

**THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST: POLI 4059
THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT
FALL 2011**

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Class Hours: T/TH 1:40-3:00, 214 Coates Hall

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the origins and development of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the beginning of renewed Jewish settlement in Palestine in the 1880s until the present day.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester students should have a strong foundation for understanding the development of the Arab-Israeli conflict, an understanding of the multiple perspectives of the parties to it, and the current state of the conflict and future prospects for peace.

TEXT/READINGS

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents, Seventh Edition* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010). NOTE: glossary and selected bibliography. The book may be purchased at the LSU bookstore or on-line.

Additional readings may be added throughout the semester and will be posted on moodle. You should also get in the habit of reading a good newspaper on a regular basis. Many are available on the internet at low cost, including *The New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com>); *The Christian Science Monitor* (<http://www.csmonitor.com>); and *The International Herald Tribune* (<http://www.iht.com>). A hardcopy of *The New York Times* is also available in the Middleton Library.

GRADES

You will have a mid-term examination (Thursday, October 6th), a final examination (Tuesday, December 6th from 10 am-noon), and a research paper (research paper summary due, Thursday, September 29th and research paper due Tuesday, November 22nd). The best two of your three grades will each count for 40% of your final grade; the worst will count for 20%. Exams will consist of definitions and essay questions, and will be curved. The final exam will *not* be cumulative. I use a standard grading scale: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=59-below.

Absences from the midterm exam are only excused for valid medical reasons or for legitimate extracurricular activities, and only with *prior* permission from me. Rescheduling of the final exam for a different time or day is possible only under certain special circumstances and

must be approved by the Dean of your respective Colleges. (see Special Instructions for Final Exams at ([http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/registrar.nsf/\\$Content/Fall+2011/\\$file/2011%20FALL%20SCHEDULE.pdf](http://appl003.lsu.edu/slas/registrar.nsf/$Content/Fall+2011/$file/2011%20FALL%20SCHEDULE.pdf)).

Research Paper: Your research paper can be on almost any topic dealing with Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict. For example, you could do a detailed study of one of the wars (military strategy, political strategy/opposition, etc.), peace agreements or diplomatic initiatives that have occurred in the region, such as the 1979 Camp David Agreement. Or, you could do a detailed study of the role of women or youth in particular events such as the intifada or in refugee camps, or an analysis of political cartoons, propaganda, etc. If you have any doubt about the suitability of a topic, see me before you begin.

Your paper must be 15-20 double-spaced pages in length, including notes and/or bibliography. You must submit a one-paragraph (i.e., at least five sentences) summary of your paper to me by Thursday, September 29th, together with its title and the names of at least four books or articles you plan to use, including at least two published after 2005. The paper is due on Tuesday, November 22nd with *no exceptions*. If your paper is late, *you will receive an F* on the paper.

I will grade your paper mainly on the depth and insightfulness of your analysis, although I will also take into account its organization, the quality of your sources, and your writing style (for native English speakers only). Papers should be strictly factual, *not* opinionated. You must use footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical name/date citations (with bibliography) for any quotes and for important information or arguments taken from a particular source. At least three of your sources must have been published in 2005 or later, or *you will receive an F*. For pointers on how and what to cite, where to find source material, and other matters, see my "Guidelines for Writing Term Papers" handout. If you have trouble finding a topic or organizing your paper, see me for suggestions. For help with your writing, try the LSU Writing Center, B-18 Coates Hall, 578-4439.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

You are expected to attend all classes. See the LSU Policy for student absences, at [http://appl003.ocs.lsu.edu/ups.nsf/4d8b193f0753c7e48625714000672ba4/D45654A11F8AC79686256C250062AE4D/\\$File/PS+22+revision+8+2007.pdf](http://appl003.ocs.lsu.edu/ups.nsf/4d8b193f0753c7e48625714000672ba4/D45654A11F8AC79686256C250062AE4D/$File/PS+22+revision+8+2007.pdf).

If you require disability accommodations see the LSU Disability Policy at [http://appl003.ocs.lsu.edu/ups.nsf/4d8b193f0753c7e48625714000672ba4/5B3C0A0C12DF66B486256C250062AE50/\\$File/PS+26+R03.pdf](http://appl003.ocs.lsu.edu/ups.nsf/4d8b193f0753c7e48625714000672ba4/5B3C0A0C12DF66B486256C250062AE50/$File/PS+26+R03.pdf) for an explanation of the process of claiming such status.

Plagiarism, cheating or any other form of academic or non-academic misconduct will be reported immediately to the Dean of Students. See the LSU Code of Student Conduct at http://saa.lsu.edu/sites/saa.lsu.edu/files/attachments/Code%20of%20Student%20Conduct%20August%2009_0.pdf

Tape recorders and/or laptop computers are allowed in class as long as it is understood that the recordings and notes are for your own personal use and not for public distribution or sale.

Finally, classroom etiquette requires that students be attentive and respectful to one another. Turn your cell phones off when attending class.

UNITS AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Unit One – (Ancient-1914): Ancient Israel and Palestine, Islam, Ottoman period (1800-1914)
Zionism (aliyah)

Readings: Smith, Prologue and Chapter 1
Dates: August 25

Unit Two – (1915-1939): WWI, Mandate System, Land question, Arab riots and revolt,
Palestinian Arab Nationalism

Readings: Smith, Chapter 2 and 3
Dates: September 6th

Unit Three – (1939-1957): WWII, Partition of Palestine, Creation of State of Israel, First Arab-
Israeli War (1948) ; Refugee problem, Suez War (1956)

Readings: Smith, Chapter 4 and 5
Dates: September 8, September 13, September 15: tentative film

Unit Four – (1957-1967): Syria, Lebanon, Nasserism, establishment of PLO (1964), Cold War,
Six Day War (1967)

Readings: Smith, Chapter 6
Dates: September 20, September 22

Unit Five – (1968-1984): Security Council Resolution 242, Wars of Attrition (1969-1970), 1973
Yom Kippur War, Lebanese Civil War (1975-78), Sadat, Camp David Accord 1979, Israeli
Invasion of Lebanon (1982)

Readings: Smith, Chapter 7 and Chapter 8
Dates: September 27, September 29-research paper summary due, October 4

*****MID-TERM EXAMINATION, Thursday, October 6th*****

Unit Six – (1984-1996): First Intifada (1987-1993), First Gulf War (1991), Negotiations/Peace
Process of 1990s: Madrid (1991), Oslo I (1993), Oslo II (1995), Rabin Assassination (1995),
1996 Israeli Election, Israeli Political Structure

Readings: Smith, Chapter 9 and 10
Mahler, Gregory S., *Politics and Government in Israel: The Maturation
of a Modern State*, 2nd ed, (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield
Publishers, Inc, 2011), pp. 97-158. (available on moodle)
Dates: October 11, October 18, October 20, October 25, October 27: tentative film

Unit Seven – (1999-2008): Netanyahu, Barak, Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon (2000), Camp

David (2000), Taba (2001), Second (al-Aqsa) Intifada (2000), Sharon, separation wall, Palestinian Elections (2006), Hezbollah in Lebanon (2006), Hamas takeover of Gaza (2007), Annapolis Conference (2008), Israeli Gaza Invasion (2008)

Readings: Smith, Chapter 11

Dates: November 1, November 3, November 8, November 10

Unit Eight – (2008-2011): Fatah-Hamas reconciliation, “Arab Spring,” Obama Administration, Two state solution: Israeli perspectives, Palestinians perspectives

Readings: TBA

Dates: November 15, November 17, November 22-research paper due, November 29

*****FINAL EXAMINATION, Tuesday, December 6th, 10 a.m-noon*****