HIST 574  
Spring 2011  

Arab-Israeli Relations, Past and Present  

Department of History  
San Diego State University  

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Class time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45  
Office hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:00, or by appointment  

Course Scope and Purpose:  
This course explores the causes, course, and implications of the Arab-Israeli conflict. It examines the history of the conflict, and compares the conflicting narratives of the Palestinians, the Arab States, and Israel. Correspondingly, the course explores the ways in which Arab-Israeli relations are presented in various media as the outcome of the interaction between professional journalistic conventions, national affiliations and technological developments.  

Course Principals:  
- The students are expected to attend all classes, show up on time and to have read the assigned readings for each session.  
- Mandatory class readings include articles chosen specifically for the course and all can be accessed online via the blackboard system.  
- When in class, students will turn off their cell phones, pagers, text-messagers, etc.  
- The use of laptops for any other purpose rather than taking class notes is strictly forbidden. A failure to meet this requirement will result in a reduction of the student's final grade.  
- Students’ emails to me will be answered in 72 hours.  
- Students with disabilities or who need special consideration are requested to contact me as soon as possible.  
- The final take-home exam will cover course materials presented in lectures, assigned readings and class discussions.  
- Make sure that your take-home exam is based on your original work. Footnote your sources, indicate direct quotes, and avoid closely paraphrasing your sources. Plagiarism will result in failure of the course.  

Course Assignments and Grading:  
Grades will be calculated based on the following weighting:  
- Quiz 1 (scheduled on February 24) = 15%  
- Quiz 2 (scheduled on April 12) = 15%  
- Attendance and active participation = 10% (You can miss two classes without any consequences. Every missed class not due to a verifiable medical or personal emergency after that will result in reduction of your final grade).  
- Take-home exam (given to students on April 28; submitted by students on our last meeting, May 10) = 60%
Class presentations: students (either on their own, or in couples) are invited to present in class one additional reading from the syllabus (see list of additional readings at the bottom), or a different relevant reading dealing with political conflicts, Arab-Israeli relations, and/or the mass media representations of conflicts. Please note: most additional readings do not appear in Blackboard and you will have to locate them via SDSU’s library.

The students’ presentations will present and discuss the research questions guiding the article and its main findings in a thorough manner. The students will also relate the reading to topics and themes discussed in class. The use of handouts and PP presentations is welcomed. Students will email me a summary of their presentation up to three days before their class presentation.

A choice of reading that does not appear on the list is welcomed, but it requires my approval. Students will choose their additional readings and inform me about their choice by February 1, 2011.

Grades of students who presented a paper in class will be calculated based on the following weighting:
- Quiz 1 = 15%
- Quiz 2 = 15%
- Attendance and active participation = 10%
- Class presentation = 10%
- Take-home exam = 50%

Graduate students:
- Graduate students will present one additional reading in class.
- Graduate students will write a final paper (instead of the take-home exam) that offers an analysis (up to 10 double-spaced pages) of a case-study related to the one of the topic discussed in class. The topics of the papers will be discussed through the semester and they require my approval.

Grading System:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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Course topics and mandatory readings

**Introduction: The History and Dynamics of Arab-Israeli Relations**

The roots of the conflict: from early Zionism to state formation


The Balfour Declaration:  
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/middle_east/israel_and_the_palestinians/key_documents/1682961.stm

1948: War of Independence or Nakba?

Bickerton & Klausner, Ch. 4

UN Resolution 181  
http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/un/res181.htm  
Part I: A; Part II: A, B, C

Israel’s Declaration of Independence:  


UN Resolution 194, focus on sections 7-11  
http://domino.un.org/unispal.nsf/361eea1cc08301c485256cf600606959/c758572b78d1cd0085256bfc0077e51a

The Six Day War and its aftermath

Bickerton & Klausner, Ch. 6

UN Resolution 242:  
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/UN/unres242.html

http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/barjoseph.html

Israelis, Palestinians and the debate over the territories


**Two Intifadas and a (failed?) peace process**

Bickerton & Klausner, Ch. 10


**Journalism Research: An Overview**


**Covering the Conflict: Media Representations of Arab-Israeli Relations**


**Journalistic values under fire**


**Us vs. them – a comparative look**


Is there a paradigmatic change?


Documentaries and feature films


Additional Readings


