

Date: July 2025

Syllabus - Teaching Program for the Course

**Arab – Israel Conflict**

**Dr. David Leitner|** **Political Studies**Course No: 71-5441-80

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| **Course Type:** | Lecture/class |
| **Scope of credits:** | 3  |
| **Year of study:** | 2025-2026 |
| **Semester:** | Fall |
| **Day & Time:** | \_\_\_ |
| **Reception Time:** | \_\_\_ |
| **Lecturer Email:** | David.leitner@biu.ac.il |
| **Moodle Site:** | \_\_\_ |

**Course description and learning goals**

**Course Abstract**

This course provides an in-depth look at Arab-Israeli Conflict. The course will take the students through the different wars and conflicts providing background and context from before Israel’s Independence through modern times.

The course takes students through the history of the region and provides multiple layers and perspectives to the conflict.

**Learning objectives**

1. Reinforce student understanding of the history of the region.
2. Explain and demonstrate the different phases of the development of the State of Israel and how the regional actors responded to that development.
3. Demonstrate the role of the Israel-Arab conflict in greater regional and international trends.
4. Clarify for the students the different conflicts, the main actors, the events that led up to and what happened as a result of the different wars, and how internal Israeli politics were impacted as a result.
5. Instill core principles that will help students better express themselves and their understanding of the Israeli-Arab conflict in other forums.

**Knowledge**

1. Learners will describe the nature of the conflict.
2. Learners will define the different stages of the conflict.
3. Learners will write about the experience of Israelis and Palestinians throughout the conflict.

**Skills**

1. Learners will analyze the nature and development of the conflict over time and in present day.
2. Learners will evaluate the major events and how they impact international and national relations in the Middle East and Israel.

**Values (if applicable)**

Students will be able to judge for themselves the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the validity of arguments for different narratives of that conflict, provide clear counter arguments, and establish the basis for discussion about the conflict from a position of knowledge.

**Active learning –** **lessons plan:(**[**expand**](#_למידה_פעילה)**)**

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| Lesson No. | Topic | Active learning | Required reading | Reading | Assessment  |
| 1 | Introduction - The Zionist Enterprise | Student Research | Herzl, Theodor. The Jewish State. United Kingdom, Penguin Books Limited, 2010. | Foreword by Alan Dershowitz |  |
| 2 | Mandate Period | In class discussion | Levy, Boaz Israel (2023) "The Sephardic-Mizrahi Moment: Cultural Renewal, Jewish-Arab Rapprochement and Zionism in the 1920s," PANDION: The Osprey Journal of Research and Ideas: Vol. 4: No. 1, Article 3. | [Available Online](https://digitalcommons.unf.edu/pandion_unf/vol4/iss1/3)  |  |
| 3 | 1948-1956 | Flipped – Student teaching | Shavit, Ari. My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel. United States, Random House Publishing Group, 2013. | Chapter on Lydda | Question and Answer |
| 4 | 1967  | War Map Analysis | Oren, Michael B.. Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East. United Kingdom, Random House Publishing Group, 2017. | Introduction | Discussion |
| 5 | 1970’s  | Student Research | The Cold War in the Middle East: Peter Sluglett | P64. -67 [Available Online](https://edisciplinas.usp.br/mod/resource/view.php?id=2790091) | Short Student Presentations |
| 6 | Yom Kippur war  | War Map Analysis | Clancy, Tom. The Sum of All Fears. United States, Berkley Books, 1992. | Prologue |  |
| 7 | 1977 | In Class Discussion | Gutwein, Danny. The Socio-Economic Logic of the 1977 Regime Change in Israe.  | Abstract [Available Online](https://in.bgu.ac.il/bgi/iyunim/6777/israel67-77abstracts.pdf) | Discussion |
| 8 | 1st Lebanon War | War Map Analysis | Schiff, Zeev, et al. Israel's Lebanon War. United Kingdom, Touchstone, 1985. | Forword and Afterword | Discussion |
| 9 | 1st intifada | Group Research | Friedman, Thomas L.. From Beirut to Jerusalem. United Kingdom, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010. | Epilogue | Short Student Presentations |
| 10 | Oslo and beyond  | Flipped – Student Teaching | Kimmerling, Baruch, and Migdal, Joel S.. Palestinians: The Making of a People. United Kingdom, Harvard University Press, 1994. | Introduction | Q&A |
| 11 | 2nd intifada | Group Research | From Jenin To Falluja Jackson DiehlWashington Post, September 27, 2004; Page A19 [Available Online](https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/opinions/2004/09/27/from-jenin-to-fallujah/d4641ec2-ba4d-4b30-be9a-27bdf5e033bf/) | Amos Harel; Avi Issacharoff (1 October 2010). "Years of Rage". Haaretz. [Available Online](https://www.haaretz.com/2010-10-01/ty-article/years-of-rage/0000017f-f816-d47e-a37f-f93ef36c0000) | Presentation |
| 12 | 2010’s  | Lecture | Amidror, Yaakov. Winning Counterinsurgency War: The Israeli ExperienceJCPA August 23, 2010 | [Available Online](https://jcpa.org/article/winning-counterinsurgency-war-the-israeli-experience/) |  |
| 13 | Abraham Accords | Student Research | Vakil, Sanam, and Neil Quilliam. "The Abraham Accords and Israel–UAE normalization." (2023). | [Available Online](https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/2023-03-28-abraham-accords-israel-uae-normalization-vakil-quilliam-1.pdf) | Q&A |
| 14 | Present day - Conclusions | In Class Discussion |  |  | Discussion |

**Final grade**

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| --- | --- |
| Description of the learning product | Weight in the final score |
| A research paper | 30% of the final grade |
| Group Presentation based on Interviews and Analysis | 30% of final grade |
| Final Exam | 35% of final grade |
| In class participation | 5% of final grade |

**Course** requirements

**Assignments** – in class research, research paper, group project, and final exam as noted in the final grade section.

**Attendance** – up to 3 unexcused absences. Every absence after that will constitute 5% off the final grade. A student who is consistently late will have that noted and after a warning any tardiness will result in an unexcused absence.

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 **Prerequisites**

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| Course number | Course name |
| None |  |



**Bibliography: Up-to-date** **reading, viewing, and listening content items**

Amidror, Yaakov. Winning Counterinsurgency War: The Israeli Experience

JCPA August 23, 2010

Clancy, Tom. The Sum of All Fears. United States, Berkley Books, 1992.

Diehl, Jackson. “From Jenin To Falluja” Washington Post, September 27, 2004; Page A19 Available Online

Friedman, Thomas L.. From Beirut to Jerusalem. United Kingdom, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010.

Gutwein, Danny. The Socio-Economic Logic of the 1977 Regime Change in Israe.

Schiff, Zeev, et al. Israel's Lebanon War. United Kingdom, Touchstone, 1985.

Herzl, Theodor. The Jewish State. United Kingdom, Penguin Books Limited, 2010.

Kimmerling, Baruch, and Migdal, Joel S.. Palestinians: The Making of a People. United Kingdom, Harvard University Press, 1994.

Levy, Boaz Israel (2023) "The Sephardic-Mizrahi Moment: Cultural Renewal, Jewish-Arab Rapprochement and Zionism in the 1920s," PANDION: The Osprey Journal of Research and Ideas: Vol. 4: No. 1, Article 3.

Oren, Michael B.. Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East. United Kingdom, Random House Publishing Group, 2017.

Shavit, Ari. My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel. United States, Random House Publishing Group, 2013.

Sluglett, Peter & Payne, Andrew. (2019). 3. The Cold War in the Middle East. 10.1093/hepl/9780198809425.003.0003.

Vakil, Sanam, and Neil Quilliam. "The Abraham Accords and Israel–UAE normalization." (2023).