University of Colorado at Boulder  
Department of Political Science  
PSCI 2028-705: The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Professor Zach Levey  
TR 2:00-3:15 PM  
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Course Description:

This course deals with the central issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict in both historical and contemporary terms. The first part of the course deals with the growing clash between the Zionist Yishuv and Arabs of Palestine, examining the transformation of this discord into a long-term confrontation between Israel and the Arab states. Thus, we will begin by examining the roots of Arab and Jewish nationalism, rival claims to Palestine, and growing conflict during the period of the British Mandate.

The second and main part of this course covers the years 1947-1987, analyzing the causes and effects of six wars between Israel and the Arab states; those of 1948, 1956, 1967, 1969-70, 1973, and 1982. This stage of the course emphasizes the impact of regional and global factors, such as inter-Arab rivalry and the Cold War, but also includes an examination of the circumstances that made possible the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty of 1979.

The third part of the course begins with the Palestinian intifada of 1987-1993 and then deals with the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles of September 1993 and Israeli-Jordanian peace agreement of 1994. The course concludes with an examination of the evolution of the conflict since the mid-1990s; topics to be included in the last few class meetings are the 2000 Camp David Summit, Israeli separation fence, future of Jerusalem, involvement of Hizballah and war of 2006, the continuing ("al-Aksa") phase of the confrontation, and the rise of Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Course Requirements:

Mid-term exam (20% of final grade), ten-page term paper (20% grade), final exam (60% of grade); class attendance.  
Mid-term exam date: 20 October. Due date for papers: 1 December.

Recommended Textbook:

Sequence of Lectures and Reading Assignments:

1. Introduction: Roots of the Conflict

Required Reading:


Recommended:


Documents:


2. The Zionist Movement and Palestinian Arab Nationalism

Required:


Recommended:


Documents:


3. Toward 1939: The British Mandate and Growing Confrontation

Required:


Recommended:


Documents:

4. The Second World War and Palestine

Required:


Recommended:


Documents:


5. Civil War and the End of the Mandate

Required:


Recommended:


Documents:

The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry (1946); The Arab Case for Palestine (1946); The Case for a Bi-national State (1947); The U.N. Partition Resolution (1947), Laqueur and Rubin, *The Israel-Arab Reader* (5th edition, 1995), 72-96.


Required:


**Recommended:**


**Documents:**


7. **1949-1956: From Secret Negotiations to a Second Arab-Israeli War**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


**Documents:**


8. **The Road to the Six Day War and the 1967 Turning Point**

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


**Documents:**


**Required:**


**Recommended:**


**Documents:**
Resolution of the Arab Summit Conference held in Khartoum, 1 September 1967, in Lapidoth and Hirsch, *The Arab-Israel Conflict*, 133.


10. 1974-1979: The Road to Camp David and Israeli-Egyptian Peace

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


**Documents:**


11. The 1982 Lebanon War

Required:


Recommended:


Documents:


Required:


Recommended:

Dowty, *Israel/Palestine*, 130-145.


Sayigh, Armed Struggle and the Search for State, 607-662.


Documents:

Letters (Rabin - Arafat) and (Oslo) Declaration of Principles, September 1993, in Zittrain Eisenberg and Caplan, Negotiating Arab-Israeli Peace, 210-216.

13. The Second Intifada and Camp David, 2000

Required:


Recommended:


Required:


Documents:

15. Jerusalem, the Separation Fence, Hamas, and Hizballah in Lebanon

Required:

Menachem Klein, "Jerusalem as an Israeli Problem," *Israel Studies* 13, 2 (Summer 2008), 54-72.

