GOVERNMENT 367 - NEGOTIATING MIDDLE EAST PEACE
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Goals and Contents of the Course

This Reading Seminar focuses upon the topic of negotiations and conflict resolution in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict since 1977 to the present. The course is divided into four parts. First, we will present the general theoretical framework for explaining and understanding negotiations in international relations. Second, we will refer in general terms to the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the main issues and patterns of negotiations. Third, we will address several case-studies of successes and failures of negotiations between Israel and its several Arab neighbors – Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians. In this context, we will attempt to understand the failure of the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians. Finally, in the last part of the course we will play a simulation and students will present their papers.

Students Assignments and grades

Students’ assignments include the following:

A. Active participation in the seminar, which is based upon an interactive dynamics and intensive reading of theoretical, historical, and “actuality” texts.

B. Submission of two short papers (about five pages each) throughout the term. The first paper will be a bibliographical essay related to the readings. The second paper will be a discussion of a “current event” topic related to the seminar.

C. Submission of a term paper (seminar paper) of about 25 pages, from a list of topics that will be distributed the first week of class. Students will present the outline of their paper in the last two weeks of classes.

The grade will be distributed as follows:

A. Mid-term: 20%
B. Two short papers: 10%
C. Term paper: 50%
D. Class participation: 20%
**Textbooks and Reader**

The following books should be available for purchase:


In addition, a reader/packet with the theoretical bibliography and other items will be compiled and available for purchase.
Topics and Schedule of Classes

A. Introduction and Theoretical Framework

1. Thu August 29: Introduction
2. Tue September 3: What is international conflict?
3. Thu September 5: Conflict management and resolution
4. Tue September 10: Defining negotiations and its components
5. Thu September 12: Mediation and third-party intervention
6. Tue September 17: Cooperation and reciprocity in negotiations
7. Thu September 19: Negotiations as a process of peaceful change
8. Tue September 24: Bargaining and the outcome of negotiations

B. The Arab-Israeli Conflict and Negotiations: A General View

9. Thu September 26: Historical background for the negotiations
10. Tue October 1: Core issues I: Jerusalem
11. Thu October 3: Core issues II: Refugees
12. Tue October 8: General problems and patterns of negotiations
13. Thu October 10: Mid-term exam

C. Case-Studies

15. Thu October 17: Israel and Lebanon, 1983
18. Tue October 29: Israel and the Palestinians I: 1978-1993
21. Thu November 7: What went wrong in the I-P negotiations?

D. Empirical Applications and Extrapolations

22. Tue November 12: Simulation of Arab-Israeli negotiations
23. Thu November 14: Students’ presentations
24. Tue November 19: Students’ presentations
25. Thu November 21: Students’ presentations
26. Tue November 26: Students’ presentations
27. Tue December 3: Students’ presentations
28. Thu December 5: Conclusions and extrapolations
Course Outline and Readings

A. Introduction and Theoretical Framework

1. Introduction (August 29)


Kemp and Pressman, Point of No Return, pp. 9-34 (Chapter 1: “Can the Aarb-Israeli Peace Process Succeed?”).

Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 676-694 (“Conclusions”).

2. What is International Conflict? (September 3)


Kriesberg, Constructive Conflicts, Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-99.

3. Conflict Management and Resolution (September 5)


Kriesberg, Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution, pp. 100-222 (Chapters 4-7); 254-265 (in Chapter 9).


4. Defining Negotiations and its Components (September 10)


Kriesberg, Constructive Conflicts, pp. 265-284 (Chapter 9).

5. Mediation and Third-Party Intervention  (September 12)
Kriesberg, Constructive Conflicts, pp. 223-253 (Chapter 8).


Saadia Touval, “Mediation in the Arab-Israeli Conflict During and After the Cold War,” Davis Occasional Papers, No. 74, October 1999, pp. 1-19. [Reader # 10]

6. Cooperation and Reciprocity in Negotiations  (September 17)


7. Negotiations as a Process of Peaceful Change  (September 19)
Arie M. Kacowicz, Peaceful Territorial Change (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 1994), pp. 3-61 (Chapters 1-3). [Reader # 13].


8. Bargaining and the Outcome of Negotiations  (September 24)
Fred Charles Iklé, How Nations Negotiate, pp. 191-224 (Chapter 11) [Reader # 15].
Kriesberg, Constructive Conflicts, pp. 254-338 (Chapters 9 and 10).
B. The Arab-Israeli Conflict and Negotiations: A General View

9. Historical Background for the Negotiations  (September 26)

Kemp and Pressman, *Point of No Return*, pp. 35-53 (Chapter 2).

Gilbert, *The Routledge Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* [browse]

Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, browse Chapters 1-5 and read pp. 223-350 (Chapters 6-8).


Morris, *Righteous Victims*, browse Chapters 1-9, pp. 3-443.

10. Core Issues I: Jerusalem  (October 1)


11. Core Issues II: Refugees  (October 3)


12. General Problems and Patterns of Negotiations  (October 8)


Kemp and Pressman, *Point of No Return*, pp. 85-94.

15. Israel and Lebanon, 1983  (October 17)


16. **Israel and Syria, 1992-2000** (October 22)

Kemp and Pressman, *Point of No Return*, pp. 103-122.


17. **Israel and Jordan, 1987 and 1993-1994** (October 24)


18. **Israel and the Palestinians, I: 1978-1993** (October 29)
Eisenberg and Caplan, *Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace*, Chapter 4, pp. 75-89.


19. *Israel and the Palestinians, II: 1993-2000* (October 31)


Kemp and Pressman, *Point of No Return*, pp. 55-83.


20. *Israel and the Palestinians, III: 2000-2002* (November 5)


21. **What Went Wrong in the Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations?** (November 7)

Ron Pundak, “From Oslo to Taba: What Went Wrong?”, manuscript, June 2001 [Reader # 32].

Alan Dowty and Michelle Gavierc, “The Al-Aqsa Intifada: Revealing the Chasm,” University of Notre Dame, Department of Government, manuscript, 2001. [Reader # 33].

Kemp and Pressman, *Point of No Return*, pp. 175-196.

Aluf Benn, “Grasping for Peace,” *Foreign Policy*, January/February 2002, pp. 82-84. [Reader # 34]


28. **Conclusions and Extrapolations** (December 5)

Kemp and Pressman, *Point of No Return*, pp. 213-220.

