The Arab-Israeli Conflict
Professor Zach Levey

Course number: 702.2395
Class Time: Monday 12:00-15:00
Class Location: TBA

Instructor’s Office: Room 4020, Terrace Building
Tel: 824-0933 (internal line - 2933)
Office Hours: by appointment
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Course Description and Structure:

This course deals with the 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 its transformation into long-term confrontation between Israel and the Arab states. We will begin by examining the roots of Arab and Jewish nationalism, rival claims to Palestine, and the rise of conflict during the British Mandate period.

The second of this course covers the years 1947-1982, analyzing the causes and effects of six wars between Israel and the Arab states; 1948, 1956, 1967, 1969-70, 1973, and 1982. Emphasis is on regional and global factors, such as inter-Arab rivalry and the Cold War, but includes an examination of the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement in 1979.

The third part begins with the aftermath of the 1982 Lebanon war and Palestinian intifada of 1987-1993, covering the Oslo Agreements, 2000 Camp David summit, the second Intifada and Israel's conflict with both Hamas and Hizballah.

Course Requirements:

Three short essay assignments (each 5% of final grade), in-class mid-term exam (15%), term paper (15 pages, 70% of final course grad). Regular attendance is mandatory. This is a fast-paced course and students should complete readings for each class session.


Electronics: Laptops permitted for note-taking. Phones are out of visual and audial range.
Principal Texts:


**Note on Readings**

See both “course readings” and “additional readings” on Moodle site. Copyright law limits the number of pages from a given book that may be placed on an electronic site. Principal texts are available in the reserve section of the university library, but students may wish to purchase them.

**Course Topics**

**#1: Roots of the Conflict, Zionism, and Palestinian Arab Nationalism**

**Required Reading:**

Bickerton and Klausner, 1-32.

Tessler, 7-122.

**Recommended:**


#2: The First World War and the Rise of Arab-Jewish Conflict in Palestine

**Required:**

Bickerton and Klausner, 34-64 (covers period ending with 1939).

Tessler, 123-184.

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#3: Toward 1939: The British Mandate and Growing Confrontation

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


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#4: The Second World War and Palestine

**Required:**

Bickerton and Klausner, 65-73.


**Recommended:**


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#5: Civil War and the End of the Mandate

**Required:**

Bickerton and Klausner, 73-95.


Recommended:


### #6: 1948-1949: The Creation of Israel, First Arab-Israeli War and the Refugees

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


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

**Required:**


**Recommended:**


#8: The Road to the Six Day War and the 1967 Turning Point

**Required:**

Bickerton and Klausner, 135-153.


**Recommended:**


#9: 1968-73: The War of Attrition, Jordanian Crisis, and Yom Kippur War

**Required:**


**Recommended:**

Bickerton and Klausner, 154-176.


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

**Required:**

Bickerton and Klausner, 177-205.


**Recommended:**


**#11: The 1982 Lebanon War and the “Grand Strategy”**

**Required:**

Bickerton and Klausner, 204-218.


**Recommended:**


#12: 1987-1996: From the *Intifada* to Madrid and Oslo

**Required:**

**Recommended:**
Bickerton and Klausner, 218-265.


#13: From Oslo to the Second *Intifada* and Camp David 2000

**Required:**
Bickerton and Klausner, 266-332.

Tessler, 782-818.

**Recommended:**

#14: 2000-2015: Hamas in Gaza, and Hizballah in Lebanon

**Required:**
Bickerton and Klausner, 333-400.

Recommended:


Menachem Klein, "Hamas in Power", *Middle East Journal*, 61, 3 (Summer 2007), 442-459.


Tessler, 819-847.