Arab-Israeli Relations-Summer Course

Dr. Daniel Zisenwine

Course Number 702.2099
Class Time: Monday/Thursday
Semester: Summer 2021
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Course Description:
This course introduces students to the study of the Arab-Israeli conflict, from its initial stages starting from the first waves of Zionist immigration to Palestine through the 1948 war and the establishment of the state of Israel. It will focus on the emerging features of the conflict, the struggle between the Palestinian Arab and Jewish Nationalist movements, and the regional and international involvement in these events. Subsequent sessions will focus on the wars of 1956, 1967, 1973 and later developments such as the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty (1979) and Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Moving closer to the present, the course will highlight the 1987 Palestinian Intifada, the Oslo accords and the prospects for peace leading up to the second Intifada and the breakdown of negotiations. We will conclude with a discussion of the current age of uncertainty in the region and the impact of non-state actors (such as Hizballah and Hamas) on the conflict, in an effort to bring the class up to the present as possible. A variety of scholarly studies, diverse opinions, and approaches will provide the background for class discussions.

Class Format:
This course uses a lecture and discussion format. Learning as a dynamic process in which the student and teacher interact over the material under discussion. You will learn best by asking questions; all questions are welcome and, if they are of interest to the class as a whole, we will stop and discuss them together.

Course Requirements:
Participation and Writing Assignments: (20%):
The course participation grade serves as an in-class oral examination extended throughout the semester. Informed and thoughtful participation is critical for the course and will be noted. To achieve the maximum participation score, students should prepare the readings for each class, contribute to the discussion, and be respectful and
responsive to other students. Three short writing assignments (summaries of three articles) will also be assigned.

Mid Term Exam: (40%):

A take home exam that will cover the readings and course lectures of the first part of the semester. Students will be asked to answer two (2) out of (4) essay questions.

Final Exam: (40%):

A take home exam in a similar format to the midterm exam, covering the second part of the semester.

Reading Assignments:

There is one assigned textbook which will be used for this course. Students are encouraged to obtain the book, but scanned chapters will be posted on the course web site, along with other required readings.


Course Schedule:

Week 1:

Introduction: The Study of the Arab-Israeli Conflict and the Emergence of Zionism:


Supplementary Reading:

The Emergence of Arab/Palestinian Nationalism


Supplementary Reading:

The Jewish Community in Palestine under the British Mandate
Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 67-120 (Ch.3)

Week 2:
The Arab Revolt 1936-1939
Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 121-160 (Ch. 4)


World War II and the Struggle for a Jewish State


Week 3:
1948: The First Arab-Israeli War


1956 Suez War


Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 259-302 (Ch. 6).

The 1967 Six Day War

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 302-346 (Ch. 7).


Week 4

From June 1967 to October 1973

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 347-443 (Ch. 8, 9).

Israel-Egyptian Peace Treaty; Lebanon War


The First Intifada


Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 561-610 (Ch. 12).

Week 5

The Oslo Accords and the Prospects for Peace

Benny Morris, pp. 611-652 (Ch. 13)


**The Second Intifada and the Breakdown of Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations**

Elie Podeh, *Chances for Peace: Missed Opportunities in the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2015, Ch. 20,21


**Summary and Conclusion**