THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT
JS110 / PS 182 Sec 27
Spring 2006
Brown University, Wed 6:00pm-8:30 pm,
(Junior -Senior Seminar for Political Science and Jewish Studies major)

Professor Kenneth W. Stein
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Course Summary:
This is an advanced survey of the Arab-Israeli conflict’s history, politics, and diplomacy. Divided at 1948-49, the first half of the course deals with the conflict’s social, political, ideological, and diplomatic origins; the second half with the period since, focusing on Israeli and Palestinian national emergence, Arab-Israeli wars, the subsequent diplomacy from each, and the impact of American, European, and Cold War engagement upon the conflict’s unfolding. Integral to the course are analyses of documents associated with the conflict's 100-year plus history.

Required books:


Documents Packet- History Politics, and Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Providence, 2006. (To be purchased by each student during first week of class at ALLEGRA. Please give them 24 hours notice.) Referred to in the syllabus as “DP.”

Course Grading:
This class meets once a week. There will be class discussion for each topic on the syllabus. Class participation is essential. Each student will write two papers, a 25-page research paper of the student’s choosing, and one 10-page paper on an assigned topic. A written in-class mid-term examination will be given on March 15, 2006. Please bring two blue books. The final grade for the course will be determined as follows:
short paper - 20% - “The Camp David II Accords”
mid-term examination - 20% - Question: “Discuss the Arab-Israeli conflict to December 1949”
class participation - 20%
research paper - 40%

Course Guidelines:

For the short paper, each student will be asked to analyze the same topic: the July 2000, Camp David II Summit. Students will use Israeli, Palestinian, American, and other sources. Each student will use the same source material, but will work independently of one another. The source material consists of more than 500 pages of primary source materials translated from Arabic, Hebrew, and English as assembled by the instructor. The short paper should be no longer than 12-pages in length, including endnotes and bibliography. It is due on February 22, 2006. The material provided is the only source material that can be used in writing the paper. Each student seeks to answer the same questions:

1. Why was the summit convened in July 2000 and not earlier/later?
2. What were the expectations of each side prior to the summit?
3. How was the summit conducted?
4. Who was responsible for the summit’s collapse?

For the long research paper, the topic will be chosen in consultation with the professor. The bibliography (minimum of nine journal articles and six books) for the research paper is due in class on March 1, 2006. The final paper is due on April 26, 2006 by 5pm. In terms of length, the research paper must be no longer than 25 pages, (not including endnotes and bibliography). If you wish the paper returned to you, you may include a self-addressed stamped envelope when you turn in your paper.

In writing both the short and long papers (described below), the following presentation format must be used. Every paper must be typed, double-spaced (for the long paper, no more than a 6500 words—approximately 25-pages), and paginated with endnotes/footnotes and bibliography following. For a stylistic outline of how the notes and bibliography are to be arranged and presented in the research paper, see the Chicago Manual of Style. For guidance of acceptable citation style, arrangement of the endnotes and bibliography, please use the same style employed in Stein, Kenneth W. Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat, Kissinger, Carter, Begin and the Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace. Please note that the abbreviated citation method (Stein, p.2) used in the body of a paper in political science and scientific papers is not an acceptable format. Use either endnotes or footnotes.

For the research paper, students may not use source material from web-based origins; in other words, research papers in this course must be completed with the use of scholarly books and journals. These journals may be secured on-line of course, but blogs, organization web-sites, chat-rooms etc., may not be used. In special cases newspapers may be used. Primary source use is encouraged.

Class sessions will be a combination of lecture and discussions. Class attendance is mandatory! For each class session, students will be assigned readings from original sources from the documents packet, and they are expected to read the source material before classes. Students are expected to participate actively in all class discussions.
Important class assignment dates:
February 1 - material distributed for first paper
February 22 – short paper due
March 1 - topic and bibliography for research paper due
March 15 - mid term examination
April 26 - research paper due

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

January 25
Course introduction- What is political culture?
Arab and Jewish political cultures

February 1
Origins of the Conflict, Zionism, and Arab Nationalism in
Pre- and Post-World War I
Discussion Theme: Promise or Perfidy or Both?

Readings:
B&K, pp. 1-44.


*Kolatt, Israel. “The Organization of the Jewish Population of Palestine and the Development of its
Political Consciousness Before World War I,” Studies in Palestine During the Ottoman Period

*Mandel, Neville J. “Ottoman Policy and Restrictions on Jewish Settlement in Palestine: 1881-1908--
Part I,” Middle Eastern Studies (October 1974), pp. 312-332.

Discussion Theme: A look at the 2006 Palestinian elections

February 8
The Palestine Mandate, 1920-1948 (I)

Readings:
B&K, pp. 44-67.
Khalaf, pp. 1-44.

*Horowitz, Dan and Moshe Lissak. “Ideology and Politics in the Yishuv,” The Jerusalem Quarterly


Discussion Theme: The dual obligation and institutional partition

**February 15**
The Palestine Mandate, 1920-1948 (II)

**Readings:**
B&K, pp. 68-115.
Khalaf, pp. 45-158.
DP, pp. 55-83.


Discussion Theme: Was there a Jewish state in 1939-1945?

**February 22**
The End of the Mandate, Armistice Negotiations, Israeli Nation-Building, and status of the Palestinian Arab National Movement
Short paper is due

**Readings:**
DP, pp. 84-165.

*Khalidi, Rashid. “The Palestinians and 1948 the underlying causes of failure,” in Eugene L. Rogan


Discussion Theme: Historiography and the narratives (holocaust, refugees, responsibility, memory)

**March 1**
Great Power Interests in the Middle East; the Cold War, Suez War, and the June 1967 War

**Readings:**
B&K, pp. 116-159.
Quandt, pp. 1-52.
DP, pp. 166-178.


Discussion Theme: Open
March 8
Attempted and Failed Diplomacy, 1967-1973

Readings:
Quandt, pp. 55-129.

Quandt, pp. 55-129.

Discussion Theme: UNSC Resolution 242

March 15
The October 1973 War and its aftermath
Mid-term examination last 90 minutes of class

Readings:

March 22
Disengagement Agreements to the Egyptian-Israeli Treaty

Readings:
B&K, pp. 171-209.
Quandt, pp. 130-242.
DP, pp. 179-262.
Theme: How negotiations work.

March 29 Spring break

April 5
The 1980s: The Decade of Not Getting Together: Reagan-Shultz, Shamir, Assad, Hussein, and Arafat; Lebanon and the Intifadah

Readings:
B&K, pp. 210-243.
Quandt, pp. 245-318.
DP, pp. 263-297.


Discussion Theme: A look at the 2006 Israeli elections

Paper topic summaries: five minutes each; succinct, grouped discussions; sources, thesis, and findings (8)

1. 5.
2. 6.
3. 7.
4. 8.

April 12
The 1990s - The Gulf War, The Madrid Peace Conference: was Oslo a doable enterprise?

Readings:
B&K, pp. 244-279.
Quandt, pp. 321-378.
Stein, Heroic Diplomacy, pp. 229-268.
DP, pp. 298-396.


Paper topic summaries: five minutes each; succinct, grouped discussions; sources, thesis, and findings (10)

1. 6.
2. 7.
3. 8.
4. 9.
5 10.

April 19
Intifadah II, Bush administration and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Readings:
B&K, pp. 280-312.
Quandt, pp. 379-396.
Stein and Lewis, pp. 8-39.
DP, pp. 397-453.


Paper topic summaries: five minutes each; succinct, grouped discussions; sources, thesis, and findings (10)

1. 6.
2. 7.
3. 8.
4. 9.
5 10.

April 26
Arafat’s Legacy-Sharon’s inheritance
Research papers are due today

Readings:
DP, pp. 454-end.

Theme: American Foreign Policy toward the conflict and region: compatible?


If you want your research paper returned, please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope when you turn in your paper.

Research Paper topics to be considered:

Origins and Varieties of Zionism

Emergence of Palestinian Arab nationalism: prospects and pitfalls

The Economy or Economies of Palestine, 1921-1949

Palestinian Arab attitudes toward the Zionists and Zionism, 1940-1949

Zionist Attitudes toward the Arabs in Palestine

The Arab Revolt, 1936-1939: Cause and Effects

Intervention of Arab states in the Palestine Question, 1936-1949

Was a bi-national state viable?

Jewish Paramilitary Organizations in Palestine-Irgun, Stern Gang

Origins and Development of Palestinian Nationalism- to 1949 or to the present

Political Influence of American Jews on the Palestine Question before 1948

Novels and the emergence of modern Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Illegal Jewish Immigration to Palestine: impact

Partition Controversies 1937 and 1947: a comparison

The 1929-1931 Period: critical turning point in development of the Jewish National Home

Zionist Influence on American politics to 1949 or to the present

Islamic influence on Palestinian national identity

American Foreign Policy toward the Palestine Question

The Politics of the Palestinian Arab Refugees: Who, Why, When, Is there a solution?

Organization and development of the Jewish community in Palestine

Organization and development of the Palestinian community in Palestine
The conflict reflected in Hebrew literature
Palestinian Arab literature and the conflict
The conflict reflected in Arab literature
Economic and social causes for the Palestinian collapse and Zionist success to 1949
Bunche, Kissinger, Carter, and Baker: a comparative look at mediators and negotiations
Why the US and Europe can (not) agree about the Arab-Israeli conflict’s resolution
European politics and a Palestinian-Israeli settlement
Jordan’s stake in Palestine and the Palestinian future
Comparing the Arab revolt (1936-39) and the first and second Palestinian intifadah
The Battle for Washington: Lobbying and the Arab-Israeli Conflict
Ben-Gurion, Begin, Rabin, and Sharon: a comparative study of leadership
The UN and the conflict: panacea or pain?
The Palestinian issue in the minds of the Arab world, 1979-2005
The Palestinian question in inter-Arab politics, 1945-1993
Prospects and problems in Palestinian self-determination
Are there viable alternatives to a two state solution?
Social and economic variables constraining a Palestinian-Israeli settlement
Ideological diversity in Palestinian nationalism
Demography and the conflict’s future
Making the case for Israeli settlements since June 1967
Can Tract II diplomacy work in the Arab-Israeli Conflict?
Impact of the conflict on Oil and OPEC and vice versa
Turkey, Iran, and Iraq and the future of the conflict
Do NGO’s work in the Palestinian-Israeli theater?