THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT
Middle Eastern Studies 685:352 / Jewish Studies: 563:383
Political Science 790:352
Rutgers University / Fall 2009
Monday and Wednesday, 4th period (1:10-2:30 PM)
Scott Hall 202

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Description:
The most significant and ongoing phenomenon the Middle East still experiences is the Palestinian Israeli conflict, which has endured roughly a century. The state of Israel was practically born into it while the Palestinian national movement was spawned by it. This protracted conflict could have been called the Arab-Jewish, the Muslim-Jewish, the Arab-Zionist, the Palestinian-Israeli, or even a conflict between East and West. The various titles of the dispute reflect its multi-dimensional character and complex nature. The main reason the conflict lasts for so long and its diehard spirit is so recalcitrant to resolution is because so many sources nurture and sustain it from different directions at all times.

This course attempts to shed some light on the various dimensions and meanings of the Middle East conflict. Accordingly, the premises, processes and prospects of the dispute will be presented and discussed. The chronology of events will be embedded in theoretical grounds: theories of conflict and war and theories of conflict resolution will be introduced and analyzed. The course emphasizes the “hidden dimensions” of the conflict: the non-tangible ones, namely, the religious, cultural, psychological and communicational disparities, which render the dispute protracted and almost intractable. Ultimately, a better understanding of one of the most troublesome spots in the world today will be attained.

Course requirements:
Attendance and participation in class meetings are mandatory and welcome. Prior knowledge, although not required, is always helpful and can be obtained from keeping up with the news and current affairs. In the final weeks of the semester we will hold a conflict resolution conference in which students will try to come up with creative scenarios to meet the challenge of the Middle East conflict.

There are two exams, a midterm and a final, which are non-cumulative. Hence, the course grade is determined as follows:

- A Midterm Exam (30%)
- A Final Exam (60%)
- Attendance and Participation (10%)
Reading Material:

Required:
(Hereafter: B+K)

Additional Readings:
Engaging Communication in Conflict- S. Littlejohn and K. Domencini (2001)
The Structure of International Conflict- C.R. Mitchell (1981)
The Functions of Social Conflict- Lewis Coser (1956)

* Due to the contemporary nature of the subject matter, some of the reading assignments will occasionally be newspaper articles and columns.
* All relevant chapters are to be found on the SAKAI system.

Course Schedule:

**The Phenomenon of Conflict:**
1. The Definition of Conflict (W 20/1)
   Read: Mitchell, Chs. 1,2
2. Structure and Dynamics of Conflict (25-27/1)
   Read: Pruitt and Kim, Chs. 1-3
   Littlejohn and Domenici, Ch.1
3. (1-3/2)
   Read: Daft, chapter 7, pp. 180-232
   Goleman, Chs. 3-4, pp. 85-144
   Case-Study: The Arab-Israeli Conflict
4. Background and Conditions (8-10/2)
   Read: B+K, Introduction, Chs. 1-2, pp. 1-67
5. WWII and the UN Partition Plan (15-17/2)
   Read: B+K, Ch. 3, pp. 68-99
6. 1948: Independence and al-Nakba (22-24/2)
   Read: B+K, Ch. 4, pp. 100-115
   Israeli Proclamation of Independence
   UN Resolution 194
7. The Suez Crisis 1956 (1-3/3)
   Read: B+K, Ch. 5, pp. 116-135
8. The Turing Point: the 1967 War (1-3/3)
   Read: B+K, Ch. 6, pp. 137-159
   UN Resolution 242
   Resolutions of Khartum Conference
9. October 1973: Surprise and Change (8/3)
   Read: B+K, Ch. 7, pp. 160-182
   The Palestinian National Covenant
   Security Council Resolution 338
10. The Diplomatic Road 1973-1979 (22/3-24/3)  
   Read: B+K, Ch. 8, pp. 183-209  
   The Camp David Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel (March 1979)  
11. The Palestinian Quest: the Lebanon War and the Intifadas (29-31/3)  
   Read: B+K, Ch. 9, pp. 210-243  
12. Oslo, Geneva and their Aftermath(5-7/4)  
   Read: B+K, Chs. 10-12, pp. 244-360  

Conflict Resolution:  
13. Dynamics of Conflict Resolution (12-14/4)  
   Read: Fisher and Ury, parts I, II  
   Lewicki and Saunders, Ch.1;  
   Miall et al., Ch.1  
14. Role-Playing Simulation: Negotiating the Arab-Israeli (A)(19-21/4)  
   Read: The Oslo Accords  
   The Geneva Agreement  
   The Saudi Initiative  
   The Global Peace Index (GPI)  
15. Role-Playing Simulation: Negotiating the Arab-Israeli (B) ( 26-28/4)  
   Read: Fisher and Ury, parts III, IV  
   Pearce and Littlejohn, part III  
   Miall et al., Ch.4  
16. Review class (3/5)