

## Arab-Israeli Relations Spring Semester 2021

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**Dr. Daniel Zisenwine**

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**Out of Class Availability and Best Ways to Contact Office Hours by appointment; Please email  
Course Credits: 3 TAU Semester Credits**

For course times/days and location, please visit the TAU International web site (Study Abroad Course Offerings and Schedules). Please note that all information below is subject to change and/or adjustment as necessary.

### **Course Description (Summary)**

This course introduces students to the study of the Arab-Israeli conflict, from its initial stages starting from the first waves of Zionist immigration to Palestine through the 1948 war and the establishment of the state of Israel. It will focus on the emerging features of the conflict, the struggle between the Palestinian Arab and Jewish Nationalist movements, and the regional and international involvement in these events. Subsequent sessions will focus on the wars of 1956, 1967, 1973 and later developments such as the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty (1979) and Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Moving closer to the present, the course will highlight the 1987 Palestinian Intifada, the Oslo accords and the prospects for peace leading up to the second Intifada and the breakdown of negotiations. We will conclude with a discussion of the current age of uncertainty in the region and the impact of non-state actors (such as Hizballah and Hamas) on the conflict, in an effort to bring the class up to the present as possible. A variety of scholarly studies, diverse opinions, and approaches will provide the background for class discussions.

### **Course Requirements and Expectations**

This course uses a lecture and discussion format. Learning as a dynamic process in which the student and teacher interact over the material under discussion. You will learn best by asking questions; all questions are welcome and, if they are of interest to the class as a whole, we will stop and discuss them together. Please note that the use of cell phones and other devices will not be allowed in class. Laptop computers may be used for taking notes, but not for other purposes (checking emails, social media etc.).

### **Learning Outcomes**

This course is intended to provide students with a solid foundation of knowledge regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, the scholarly debates related to the topic, and familiarity with Middle East and Israel studies.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

**Participation: (10%):**

### **Tel Aviv University International**

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The course participation grade serves as an in-class oral examination extended throughout the semester. Informed and thoughtful participation is critical for the course and will be noted. To achieve the maximum participation score, students should attend class regularly, prepare the readings for each class, contribute to the discussion, and be respectful and responsive to other students.

**Mid Term Exam: (20%);**

An in-class exam that will cover the readings and course lectures of the first part of the semester. Students will be asked to answer two (2) out of (4) essay questions. Each essay should be around 3500 words.

**Final Take Home Exam: (70%)**

A Take Home exam covering the second part of the semester. Students will be asked to answer two (2) out of four (4) essay questions, in the same format as the mid terms exam.

**Absence Policy**

Please note the TAU International Absence Policy as outlined on the next page. If your course has additional requirements (or a stricter policy) beyond what we specify, you should list this information here.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1:**

**Introduction: The Study of the Arab-Israeli Conflict and the Emergence of Zionism:**

Kenneth W. Stein, "A Historiographic Review of the Literature on the Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict", *American Historical Review*, Vol. 96, No. 5 (December, 1991), pp. 1450-1467.

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999* (New York, 1999), pp. 14-26; 37-66 (Ch. 2).

Anthony D. Smith, "Zionism and Diaspora Nationalism", *Israel Affairs*, Vol. 2 No. 2 (Winter 1995); Also appears in Anthony D. Smith, *Myths and Memories of the Nation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), pp.203-224.

**Week 2:**

**The Emergence of Arab/Palestinian Nationalism**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999* (New York, 1999), pp. 26-36.



Muhammad Y. Muslih, *The Origins of Palestinian Nationalism* (New York, 1988), pp. 1-11, 69-88, 175-224.

**Supplementary Reading:**

Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (New York, 1997), pp. 145-175.

**Week 3:**

**The Jewish Community in Palestine under the British Mandate**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 67-120 (Ch.3)

**The Arab Revolt 1936-1939**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 121-160 (Ch. 4)

Tom Bowden, "The Politics of the Arab Rebellion in Palestine 1936-39", *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 11 No. 2 (May, 1975), pp. 147-174.

**Week 5:**

**World War II and the Struggle for a Jewish State**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 161-189.

Michael J. Cohen, "The Zionist Perspective", in Wm. Roger Louis and Robert W. Stoekey (eds.), *The End of the Palestine Mandate* (Austin, 1986), pp. 79-103.

Walid Khalidi, "The Arab Perspective", in Wm. Roger Louis and Robert W. Stoekey (eds.), *The End of the Palestine Mandate* (Austin, 1986), pp. 103-106.

**Week 6:**

**1948: The First Arab-Israeli War**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 161-258.

David Tal, "The Forgotten War: Jewish-Palestinian Strife in Mandatory Palestine, December 1947-May 1948", *Israel Affairs* 6 (Spring/Summer 2000), pp.3-21.



Rashid Khalidi, "The Palestinians and 1948: The Underlying Causes of Failure", *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948* (eds. Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim), (Cambridge, 2001), pp. 12-36.

Avi Shlaim, "The Debate about 1948", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 27 No.3 (1995), pp. 287-304.

## **Week 7:**

### **1956 Suez War**

Colin Shindler, *A History of Modern Israel*, (Cambridge, 2008), pp. 98-122.  
Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 259-302 (Ch. 6).

### **The 1967 Six Day War**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 302-346 (Ch. 7).

Michael B. Oren, *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, (New York, 2003), pp. 12-32; 33-60; 305-327.

### **From June 1967 to October 1973**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 347-443 (Ch. 8, 9).

## **Week 10**

### **The First Intifada**

F. Robert Hunter, *The Palestinian Uprising: A War by Other Means*, (London, 1991), Chapters 1,3.  
Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 561-610 (Ch. 12).

### **The Oslo Accords and the Prospects for Peace**

Benny Morris, pp. 611-652 (Ch. 13)



Avi Shlaim, "The Rise and Fall of the Oslo Peace Process", International Relations of the Middle East, (ed. Louise Fawcett) Oxford, 2005, pp. 241-261.

Oren Barak, "The Failure of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, 1993-2000", Journal of Peace Research, Vol. 42 No. 6 (November, 2005), pp. 719-736.

## **Week 11:**

### **The Second Intifada and the Breakdown of Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations**

Hussein Agha and Robert Malley, "Camp David: The Tragedy of Errors", New York Review of Books, August 9, 2001.

Jeremy Pressman, "The Second Intifada: Background and Causes of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict", Journal of Conflict Studies, Vol. 22 No. 2 (Fall 2003).

Jonathan Rynhold and Dov Waxman, "Ideological Change and Israel's Disengagement from Gaza", Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 123 No. 1 (2008), pp. 11-37.

### **The Age of Uncertainty: Non State Actors and their Impact**

Meir Litvak, "The Islamization of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: The Case of Hamas," Middle Eastern Studies 34, No. 1 (Jan. 1998), pp. 148-163.

Menachem Klein, "Hamas in Power", Middle East Journal, Vol. 61, no. 3 (Summer 2007), pp. 442-459.

Matt M. Matthews, "The Israel Defense Forces Response to the 2006 War with Hezbollah: Gaza", Military Review, Vol. 89 No. 4 (July-August 2009).



## Course Readings and/or Required Materials

There is one assigned textbook which will be used for this course. Students are encouraged to obtain the book, but scanned chapters will be posted on the course web site, along with other required readings.

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999* (New York, 1999).

### Instructor Biography

Dr. Daniel Zisenwine teaches courses on modern Middle East history at Tel Aviv University. His field of research is modern North African history and politics. He has also taught as a visiting professor at the United States Naval Academy and at Georgetown University. He is the author of *The Emergence of the Nationalist Politics in Morocco* (2010) and *Tunisia under Ben 'Ali: A History of an Authoritarian Regime* (forthcoming).

**Note: all of the below info must stay as is and will be added to each syllabus. There is no need for you to edit/alter the below.**

### TAU International Academic Guidelines

Students may only attend classes which they are officially registered for. No auditing of courses is permitted. Students are responsible for reading and adhering to all policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#) at all times. Below is a summary of some of these relevant policies and procedures.

### Learning Accommodations

In accordance to University guidelines, TAU International may be able to accommodate students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests if these requests are also honored at the student's home university or home school. To be considered, students must submit official documentation from their home school or university (if not in English, a notarized official copy translated into English is required) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs and how these are accommodated at the home school or university. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs or accommodations they may have. **Without official documentation from the home school submitted on or before the first day of courses, TAU will not be able to honor accommodation support.**

With supporting documentation and by following the correct procedure as outlined above, TAU International and its faculty will do the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible. However, we cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU. For example, TAU is usually not able to offer note-taking services in English, private testing rooms, or advance viewing of classroom presentations, exams, or assignments.

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It may be an option to provide a student with additional tutoring or support outside the classroom as needed. Students should be aware that this additional support cannot be guaranteed and is based on teacher availability in the subject as well as the specific student level. If available, the cost of additional tutoring or support will be the sole responsibility of the student.

### **In-Class Exams**

TAU does not permit, under any circumstances, taking any in-class (including mid or final) exams early or later than the scheduled exam day. When selecting courses, it is thus very important to note if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. It is also the student's responsibility to clarify exam dates with the professors at the beginning of a course, with the understanding that not all exam dates can be decided up front as it can sometimes depend on the pace of the course and class learning. It is the student responsibility to plan to be present for all courses including the final day of class for this reason. Early departures from the program are not approved, nor are early or exception in-class exams.

### **TAU International Absence Policy**

Attendance is mandatory in all of the courses including Hebrew Ulpan. Faculty can and will take attendance regularly. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified and properly documented absences from classes may be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require a doctor's note). Such cases of absence should be reported to the faculty immediately and again, a doctor's note is required. Teachers are entitled to treat any lateness or absence without documentation as unexcused. Some of our courses such as Service Learning or the Internship Seminar require more practical in-class work; thus, attendance policies may be stricter in some courses and students then must adhere to the stricter attendance policy as outlined by the faculty/syllabus.

Students are required to arrive on time for classes. Teachers are entitled to treat any single case of lateness and/or repeated lateness as an unjustified absence.

Please note that according to official TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU with no due refund.

### **Grade Appeals**

Students are responsible for checking grades once posted or distributed by faculty. The limited grade appeals window and the detailed procedure for appealing a grade – whether a graded assignment, exam or final grade – is outlined clearly in the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook [posted here](#).

