

# 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

Prof. Muli Peleg

Office: Room 109  
Miller Hall  
12 College Ave.  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Tel: 732-932-3572  
Fax: 732-932-3052  
Email: [mpeleg@rutgers.edu](mailto:mpeleg@rutgers.edu)

Office Hours: Thursday 3:30-4:30 PM and by appointment

## 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:

Bickerton Ian and Clara Klausner- *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, (6<sup>th</sup> edition) (2009).  
(Heretofore: B+K)

### Additional Readings:

Social Conflict- D. Pruitt and S. Kim (2004)

Getting to Yes- R. Fisher and W. Ury (1981)

Moral Conflict: When Social Worlds Collide- W. Pearce and S. Littlejohn(1997)

Engaging Communication in Conflict- S. Littlejohn and K. Domencini (2001)

The Structure of International Conflict- C.R. Mitchell (1981)

Contemporary Conflict Resolution- H. Miall, O. Ramsbothom and T. Woodhouse (2006)

Essentials of Negotiation- R. Lewicki and D. Saunders (2000)

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 Khartoum 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

Midterm Exam (Wednesday, 10/3)  
Spring Break

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)