



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM

בית הספר לתלמידים מחו"ל ע"ש רוטברג
Rothberg International School



Department of Summer Courses
and Special Programs

המחלקה לקורסי קיץ
ותוכניות מיוחדות

The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Dr. Menahem Merhavy

July 3 – 27, 2017

Mon-Wed, from 16:45 to 19:45

45 Academic Hours, 3 Academic Credits

Contact Details Instructor

menahem.merhavy@mail.huji.ac.il

Course Description and Objectives

In this course we are going to deal with some of the pivotal events in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the early twentieth century to the present. The evolution of the conflict between Arab states, the Palestinians and the Zionist movement, the Arab-Israeli wars and the peace negotiations and treaties between Israel, Egypt Jordan and the Palestinian national movement, are some of the main themes in this course.

We will learn of the complexity of the conflict, the role of the conflict with Israel in intra-Arab relations, as well as the development of the Palestinian national movement from its inception, its relations with Arab countries, as well as its division between PLO and Hamas. Beyond discussions, the course will include panels and historical “trials” where students will present the case of conflicting views on the events they have learned about.

Course Requirements

- *Class attendance and participation.*
- *Preparation of bibliography for class discussion and presentation of a paper by the*

students in class.

It is mandatory for all students to attend classes, guest lectures, field trips, etc. Failure to attend classes will result in a student being denied the right to partake of the final assignment and receive a final grade in a course. Students who have a justified reason to miss a class (illness, mourning, etc.) must communicate with their instructors and the Department of Summer Courses and Special Programs, and complete the material that they have missed. Students who have missed classes due to illness must obtain a signed and stamped sick-note from a treating physician and submit it to the Dept. of Summer Courses and Special Programs immediately following their return. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence. The Department reserves the right to refer the issue to an Academic Committee. In some cases, the Academic Committee may decide, in light of the requirements of the course, that it is not possible to make up for the missing course work.

The course will also include a field, in Jerusalem and its surroundings, and will include some points of contention and battle fields from the 1948 war.

Weekly reading assignments; substantial classroom discussions and presentations including one formal presentation of analytical paper; a mid-term essay assignment; and a final research paper.

Final paper should be 20-25 pages in length double spaced.

Class participation	15%
Analytical Paper on one week's reading	15%
Final Exam	70%

Course Outline

Class 1– The Arab-Israeli Conflict – (July 4)

- R. J. Zwi Werblowsky. *Jerusalem: Center of Three Monotheistic Faiths*
The meaning of Jerusalem to Jews, Christians and Muslims

(Jerusalem : Israel Universities Study Group for Middle Eastern Affairs, 1983).

Class 2 -3 – The British Mandate (July 5-6)

- Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: the story of the Palestinian struggle for statehood*, (Boston : Beacon Press, 2006). Chapter 2
- Gudrun Krämer, *A history of Palestine: from the Ottoman conquest to the founding of the state of Israel*, (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2008), chapter 10, 12.
- Benny Morris, *1948: a history of the first Arab-Israeli war*, (New Haven [Conn.] : Yale University Press, 2008), ch. 2 – "The UN Steps In."

Class 4: The War in 1948 and its aftermath (July 10)

- Gudrun Krämer, *A history of Palestine*, ch. 12, pp. 296-323.
- Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: the story of the Palestinian struggle for statehood*, (Boston : Beacon Press, 2006), ch. 4, pp. 105-139.
- Jawad, Saleh Abdel. 2006. "The Arab and Palestinian Narratives of the 1948 War" in *Israeli and Palestinian Narratives of Conflict: History's Double Helix*, edited by Robert I. Rotberg. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 72-105.

Class 5-6: 1967 and its Aftermath (July 11-12)

- Moshe Shemesh, *Arab politics, Palestinian nationalism, and the Six Day War: the crystallization of Arab strategy and Nasir's descent to war, 1957-1967*, (Brighton : Sussex Academic Press, 2008), ch. 1 (pp. 1-26).
- Avraham Sela, *The decline of the Arab-Israeli conflict: Middle East politics and the quest for regional order*, (Albany, NY : State University of New York Press, 1998), ch. 6, pp. 97-106.
- Fouad Ajami, *The Arab Predicament : Arab political thought and practice since 1967*, (Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1992), ch. 1

Class 7-8: 1973 and the Beginning of Peace Talks (July 17-18)

- Avraham Sela, *The decline of the Arab-Israeli conflict*, ch. 8, pp. 133-150.
- Itamar Rabinovich, *Waging peace: Israel and the Arabs, 1948-2003*, (Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 2004), ch. 2

19 July Field trip. 1948 -1967 in and around Jerusalem

Class 10-11: The Palestinian National Movement, from Armed Struggle to Peace Talks

(July 24-25)

- Meir Litvak, The Islamization of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict: the case of Hamas, Middle East Studies 34 (1998), pp. 148-163.
- Shaul Mishal and Avraham Sela, The Palestinian Hamas: vision, violence, and coexistence, (New York : Columbia University Press, 2000), ch. 1.
- Fouad Ajami, The Orphaned Peace, The Dream Palace of the Arabs, New York : Pantheon Book, 1998. Ch. 5, pp. 253-312