 percent each)

Final essay: 40 percent

Active participation in class: 10 percent

Required Books: to be purchased at the University bookstore. Other reading material will be posted on the web.

Bickerton, Ian J. and Carla L. Klausner, *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, (Fifth Edition), New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2007

Course Outline and Reading:

I. **Introduction:**

T Jan. 29: Israel and the Middle East: the geopolitical setting; The origins of Jews and Arabs in Palestine; migration and immigration to Palestine during the 19th century

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 1-20

II. ***Zionists and Palestinians Prior to World War I:***

Th Jan. 31: The birth of Zionism; Arab reactions to the Zionist settlement in Palestine; the origins of the Palestinian Arab national identity

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 20-33

Kimmerling-Migdal, pp. 3-26

T Feb. 5: Continued

III. ***Great Britain, the Arabs and the Zionists:***

Th Feb. 7: Conflicting commitments of World War I:

The McMahon – Hussein correspondence: Britain's pledges to the Arabs

The Sykes – Picot Agreement: Britain's commitment to the French

The Balfour Declaration: Britain's pledge to the Zionists

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 35-40, 56-58

T Feb. 12: Postwar settlements and the establishment of the British Mandate in Palestine

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 40-44, 58-60

IV. ***The British Mandate, Zionist Immigration into Palestine and the Emergence of the Palestinian Arab National Movement***

Th Feb. 14: The ebb and flow of the Zionist immigration into Palestine; the emergence of the Palestinian Arab national movement

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 44-51

Kimmerling – Migdal, pp. 51-63

V. ***From an Inter-Communal Dispute to a Regional Conflict: the Arab Revolt 1936-1939 and its Consequences***

T Feb. 19: Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, 51-54, 63-64;

Kimmerling – Migdal, pp. 96-123; Khalidi, pp. 105-124

VI. ***From World War II To the United Nations Partition Decision 1947***

Th Feb. 21: The impact of WWII and the holocaust on the Zionist settlement in Palestine and on the Palestinian Arab national movement;

Britain, the United States and the struggle for Palestine

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, 65-80;

Kimmerling – Migdal 129-137

VII. ***The Road to the 1948 War***

T Feb. 26: The United Nations and the partition of Palestine

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 80-88, 92-95

Th Feb. 28: The Arab-Jewish civil war: major events leading to the declaration of the State of Israel

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 96-100

Kimmerling-Migdal, pp. 137-146, 299-302

VIII. ***The 1948 War and its Consequences:***

T Mar. 4: Main stages of the war; Israel is there to remain; the origins of the Palestinian Arab Refugees problem

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 100-108; Kimmerling-Migdal, pp. 146-156; Morris, pp. 588-604; Gelber, pp. 98-116; Khalidi, pp. 125-139;
Documents: UN General Assembly resolution 194 (II) Adopted on December 11, 1948 [Excerpts]; State of Israel proclamation of independence Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 109-111

Th Mar. 6: Continued.

Spring Break: March 8-March 16

IX. *From War to War:*

T Mar. 18: The Suez war, 1956

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 113-132

X. *The 1967 War: The War that Changed the Middle East*

Th Mar. 20:

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 133-154

Document: UN Security Council Resolution 242, November 22, 1967

XI. *The Revival of the Palestinian Arab Nationalism*

T Mar. 25: The Rise of the PLO

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 157-163

Document: The Palestinian National Covenant, 1968 [excerpts],
Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 173-175

XII. *From the Rogers Plan to the 1973 War*

Th Mar 27: The Rogers plan and Kissinger's diplomacy; Egypt's preparations for war; the 1973 war

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 163-177;
Quandt, pp. 98-129

XIII. *The Search for Peace, 1973-1979*

T Apr. 1: The aftermath of the 1973 war and the American peace-making diplomacy; the Camp David accords

Required Reading: Quandt, pp.130-153, 172-173;
Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 178-193

XIV. *The Lebanon War*

Th Apr. 3: Lebanon's internal strife; the PLO strengthening presence in Lebanon; Israeli interference and invasion into Lebanon

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 205-219

XV. *From the First Intifada to the Peace Process*

T Apr. 8: The Intifada and its consequences; the road to the Madrid peace conference; the September 1993 Israeli-PLO accord

Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 219-258

Th April 10: Continued

XVI. *The Peace Process 1994-1996 and its Collapse*

Th Apr. 17: The Gaza Jericho agreement; peace between Israel and Jordan; Oslo II; Clinton the facilitator; the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin; the PLO votes to amend the covenant; the election of Netanyahu and the Palestinian reaction
Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 272-292;
Quandt, pp. 321-341

XVII. *The Second [al-Aqsa] Intifada*

T Apr. 22: The road to the second intifada; the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories - an obstacle for peace?
Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 304-334;

XVIII: *The Main Issues on the Road to Peace*

Th Apr. 24: Terror and counter terror; the fence building and the road map;
Summary: Is there a peace solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
Required Reading: Bickerton-Klausner, pp. 346-378; Wasserstein, pp. 61-65, 153-160

Bibliography:

Gelber, Yoav, *Palestine 1948, War, Escape and the Emergence of the Palestinian Refugee Problem*, Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 2001

Khalidi, Rashid, *The Iron Cage, The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*, Boston: Beacon Press, 2007

Kimmerling, Baruch and Migdal, Joel, S., *Palestinians, the Making of a People*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1998

Morris, Benny, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004

Quandt, William, B., *Peace Process, American Diplomacy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict since 1967*, Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2005

Wasserstein, Bernard, *Israelis and Palestinians, Why They Fight? Can They Stop?* New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003