

UCSD DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Summer I, 2015
POLI 124/SOC 188I

The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Dr. David Barzilai

Office hours: Tuesdays 11:30-1 at Peet's, or by appointment

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide a thematic and historical study of the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and the Israeli-Palestinian in particular. This is an **academic** course, and thus the objective is to be objective and to strive to maintain a balanced and impartial, yet critical approach towards this multifaceted and multi-dimensional dispute (with political, cultural and religious aspects), by now one of the longest in history. We will survey the origin of the Zionist and Palestinian national movements and their cultural and religious characteristics, as well as conflicting constitutions and ideologies, examine their historical evolutions since the late 1800s to the present time, and contemplate the trajectory of the conflict in the coming years. We will do so by examining the tensions between concepts like conflict and diplomacy, democracy and non-representative governments, security and peace, military conflicts and peace accords, localism and globalism, history and religion, myths and ideologies, identity and interest, land, water and oil. In addition, we will address critically notions like Western Civilization and modernity, colonialism/imperialism, nationalism and fundamentalism, and finally particularism and universalism.

Procedures:

This is political science in the making, it is an ongoing contemporary dispute, and we literally cannot foresee what will happen in the coming days. It is loaded with conflicting world-views, feelings, emotions, reasoning, interests, interpretations, and narratives. Therefore, it is important that **you** address the issues that we discussed **critically** and reach independent insights and opinions. Do not take anything for granted not even my words. Please address the reading assignments attentively and come to class ready to raise and discuss questions. In addition, we will dedicate part of the class to analyze and discuss relevant documents.

Required Textbooks:

Bickerton and Klausner., *A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Prentice Hall, New Jersey, Seventh Edition (henceforth TB).

Shavit, A, *My Promised Land*

Requirements:

1. **Group Presentation of a chapter in class.** The presentation should be accompanied with **handout detailing the main ideas and arguments.**
2. **Three news reports (see detailed instructions below).**
3. **Midterm in class one hour exam on Shavit's book and TB Introduction and first five chapters (on July 14.)**
4. **A short research paper on a topic of your choice related to the politics of Israel. Prompt and details about this assignment will be given in a prompt during the third week of class.**

Evaluation:

- A. Presentation – 20%
- B. Three news reports - 15%
- C. Midterm Exam - 25%
- D. Final Paper - 40%

Course Outline:

WEEK 1 (June 30 and July 2):

SUBJECT: Judaism and Islam, Jews and Arabs, Zionism and Palestine (1517-1917)

READING ASSIGNMENTS: TB, Introduction and Chap. 1, pp. 1- 37.

WEEK 2 (July 7):

SUBJECT: The British Mandate,

READING ASSIGNMENTS: TB, chap. 2, pp. 38-72.

WEEK 2 (July 9):

SUBJECT: The Holocaust and Illegal immigration

READING ASSIGNMENTS: TB, chap. 3, pp. 73-107.

WEEK 3 (July 14)

SUBJECT: 1948 and the Fifties esp. 1956

READING ASSIGNMENTS: TB, chap. 4-5, pp. 108-149

Midterm in class one hour exam on Shavit's book and TB Introduction and first five chapters.

WEEK 3 (July 16):

SUBJECT: The Sixties, esp. 1967

READING ASSIGNMENTS: TB, chap. 6. pp. 150-174

WEEK 4 (July 21):

SUBJECT: The Seventies esp. 1973

READING ASSIGNMENTS: TB, chap. 7-8, pp. 175-230

WEEK 4 (July 23):

SUBJECT: The Eighties, Lebanon, and the Intifada,

READING ASSIGNMENTS: TB, chap. 9, pp. 231-270

WEEK 5 (July 28):

SUBJECT: The Nineties, Oslo and the Peace Process

READING ASSIGNMENTS: TB, chap. 10-12, pp. 271-377

WEEK 5 (July 30):

SUBJECT: New Century – New Millennium

READING ASSIGNMENTS: TB, chap. 13-16. pp. 378-508

Final Paper is due on Sunday, August 2, by 4PM online at dfb@ucsd.edu

INSTRUCTIONS FOR NEWS REPORTS:

Please write three one-page reports of the week's news, relevant to the region. These reports should be a 50/50 combination of fact-based "reporting" of what happened, and critical discussion of the various perspectives that you discover while learning about the event in one or more of the various news sources. Obviously, perspectives on a particular news event might be very diverse. There is rarely a consensus. You should use the Web as well as conventional news sources for your information. For suggestions, see the list of sites below.

These papers are always due on the first class of the week (Tuesdays.) You are required to complete only three reports, **so please do not request extensions for late submissions.**

Sources on the Web (a few sites, out of dozens)

General Links:

<https://www.world-affairs.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Israel-Palestine-Resource-Packet.pdf>

<http://www.kol-israel.com/>

<http://www.mideastweb.org/mewnewslinks.html>

Israel:

<http://www.haaretz.com/>

<http://info.jpost.com>

<http://jewishhistory.huji.ac.il/>

<http://www.israel.org/mfa>

See also the magazines like The Forward, Tikkun, Commentary, Jewish world

Palestinian Authority:

<http://www.abyznewslinks.com/pales.htm>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/palestine/links.htm>

Egypt:

<http://www.arabinfoseek.com/egypt-news.htm>

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/>

