



Arab-Israel Relations

Mr. Yisrael Ne'eman

Course Number: 702.XXXX

Class Time: TBA

Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Description

This course focuses on the development of Jewish and Arab nationalism and ensuing clash between the two in particular as expressed thru the turbulent Palestinian-Israeli relationship.

Our investigation/analysis will be broken down into five themes:

1. The relationship between Jews and Arabs (mainly Muslims but certainly the Christian contribution) and the development of secular nationalism (Zionism and Arab nationalism) as concerns both. From the outset we will examine the religious opposition to the nation state concept in both cases.
2. The development of the Jewish and Arab communities in Mandated Palestine prior to the 1948 War and the resulting establishment of the Israeli State on the one hand and the failure of the Arab invasion alongside the collapse of the Palestine national movement.
3. Central to our discussions will be the period from 1949 Israeli State institutionalization, massive Jewish immigration and the strengthening of Jewish nationalism while the Palestine national movement begins the process of rejuvenation in the 1960s. Pivotal to our understandings will be the wars fought throughout this period (1956, esp. 1967, 1973 and 1982) between Israel and the “confrontation” states.
4. The beginning of conflict resolution between Israel and Egypt in 1979 marks a new chapter in the Arab-Israel relationship and takes us to the peace agreement with Jordan, the partially successful (unfinished) Oslo Process and the recent Abraham Accords.
5. Finally by the late 20th century and into the 21st we discover a rejuvenation of religious fundamentalist identity and the demand for a return to Holy Texts, whether Jewish (ultra Orthodoxy and the Greater Land of Israel Movement) or Islamic (Muslim Brotherhood, Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad movements). Here we find absolutes in a diocentric world leaving little possibility for compromise should we seek “compromise” and mutual recognition as understood by Western defined international relations. Considering the resurgence of religious absolutism is conflict resolution possible?



Course Requirements:

15 minute in class presentation

Take Home Essay - 5 pages – Due as a Mid Term

Take Home Final Essay – 10 pages (67%) – Due Two Weeks After Semester Ends

All essays are to have endnotes and a bibliography.

There will be **at least** one Field Trip to the border with Lebanon and the Golan Heights towards the end of the semester. It is quite possible there will be another outing earlier in the semester.

Dates – To Be Announced

Class Attendance and Academic Touring Days are **mandatory**.

(More than three unwarranted/unjustified absentees can lead to failure.)

Grade Assessment:

Midterm 5-page essay - 33% of one's grade.

Final 10-page essay - 67% of one's grade.

Class presentation and participation can raise one's final grade by up to 5 points.

Course Outline and Readings

Class 1 – Origins

Part I: Israelites/Jewish People and the Land of Israel

Israelite/Jewish attitudes towards non-Jews: Tanakh (Old Testament/Talmud)

Mark Tessler, *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, pp. 7 – 53

Part II: Early Christianity, Islamic Conquest and Supersession

Attitudes towards Jews: Gospels, Koran, etc.

Tessler, pp. 69-117



Class 2 – The Rise of Secular Arab Nationalism (from the Christian Minority) To the Muslim Majority?

European influences and the Eastern Christian communities introduce secular nationalism and equality into the Muslim Middle East/Ottoman Empire (Tanzimat reforms)
Muslim Arab intellectuals adopt the national understandings, taking the lead

George Antonius, *The Arab Awakening*, pp. 35 – 100

Bat Ye'or, *The Decline of Eastern Christianity Under Islam*, pp. 69-99

Class 3 –Herzl/ the Rise of Secular Jewish Nationalism (Zionism) and Implementation

The “business plan” and subsequent development of Jewish national state building

The Jewish State by Theodor Herzl – <http://ardeshirmehta.com/thejewishstate.html>

Project Gutenberg *The Jewish State* – Theodor Herzl's Program for Zionism

(*Jewish State* begins on page 68)

Howard Sachar, *A History of Israel*, pp. 36-88

Class 4 –Development of Palestinian Nationalism and Clash w/Zionism: WWI to WWII

Fall of the Ottoman Empire

Haj Amin el-Husseini/ Development of Palestinian Arab Nationalism

Jewish Immigration and Dominance of Labor Zionism

Kimmerling and Migdal, *The Palestinian People*, pp. 67 – 131

Sachar, pp. 138 – 162

Class 5 - World War II and the 1948 War

The Holocaust and its consequences for the Jewish People

Collapse of the British Empire and resulting Partition Plan for the dual development of

Jewish and Palestinian Arab national aspiration

1948 War and establishment of the State of Israel

The Palestinian “Nakba” or catastrophe in 1948

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 161-158



Class 6 – Israeli State Development 1949 – 67

Building State Institutions

Immigrant Absorption: Emphasis on Jews from Arab/Muslim Countries

Arabs in Israel

Declaration of Independence

<https://main.knesset.gov.il/en/about/pages/declaration.aspx>

Israel's Arab Minority: Elie Rekhess (Read until 1967)

[The Evolvement of an Arab-Palestinian National Minority in Israel](#)

projectinterchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/elie-rekhess-article.pdf

Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History* – Chapters 8 – 10, "The Creation of Israeli Democracy," "State Building," and "The Great Aliya," pp. 179 - 247

Class 7 – The Arab World in the Shadow of 1948 and thru 1967

The Confrontation States: Egypt, Syria and Jordan

The Palestinians: UNRWA/Refugees, Arab Attitudes and Collapse and Restart of the Palestine National Movement

Tessler, pp. 336– 405

Barry Rubin, *Revolution Until Victory*, pp. 1 – 23

UNRWA – The United Nations and Palestinian Refugees

<https://www.unrwa.org/userfiles/2010011791015.pdf>

Class 8 – War and Initiating Conflict Resolution 1967 – 79

1967 and 1973 Wars

1978-79 Camp David Accords: Peace w/Egypt, Framework for Peace in the Middle East and the Foundations of Palestinian Autonomy

Download *UN Res. 242* (Nov. 22, 1967) from UN site

<https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/7D35E1F729DF491C85256EE700686136>

Morris, pp. 302 – 346 Six Day War



Bickerton and Klausner, *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, “Holy Days and Holy War” (and Peace Process), pp. 154-203

Camp David Accords 1978-79

<https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/camp-david-accords-egypt-1978.pdf>

Class 9 – Israel – Palestinian Conflict 1964 – 80s

Yasir Arafat and the Resurrection of the Palestine National Movement

Clash/Terrorism, Politics, Economics and International Relations

First Lebanon War 1982 and Concurrent Rise of Hezbollah

Download *Palestinian National Charter* – Yale Avalon Project

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plocov.asp

Rubin, pp. 24 - 65

Israel’s Arab Minority: Elie Rekhess (Read until 1993)

[The Evolvement of an Arab-Palestinian National Minority in Israel](http://projectinterchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/elie-rekhess-article.pdf)

projectinterchange.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/elie-rekhess-article.pdf

Class 10 – Challenge of Religious Fundamentalism (Overriding Secular Nationalism?)

Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood/Hamas

National Religious Zionism and the Settler Movement

The Hamas Covenant - [The Avalon Project : Hamas Covenant 1988](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp)

avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

Khalid Hroub, *Hamas: Political Thought and Practice*, Chapter 1

Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism*, Rabbi Kook, pp. 187 – 197

Lustick, Ian, Article on Gush Emunim - For The Land and The Lord: - Article

www.sas.upenn.edu/pennncip/lustick/lustick13.html

Edith Zertal and Akiva Eldar, *Lords of the Land*, Chapter 4, "Soldiers of the Messiah," pp. 183-244.

Class 11 – Oslo Process Hopes and Non-Completion: Part Success/ Part Failure

Land for Peace? Two-State Solution?

Opposition from Right Religious



Yasir Arafat vs. Ehud Barak

Dennis Ross, *The Missing Peace*, Chapter 24, "The Camp David Summit" pp. 650-711

Tessler, pp. 755 – 829

Class 12 – Second Intifada (Low Intensity Conflict), Hamas Palestinian Victory and Israeli Containment

Israel-Palestinian Clash 2000 – 2004/5

Hamas Palestinian Street Victory and Gaza Conquest

Hezbollah

Iranian and Turkish Influence

Ne’eman: *Hamas Jihad*, Chapter 5 “Hamas Ideological Victory” pp. 199 – 227

Kimmerling/Midgal, Chapter “Conclusion” pp. 398 – 417

Bickerton/Klausner, pp. 333 - 389

Class 13 – Israel-Palestinian Clash: 2009 – Present (Part I)

Palestinian Authority Rebuilt

Hamas clashes with Israel

Palestinian Authority – Where To?

Right Religious Domination Both Sides

Ne’eman, Chapter 5 “Hamas Ideological Victory,” pp. 227 – 247

Arab World and Israel Today and Glimpse into Future (Part II)

Israel – Egypt/Jordan Relations

Abraham Accords

Explosion of Antisemitism: Islamic/ Extreme Left/ Right Racist

Ne’eman, Chapter 9 “Conflict Resolution in the Shadow of Abrogation” pp. 375 – 404.

Robert Wistrich, *A Lethal Obsession*,” pp. 600 – 630

Understanding the Wave of Normalization in the Middle East by Joshua Krasna

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2021/01/understanding-the-wave-of-normalization-in-the-middle-east/>



TBA: Up to Date Article based on the most current issues.