I. **Course Description:**
This course introduces students to the initial stages of the Arab-Israeli conflict, starting from the first waves of Zionist immigration to Palestine through the 1948 war and the establishment of the state of Israel. It will focus on the emerging features of the conflict, the struggle between the Palestinian Arab and Jewish Nationalist movements, and the international involvement in these events. A variety of scholarly studies will provide the background for class discussions. The course will focus on the emergence of the Zionist and Palestinian nationalist movements, British policy in Palestine, the rise of new Zionist and Palestinian leaders, the 1936-1939 Arab Revolt, and the post World War II efforts to establish a Jewish state. Our focus on these events will be linked to broader regional developments in the Middle East, which also play a role in the struggle for Palestine. These include the breakup of the Ottoman Empire, the rise of Arab nationalism, and the modern Arab state system that emerged in the inter-war period. This backdrop links the discussion of the roots of the Arab-Israeli conflict to the wider realm of Middle East studies, and expands this course's scope of inquiry. Understanding the roots and history of this conflict is important for students at USNA, many of whom are likely to serve in the Middle East at some point in their military career.

II. **Course Requirements and Rules:**
*Homework, Quizzes and Class Participation:* Students must come to class ready to discuss the day’s assigned readings and topics. The method of instruction in this course is lecture and discussion based, so each and every student should expect to participate in the active learning process. Your performance during in-class discussions, on quizzes and on homework assignments (assigned periodically by the professor) will directly affect your grade in this course. (20 points)
Exams: There are two exams in this course, a Midterm, and a Final (date TBD). Format may include vocabulary, text comprehension and identifications; short answer; multiple choice, and essay questions. Questions for the exams will be drawn from course readings, lectures, and current events. Students who actively participate in class and take liberal notes will do better on the exams. (Midterm= 30 points; Final=30 points)

Research Paper: Every student in this course is to write a 10-15 page research paper. Each student will turn in a research paper proposal which the professor must approve. (Proposal due in class March 28, 2013).

The final draft is due on April 25, 2013. (20 points final draft). (Students are encouraged to form research paper review teams to get peer feedback on their written work; the professor is also willing to read rough drafts)

Note***** Plagiarism: All research papers must display original thought and writing. Papers written for other courses taken in the past or concurrently are strictly forbidden as is material taken from other sources and passed off as your own. This is plagiarism, a form of cheating that is clearly an honor violation. For more on USNA’s statement against plagiarism see the following link: http://www.usna.edu/Library/Plagiarism/Plagiarism.html

Course Grade Distribution:

Homework/Quizzes and Participation= 20 pts (due dates tbd)
Midterm=30pts
Research Paper=20pts
Final=30pts (date tbd).
Total Points Possible: 100

**Grading Scale:** Traditional—A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=0-59.

**Penalty for late papers and assignments:** Missing the above dates for any work required for this course is unacceptable without prior written approval from the professor (for example: if you are a varsity athlete and you have an away game for one of these dates an alternative due date may be arranged). Any alteration to these dates by approval must be done at least one week prior to the due date, with the exception of serious illness. Without professorial approval, late work will not be accepted for full credit. If you are ill on a due date, have a friend or colleague turn in your work so as not to be penalized.

*****You must complete (and turn in) all assignments and exams for this course in order to pass the class*****

**III. Required Texts:**


**IV. Schedule of Themes and Readings**

**Introduction and Preliminary Discussion**


Joel Beinin, "Forgetfulness for Memory: The Limits of the New Israeli History", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 34 No. 2 (Winter 2005), pp. 6-23. *(Blackboard)*

**The Origins of Jewish Nationalism, Theoretical Approaches to Nationalism**


**Arabs and Jews in Ottoman Palestine**


Israel Kolatt, "The Organization of the Jewish Population of Palestine and the Development of its Political Consciousness before World War I", in Moshe Maoz (ed.), *Studies on Palestine during the Ottoman Period* (Jerusalem, 1975), pp. 311-245. *(Blackboard)*


**The Emergence of Palestinian Nationalism**


Post World War I Settlements
Benny Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 67-106.

Charles D. Smith, Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Chapter 2.

Mayir Verete, "The Balfour Declaration and Its Makers", Middle Eastern Studies, 4, 1970, pp. 48-76. (Blackboard)

British Policy in Palestine

Charles D. Smith, Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Chapter 3.

Benny Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 106-120.


Taysir Nashif, "Palestinian Arab and the Jewish Leadership in the Mandate Period", Journal of Palestine Studies, Vol. 6 No. 2 (Summer, 1977), pp. 113-121. (Blackboard)


Towards a Jewish State


The Arab Revolt

Benny Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 121-160.


The End of the British Mandate


Charles D. Smith, Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Chapter 4.

Steven Spiegel, The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict: Making America's Middle East Policy, from Truman to Reagan (Chicago, 1985), pp. 16-44.


The 1948 War and the Historiographic Debate


Arab-Israeli Relations, 1949-1956:


The 1967 Six Day War and its Aftermath:
Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 302-346


From June 1967 to October 1973
Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapters 7, 8.

The First Palestinian Intifada:

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapters 9, 10.

The Oslo Accords and the Palestinian Authority


Menachem Klein, "Hamas in Power", *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 61, no. 3 (Summer 2007), pp. 442-459. (Blackboard)


The 2000 Camp David Summit and the Outbreak of the Second Intifada:


Field Trip: Date TBA-Visit to the Israeli Embassy in Washington; Meeting with Palestinian Representative