Brandeis University
Fall 2014

POL164A: Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East

Prof. Shai Feldman, Dr. Abdel Monem Said Aly, Dr. Khalil Shikaki

Class time: Mondays 2 pm-4:50 pm

Location: Schwartz 103

Contact information for Prof. Feldman.
Office: Crown Center for Middle East Studies
Until September 30: Heller Brown 357, Phone: x 65321
After October 1: Lemberg 2nd floor
Fall Office Hours: Mondays 12:30 pm-1:30 pm and by appointment
Email: sfeldman@brandeis.edu

Contact information for Dr. Said Aly
Office: Crown Center for Middle East Studies
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Contact information for Dr. Shikaki
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Until September 30: Heller Brown 357
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Fall Office Hours: Mondays 12:30 pm-1:30 pm and by appointment
Email: kshikaki@brandeis.edu

Course Description:

Pol. 164A, Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East offers students a unique opportunity to familiarize themselves with different perspectives on the evolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the efforts to resolve it. The class is taught by three scholars of Middle East Politics. Prof. Shai Feldman, director of the Crown Center for Middle East Studies, is a former director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University in Israel. Dr. Abdel Monem Said Aly, director of the Regional Center for Security Studies in Cairo, and Khalil Shikaki, director of the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR) in Ramallah.
Enrollment in this class will be limited to 30, with preference to juniors, seniors, and graduate students.

Course Requirements

All students are required to attend every class, barring illness, and to complete the assigned readings listed below in advance of each class. Students will be called upon to initiate discussion of the readings in class. This means that everyone must come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Well-informed classroom discussion is required of each student. It is highly recommended that students annotate personal copies of, or make notes from the readings.

The writing requirements listed below are intended to encourage students to approach reading materials critically, to foster improved research and writing skills, and to serve as a basis for contributing to class discussion. Students are expected to devote careful attention to the technical quality of their written work, as well as its substance.

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work. All written work for this course must include appropriate citation of the sources used. See section 56c (“Avoid Plagiarism”) of the Concise English Handbook for guidance. The university policy on academic honesty is distributed annually as section 5 of the Rights and Responsibilities handbook. Instances of alleged dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Campus Life for possible referral to the Student Judicial System. Potential sanctions include failure in the course and suspension from the university. If you have any questions about this, please ask.

Individual Written Assignments

All written assignments must be typewritten, double-spaced in 12-point font (this syllabus is in 12-point), and submitted electronically via email to sfeldman@brandeis.edu as a Microsoft Word attachment (if you are not using Word, you may format your file in Rich Text Format [RTF]). Please use “Compatibility Mode” in Word to ensure that it can be read on any computer with Microsoft Office and not just those with the most recent version.

Midterm paper
10 pages. Topic to be distributed

Final paper
15 pages. Topic to be distributed

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see Prof. Feldman about this.
**Evaluation**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the two written assigned essays (35 percent for the midterm paper and 50 percent for the final paper) and on class participation (15%). Students enjoy complete academic freedom in the classroom, within the limits defined by the standards of mutual respect. *Attendance is required.*

**Readings**


All other readings listed on the syllabus will be available on the Brandeis Latte server.

If there are any issues with the readings on LATTE, please contact Prof. Shai Feldman immediately for assistance.

For students who wish to expand their knowledge of the details of the Arab-Israeli conflict, we recommend:


**Schedule of Classes, Readings, and Discussion Topics**

**September 8: Introduction: Zionism and the First Arab Awakening**


Optional reading:


September 15: **The 1948 War: The Regional Dimension**


Optional reading:


September 22: **The 1948 War: The Israeli-Palestinian Dimension**


Optional reading:


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**September 29:**  *The 1956 War*


**Optional reading:**


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**October 6:**  *The 1967 War*


**Optional reading:**

**October 20:**  
*The War of Attrition and the 1973 War*


**Optional reading:**


**October 27:**  
*Camp David and the Lebanon War*


**Optional readings:**


November 3:  *The First Intifada, Madrid, Oslo, and the Jordan-Israel Peace Treaty*


November 10:  *Israeli-Syrian Negotiations and the Failure of the Madrid Peace Process*


Optional readings:


November 17: **Oslo Implementation**


Optional reading:


Yezid Sayigh and Khalil Shikaki, *Reforming the Palestinian Authority: Concluding Report 2006*

November 24: **The Failure of Permanent Status**


Optional readings:


December 1: **The Second Intifada and Its Consequences**

The Clinton Parameters (available at: http://www.peacelobby.org/clinton_parameters.htm)


Optional readings:


**December 8: From the Second Lebanon War to the Arab Awakening**


Khalil Shikaki, “Coping with the Arab Spring: Palestinian Domestic and Regional Ramifications,” *Middle East Brief*, no. 58, December, 2011.

**Optional reading:**


President Obama, “Remarks by the President on a New Beginning” (Speech in Cairo, June 4, 2009). Available at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-by-the-President-at-Cairo-University-6-04-09/.


Appendix: **Key Issues: Jerusalem, Refugees, Settlements Borders and Security.**


Joseph Alpher, *Settlements and Borders*. Final Status Issues: Israel-Palestinians, Study no. 3, (Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University, 1995).