Structure of the Course

The class meets once a week for intensive and critical discussion of assigned reading and research in progress. Although contextual and introductory material for each book or set of readings will sometimes be provided in lecture format, responsibility for the direction of class discussions will be shared between professor and students.

Requirements of the Course

There will be no examinations in this course. Each student will be required to hand in a 5 page book report on two books chosen by the student and approved by the instructor. The list of recommended reading provided as a supplement to this syllabus is a good place to begin in the selection of books to be read for this report. The books should offer a substantial contrast in their treatment of a specific topic or theme. Students are encouraged to use this assignment as a vehicle for exploring ideas for a paper topic. Grades in the course will be assigned based equally on contributions to seminar discussions and on written work. In addition to the book report, each student will write a research paper (circa 25 pages) that evaluates a general claim about Arab-Israeli relations or some politically important aspect of the conflict. Close consultation with the instructor and our WATU assistant, Ms. Sarah Salwen, in the choice of topic and the development of the research design, is expected. Paper topic proposals with preliminary bibliographies must be posted on the course blackboard site by November 21, 2004. Papers will be happily received for grading by December 22. Students may elect to submit their papers by January 4 without penalty. Those who do so must notify me before December 22. They will receive incompletes and will have their incompletes changed to regular grades within one month. Papers received after January 4 will be treated as late papers and will be reduced in grade.

All students should purchase the following books, which are required reading for the course. These books, along with the books listed as recommended for purchase, have been ordered and are available at House of Our Own Bookstore on Spruce Street. Direct links to URL’s are provided in this syllabus for some readings. Many of the required readings have are available at the course’s blackboard site and are marked by a boldfaced BB. Readings available through the library’s JSTOR data base are marked with a boldfaced JSTOR. Other readings are available on reserve, including the ten volumes of Arab-Israeli Relations: A Collection of Contending Perspectives and Recent Research ed., Ian S. Lustick (Garland Press, 1994).
Required for Purchase:


Recommended for Purchase:


http://www.jewishsoftware.com/default.asp?page=categories&type=67&id=123
http://www.jbooks.com/nonfiction/index/NF_Freedman2.htm#
http://www.solomonstreasurechest.com/jeninbook.html

September 13, 2004: Explaining Parallels and Focusing on What Matters

Required Reading:

Mark Tessler, *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*
Review, 1-122

September 20, 2004: Early Encounters: Building and Being Built By

Required Reading:

Review Tessler, 123-184
Saul Tshernichovsky, “Before the Statue of Apollo” BB
Political Science 398: “Arab-Israeli Relations”  
Professor Ian Lustick, Fall 2004

Chaim N. Bialik, “City of Slaughter”  
“Beware the Zionist Danger”  
Laqueur and Rubin, 3-25


September 27, 2003: Dynamics of the Mandate: The Logic of Partition

Required Reading:

Review Tessler, 185-268
Laqueur and Rubin, 25-62

Vladimir (Ze’ev) Jabotinsky, “We and the Arabs: On the Iron Wall”  
http://www.marxists.de/middleast/ironwall/ironwall.htm


October 4, 2004: 1948: Triumph and Catastrophe

Required Reading:

Review Tessler, 269-335
Rogan and Shlaim, eds. The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948 (Chapters to be assigned)


David Ben-Gurion. “Freedom and Independence” BB


October 11, 2004: The Refugee Question

Required Reading

Ghassan Kanafani, Men in the Sun

or

Christopher Hitchens, “Broadcasts,” in Blaming the Victims, 73-83.
Jacques De Reynier, “Deir Yassin, April 10, 1948,” from his report to the International Red Cross BB

October 18, 2004: From War to War: 1956-1982

Required Reading:

Review Tessler, 336-397
Hersh, Seymour. The Samson Option: Israel’s Nuclear Arsenal and American Foreign Policy. (New York: Random House, 1991). pp. 159-207. BB

October 25, 2004: No Class—Fall Break

November 1, 2004: Discussion of Book Reports

NB  Students will bring to class five page reports comparing two books chosen for purposes of analytic contrast from the list of recommended books provided. Choice of books to be approved by instructor no later than October 8.

November 8, 2004: Palestinians under Israeli Rule: Arab citizens and Arabs in the Occupied Territories

Review Tessler, 399-531
Laqueur and Rubin, 298-299, 313-348, 354-358

Geremy Forman and Alexandre Kedar, “From Arab Land to ‘Israel Lands’: The Legal Dispossession of the Palestinians Displaced by Israel in the Wake of 1948” BB

or


*Or*

or

Rosenfeld, Introduction and Part I, II, or III

For information on the life and perspectives of Jewish settlers visit and browse through one or more of the following:
http://www.shomron.homestead.com/index.html
http://www.shilo.org.il/
http://english.katif.net/index.php?sub=4

November 15, 2004: The Great Debates: Over What to Do with the Occupied Territories in Israel, Over Acceptance of Israel among the Arabs

Review Tessler, 533-676
Laqueur and Rubin, 135-142, 166-182

Moshe Dayan, “Soldier Reflects on Peace Hopes” Text of an address to a graduating class at the Israel Army Staff and Command College, Jerusalem Post, September 27, 1968. BB
Mordechai Nisan, "Democracy and Deviation in Israel" BB
George Habash Interview, August 1974 BB

November 22, 2004: Discussion of Paper Topics and Workshop on Research Techniques

November 29, 2004: Peace Processes and the al-Aqsa Intifada
Required Reading:

Tessler, Review 677-761


Two Readings Chosen from the Asch Center Human Rights File Re the West Bank and Gaza


Collection of Oslo Aftermath Readings BB
or
Selections from Hass, Reporting from Ramallah


or


December 6, 2004: “Is There Something Essential about Zionism or Palestinian Nationalism that Makes the Conflict Irresolvable?”

Discussion to be based on individual research in progress.