

Department.: Political Science

Course Number : POLS 234W

Course Title : Arab-Israeli Conflict

Credits : 3

Contact Person : Jennifer Sterling-Folker

Catalog Copy: POLS 234. Arab-Israeli Conflict

Either semester. Three credits.

Political relations between Arabs and Israelis with an emphasis on war and diplomacy.

POLS 234W. Arab-Israeli Conflict

Prerequisite: ENGLIS 105 or 110 or 111 or 250

W Criteria: Students will be expected to write a 15-page research paper that will use political science tools to gain a deeper understanding of some aspect of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The required research paper will allow the students to look in greater depth at topics previously discussed and/or apply broader theories to specific cases in Arab-Israeli relations. Students will be required to prepare a topic proposal, an outline, a bibliography, and first draft. Students will receive instructor and peer suggestions and criticism on this draft and will then rewrite and submit a revised (final) paper based on those suggestions and criticisms. Students may also present their findings to the class at the end of the semester.

Students will receive formal writing instruction during class time, and instruction will review such topics as thesis statements, citation format, research skills, UConn library resources, and plagiarism. Class time will also be devoted to peer editing of and comments on paper drafts, and students will receive written and verbal commentary from the instructor on their drafts. Students will be expected to incorporate and respond to commentary provided by the instructor both on the draft and in individualized meetings with the instructor.

At each stage of writing the paper students will receive feedback from the professor and their peers. The stages include the topic proposal, outline, research bibliography, and draft paper. All four stages prior to the final version are mandatory. The syllabus will inform students that they must pass the "W" component of the course in order to pass the course, and that the paper is worth 55% of their final grade.

Supplementary Information : -syllabus

The Arab-Israeli Conflict

POLS – 296W-001

Spring 2005

MW, 3-4:15

Room: Monteith 101

Prof. Jeremy Pressman Office hours: Monday 12-2

jeremy.pressman@uconn.edu Office: Monteith 218

<http://anacreon.clas.uconn.edu/~pressman> 4 86-3464

What caused the Arab-Israeli conflict? How important are religion and land? Who are the important countries and organizations? How have the people been affected? What role does the United States play? How have Arab-Israeli relations changed over time? Drawing on political science theories, this course seeks to look at the people and seminal events from a variety of perspectives.

Course -Objectives

1. Learn the content – I hope you come away from this class knowing more about the Arab-Israeli conflict than when you went into it.
2. Learn about politics and international relations – The Arab-Israeli conflict is a case study that, I hope, will help us see larger issues, trends, and causal relationships in the political sphere. What does this case tell us about nationalism, war, alliances, religion, and the like?
3. Hone your skills – By skills, I mean your ability to read, write, think, and communicate critically. What does it mean to be a critical thinker? The paper, exams, exercises, and other assignments are meant to let you develop these skills. We will also talk about some of these issues explicitly in class. Many classes will start with a 15-minute skills unit, e.g. {Proofreading}. I have tried to balance content (see #1) and skills.
4. Respond to your interests – I have set the structure of this class, but I want to respond to your interests as well. Thus, I have set up a number of mechanisms for your feedback and input. Also, you will choose the topic for your paper. For the readings, I tried to list optional readings as well in case a particular topic is of great interest to you.

NOTE: I do not integrate every assigned reading into lectures, but I still expect you to do all the assigned reading. A deeper understanding of the conflict and our ability to achieve my course objectives will not result from the lecture and classroom time alone. You need to make a significant investment outside of class as well. All assigned readings are fair game on the exams (though not optional readings).

Assignments & Expectations

Class participation and in-class exercises . (10% of your grade) Please come to class having done the readings for that class. Class attendance is required. Students who fail to participate may receive a zero for this portion of their grade. If you have concerns about participation, please speak to me in advance. This part of your grade will include the team research activities. (Team research activities : I will divide the class into several research teams. We will look at contemporary angles of the conflict, and each team will figure out how to get more information on the topic. Each team will present the information it finds to the rest of the class.)

Paper . (55%) Three (3) copies of your first draft are due in class on April 11. One copy of the final paper is due April 27 at our last class meeting. Each paper must be 4000-4500 words (15 pages long in 12 point font). You will receive a hand-out dealing with all the nuts and bolts of the papers. I will not accept late papers. If you fail the paper, you automatically fail the class. Once you choose a topic, you MUST start the process from scratch if you change your topic. In other words, you need to submit a new proposal, outline etc. Your paper grade will include

a topic proposal. Your initial topic proposal, including a draft introductory paragraph, is due in class on March 14.

an outline

a list of research sources (research bibliography)

a timely draft due April 11

your peer editing performance. You will get a handout of questions that you must answer for two of your peers' papers. You will return one copy of your comments to the author and one copy to Prof. Pressman by April X.

your final paper due April 27

CUT? Mid - term exam. (10% of your grade) This exam will be composed of identifications and short answers (mini-essays). It will given be in-class on March 2.

Simulation (1% of your grade) – perhaps move up paper dates about 10 days (due earlier in April), put simulation at end, drop mid-term, maybe add a reading quiz.

Final exam (20%). This exam will be composed of identifications, short answers, and essays. The two-hour exam will take place Saturday, May 7 from 6-8 pm. I may structure the essay portion or even the entire exam as a take-home exam.

Speakers (3% total; 1% per speaker) – You must attend three speakers during the semester. The topics must be related to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Middle East, or U.S. foreign policy. Please submit your form after you have completed all three. The form is on WebCT under course materials.

If you do not must submit the paper and complete both ? exams, you automatically fail the class.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism can be cutting and pasting without citation, turning in someone else's paper, buying a paper off the internet, or something else. Even if you cite another work in a footnote, you must use quotation marks for lengthy excerpts. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. I welcome your own thoughts and ideas as well as those of others with proper footnotes and quotation marks . Plagiarism is a form of cheating and will result in penalties. If you need a standard format to follow, consult the library web page tutorials on citation formats. If you are uncertain about the rules of citation, please ask before turning in your work. Penalties for plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be severe. We will discuss this handout:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.pdf>

Evaluation

Although the only formal evaluation of the course comes at the end, I welcome your feedback from the start of the course. Please feel free to share comments or concerns about the course during class or by phone or email. [ADD ITL evaluation at beginning and 1/3 and end]

Required Books

Charles D. Smith , Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict , 5 th ed. (Boston: Bedford/St Martin's, 2004).

Geoffrey Kemp and Jeremy Pressman , Point of No Return: the Deadly Struggle for Middle East Peace (Washington, DC: Brookings Press & CEIP, 1997).

Course Calendar and Readings – Most reserve readings are on WebCT . A few readings are on the web (the address is usually listed). I may add a few more readings.

· January 19 – Introduction

{Web: nytimes.com, washingtonpost.com}

Kemp and Pressman, pp. 175-196.

Optional: Roderic Davison, "Where is the Middle East," *Foreign Affairs* , 38, no. 4, July 1960, pp. 665-675.

· January 24 – Nationalism

{Note-taking}

Handout from The Center for Teaching and Learning, Stanford University, "Taking Notes."

Smith, pp. 20-43, 50-54 [4 th ed.: 23-47, 53-57].

Shlomo Avineri , *The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State* (NY: Basic Books, Inc, 1981)(chapters 9 Theodor Herzl), pp. 88-100.

· January 26 – World War I and the Mandate

{Plagiarism}

"Plagiarism: What it is and how to avoid it," <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.pdf>

Smith, pp. 55-85, 91-145, 153-157 [4 th ed.: 58-91, 95-153, 158-162]

Optional: Avineri , *The Making of Modern Zionism* (Jabotinsky), pp. 159-186.

· January 31 – 1948: Partition and War

{ Writing a thesis statement }

“How to write a thesis statement,” http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/thesis_statement.pdf

Smith, pp. 162-205, 208-210, 214-216 [4 th ed.: 167-210, 213-215, 219-222].

UN General Assembly Resolution 181, November 29, 1947. (partition)

· February 2 – 1948: Refugees

{ web: Middle East newspapers, eg dailystar.co.lb , haaretz.com, jpost.com, eletronicnintifada.net }

Ghassan Kanafani , “Men in the Sun,” in *Men in the Sun* (London: Heinemann, 1978), pp. 9-56. (fiction).

Yitzhak Rabin, translated by Dov Goldstein, *The Rabin memoirs* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1996), pp. 383-384.

· February 7 – 1949-1966 including the Suez War, the Arab Cold War, and the armed struggle

{ Citation: MLA format }

“MLA Citations,” <http://www.lib.uconn.edu/using/finding/guides/MLAbibli.PDF>

Smith, pp. 217-246, 249-273, 288 [4 th ed.: 223-253, 256-281, 296].

Avineri , *The Making of Modern Zionism* (Ben Gurion), pp. 198-216.

CUT - John W. Finney, "US Hears Israel Moves Toward A-Bomb Potential," New York Times ,
December 19, 1960, p. 1.

· February 9 – the 1967 War

{Citation: APA format}

"APA Citations," <http://www.lib.uconn.edu/using/finding/guides/APAcitat.pdf>

Smith, pp. 273-285, 289-292 [4 th ed.: 281-293, 297-300].

FRUS document 136, "Memorandum from Nathaniel Davis of the National Security Council Staff to the
President's Special Assistant (Rostow)," June 2, 1967,
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/johnsonlb/xix/28057.htm> (You have to scroll down to document #136.)

· February 14 – Post-1967

{proof-reading}

"Proofreading for Common Surface Errors: Grammar,"
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/proofing_grammar.pdf

"Proofreading for Common Surface Errors: Spelling & Punctuation,"
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/proofing_spelling.pdf

Smith, pp. 293-311, 331-334 [4 th ed.: 301-320, 341-344].

Text of UN Security Council Resolution 242, November 22, 1967. [in Smith on p. 331-2]

Lyndon Johnson, “ Address at the State Department's Foreign Policy Conference for Educators,” June 19, 1967, <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/site/docs/pppus.php?admin=036&year=1967&id=272>

· February 16 – the 1973 War & The Likud and the rise of the Israeli Right [paper topic proposal due]

{peer editing}

Smith, pp. 311-328, 335, 382-383 [4 th ed.: 320-338, 345, 394-395].

· February 21 – Camp David (1978): Israel and Egypt

Smith, pp. 347-352, 383-392 [4 th ed.: 357-363, 395-405].

Text of the Camp David autonomy agreement – Smith 390-392 or <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/mideast/campdav.htm>

· February 23 – Lebanon, 1982

Smith, pp. 361-374 [4 th ed.: 372-391].

· February 28 – the First Intifada (uprising) [paper outline due & list of research sources]

Smith, pp. 399-415, 431-436 [4 th ed.: 412-431, 449-454].

“In Defense of Likud Policy: An Interview with M.K. Dan Meridor ,” Tikkun 3, no. 3 (1988), pp. 61-65.

· March 2 – Mid-term exam (in class) CUT?

· March 14 – Hamas and the Islamists

Smith, pp. 410-411 [425-426].

Amira Hass, *Drinking the Sea at Gaza* (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1996/1999), pp. 94-120.

· March 16 – Madrid, 1991

Smith, pp. 417-428 [4 th ed.: 434-446, 455-456].

Kemp and Pressman, pp. 9-34.

· March 21 – Oslo, 1993

Smith, pp. 437-448, 476-480 [4 th ed.: 457-468, 506-510].

Kemp and Pressman, pp. 55-83.

· March 23 – the Oslo Years [paper draft due]

Smith, pp. 448-473, optional: pp. 481-486 [4 th ed.: 469-503. Optional: pp. 511-516.]

Alain Epp Weaver, "Israel and Palestine: Coexistence?" October 3, 2001, Merrill House Conversation at <http://www.carnegiecouncil.org/printerfriendlymedia.php/prmID/171>

· March 28 – Israel and Syria

Kemp and Pressman, pp. 103-127.

· March 30 – Jerusalem and Settlements

Kemp and Pressman, pp. 35-53.

TBA

· April 4 & 6 – Camp David II, 2000

Jeremy Pressman, "Visions in Collision: What Happened at Camp David and Taba ?" *International Security* 28, no. 2 (Fall 2003), pp. 5-43.

Ehud Barak , " Israel Needs a True Partner for Peace," *New York Times* , July 30, 2001.

Marwan Barghouti , "Want Security? End the Occupation," *Washington Post* , January 16, 2002.

Optional: Charles Enderlin, *Shattered Dreams* (New York: Other Press, 2002), pp. 177-260.

· April 11 – the Second Intifada [final paper due in class]

Akiva Eldar , “Popular Misconceptions,” Ha'aretz , June 11, 2004.

Aviva Lori, “The age of anxiety,” Ha'aretz ,
<http://news.haaretz.co.il/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=164593&contrassID=2&subContrassID=5&sbSubContrassID=0&listSrc=Y&itemNo=164593>

Muna Hamzeh , “Notes from Dheisheh ,” in Roane Carey, editor, *The New Intifada : Resisting Israel's Apartheid* (New York: Verso, 2001), pp. 221-229.

Human Rights Watch, “ Israel/PA: Suicide Bombers Commit Crimes Against Humanity,” November 1, 2002, h [ttp://www.hrw.org/press/2002/11/isrl-pa1101.htm](http://www.hrw.org/press/2002/11/isrl-pa1101.htm)

Optional: Amira Hass, “Israel's closure policy: an ineffective strategy of containment and repression,” *Journal of Palestine Studies* 31, no. 3, Spring 2002, p. 5 (16).

· April 13 – One-state vs. Two-state

Ariel Sharon, “Jordan is the Palestinian State,” *Jerusalem Post* , April 4, 1991. (op-ed)

Gary Sussman , “ The Challenge to the Two-State Solution,” *MERIP (Middle East Report) #231*, Summer 2004. (merip.org)

Michael Tarazi , “Two Peoples, One State,” *New York Times* , October 4, 2004. (op-ed)

· April 27 – The US Role

Jerome Slater, "Ideology vs. the National Interest: Bush, Sharon, and the US Policy in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," *Security Studies* 12, no. 1, autumn 2002, 164-206.

Optional: Jeremy Pressman, "The Primary Role of the United States in Israeli-Palestinian Relations," *International Studies Perspectives* 4, no. 2 (May 2003), pp. 191-194.

Optional: The Roadmap, April 30, 2003 -- <http://www.bitterlemons.org/docs/roadmap3.html>

· April 18 and 20 – simulation [or one simulation class, then lecture, then second simulation class – when to debrief perhaps switch back so US class is last?]

Final- exam – May 7 from 6-8 pm (Saturday)