University of Colorado, Boulder

IAFS 3000-001
Advanced Undergraduate Class in the International Affairs Program

Spring 2008

Professor Benjamin Miller

Israel, Its Neighbors and the Great Powers:
War and Peace in the Middle East in a Comparative Perspective

The course will address some of the key issues of regional security in the Middle East. Thus, we will be able to better understand some of the major opportunities and challenges faced by Israel and its neighbors in their regional security environment. In the first meetings the class will address some of the conceptual foundations of regional security and their relationships with war and peace. In the next stage we’ll study the historical foundations of the regional conflicts in the Middle East, with a focus on the Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflict—both on the wars and on the peace process. We’ll also pay attention to the role of the great powers in the region while posing the question: are they stabilizers or de-stabilizers? We’ll address the major factors which affect war and peace in the region and their implications for regional security: realist factors related to the regional balance of power, and also questions of state and nationalism. Finally, we’ll discuss the likelihood and the implications of possible democratization. The class will evaluate its effects on rising or declining militant challenges related to ethno-nationalism and Islamic Fundamentalism and what are their implications for Israel’s standing in the region.

Requirements:

1. Active participation in classes, based on discussion of the bibliography (part of which is marked as only recommended).

2. Class presentation(s) based on the bibliography and/or the seminar paper.

3. Writing a final paper based on the seminar discussions and the bibliography.

Background/Resource book available for purchase:


**WEEK 1**

**Globalization, Regional Systems and Regional Conflicts**


**Recommended:**


**Week 2**

**Explaining War and Peace : Levels of Analysis and Schools of Thought**


**Recommended:**


**WEEK 3**

**Patterns of Conflict Management and Types of Regional War and Peace Outcomes**


**WEEK 4**

**The Great Powers and Regional Conflicts**


WEEK 5

Explaining Regional War and Peace

This chapter was published originally in the journal Survival (1993).


Miller, Benjamin States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 2, pp. 41-81 and Ch. 3, pp. 82-128.

WEEK 6

The Origins and the Nature of the Arab/Palestinian-Israeli Conflict in the Regional Middle East Context

Miller, Benjamin States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 4, pp. 129-204.


Recommended:

WEEK 7

The Cold War in the Middle East and its effects

Miller, Benjamin *States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 5, pp. 205-236.

**Recommended:**


**WEEK 8**

*The Arab-Israeli Wars 1948-1982*


**Recommended:**


**WEEK 9**

**The Peace Process 1974-2000**


**Recommended:**


**WEEK 10**

**The Security Policies of key Arab states, Inter-Arab relations and the Iran-Iraq War**


**Recommended:**

**WEEK 11**
The Post-Cold War US Hegemony in the Middle East

Hudson, Michael C. 1996. ‘To Play the Hegemon: Fifty Years of U.S. Policy Toward the Middle East’, Middle East Journal 50(3): 329-343

Miller, Benjamin States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 5, pp. 236-255.


Recommended:


Shibley Telhami, The Stakes: America and the Middle East (Boulder, CO: Westview, 2002).

WEEK 12

The Gulf war, the 2003 Iraq war, and their Consequences


Recommended:


WEEK 13

State, Nationalism, and War and Peace in the Middle East

Kumaraswamy, P. R. 2006. 'Who am I? The Identity Crisis in the Middle East.' Middle East Review of International Affairs 10(1):63-73.

Miller, Benjamin States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and Peace (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), Ch. 5, pp. 386-421.

**Recommended:**


**WEEK 14**

**Between the Old Middle East and the New Middle East: Democratization, Ethno-Nationalism and Islamic Fundamentalism and their Implications for Conflict Management**


Debate on Iran’s Nuclear Option, The National Interest, no. 83 (Spring 2006), pp. 13-34.

**Recommended:**

Week 15: for discussion if there is enough time

The Balance Of Power, Security Dilemma, and the Balance of Threat: Realist Analysis and Prescriptions for Middle East Conflicts


Recommended: