IAS 5940-236: Topics in International Studies – Arab-Israeli Conflict

Course Description:
The Arab-Israeli conflict attracts a disproportionate amount of attention in the news media, international politics and law, and the socio-cultural sphere, despite the fact that numerous other inter-ethnic tensions have generated far higher casualties and involve more significant players on the global scene. This course examines the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict in an attempt to place it in its historical context, while tracing its developments and transformations from multiple angles in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamic that constitutes ‘the conflict’. We will conclude the class by looking at several contemporary dimensions of the conflict, including the potent forces of radical and political Islam, the involvement of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the possible directions ahead.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
- Dates: February 18 – 23, 2020
- Location: Vilseck, Germany. Please contact Site Director for classroom location.
- Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 20, 2020

Site Director:
Email: apvilseck@ou.edu. Phone: CIV 011-49-9662-83-2069; DSN 476-2069.

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Dr. D Gershon Lewental
Mailing Address: Department of International & Area Studies, University of Oklahoma
729 Elm Avenue, Room 314
Norman, Oklahoma 73019
Email Address: lewental@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail before and after the class. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact apsyllabi@ou.edu. Text prices are available online

3. Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at https://canvas.ou.edu, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.

Course Objectives:
This course represents a combination of a lecture and seminar approaches and individual participation in class dialogues is critical. Classes include discussion periods for conversation about readings. Additionally, each student will have the opportunity to lead a discussion over an assigned reading. At the end of this course, it is hoped that students will have not only a better understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but have developed better research skills, practised critical thinking and reading, and gained experience collecting and presenting information clearly.

Course Outline:
A more detailed outline will be made available on the class website at least a month prior to the start of class.

Sat 15 February
- Short essay due

Tue 18 February: Introduction to the Arab-Israeli conflict
- Introduction to the Middle East and the Arab-Israeli conflict
- Jews and Arabs in history
- Zionism and Arabism in the age of nationalism

Wed 19 February: Jews and Arabs in the twilight of Ottoman rule
- Ottoman communities
- Arabs in Zionist thought
- The Emergence of the Mandate for Palestine

Thu 20 February: The British Mandate for Palestine
- Zionist and Arab socio-political development
- Rising communal tensions and British responses
- Towards the partition of Palestine

Fri 21 February: The 1948 War and the first decade of conflict
- The 1948 War
- Remembering and debating the 1948 Wars
- Security and war in the 1950s

Sat 22 February: The 1967 War and the emergence of Palestinian resistance
- Final research paper proposal due
- The 1967 War
- Said Aly, Feldman, & Shikaki, Arabs and Israelis, 130–140.
- War and peace in the 1970s
- War, protest, and revolt in the 1980s
- Presentation of final research paper proposals

Sun 23 February: The Oslo peace process and beyond
- The Oslo Accords from dialogue to collapse
- Disengagement and conflict with Lebanon and Gaza
- New actors in the Arab-Israeli conflict
- Israeli, Palestinian, and Arab stalemate
- Whither the conflict?
- Final exam

Sun 08 March
- Final research paper due
Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Given the brevity of this course, all students are expected to have read all course readings in advance of the first class session (and are encouraged to refresh their memories by looking over the specific readings for each day in advance).

Short Essay (20%)—due Saturday 15 February:
Students will prepare an essay on an assigned topic, using only the class readings as sources (1500 words).

Discussion Article Presentation (10%):
Students will prepare a brief (five-minute) summary of an assigned reading that highlights the author’s core argument and will lead a class discussion about it.

In-class Final Exam (15%)—on Sunday 23 February
Final examination on critical terms and ideas covered in the class.

Final Research Paper (30%)—due Sunday 08 March:
Students will paper a research proposal (due Saturday 22 February) for a research paper (minimum 4500 words, excluding bibliography and footnotes) on a topic of choice relating to the course based upon at least 12 academic secondary sources, of which at least 6 were not assigned as part of the class reading.

Class Participation/Attendance (25%):
Attendance is required; any absence results in loss of entire participation grade, while each additional absences drop the overall course grade by a letter-grade. Participation does not mean ‘showing up’, it means taking an active part in class. Respect your fellow interlocutors: under no circumstances will ad hominem attacks, swearing, or insults be permitted.

As stated above, the key to good participation is doing the required readings. Textbook readings are supplemented by texts available on the class Canvas website. In addition to the ‘required reading’, which we will discuss and on which you will be tested, ‘recommended reading’ is not required (and you will not be tested on it), but may be useful for further exploration or for preparing research papers.

Assignment Due Dates and Submission:

Submission of assignments must be at the start of class. Late papers will be marked down by one letter grade for each day late (e.g., an ‘A’ paper becomes a ‘B’, if one day late, and an ‘F’, if four days late). Assignments must be submitted through Canvas (as an MS Word document, with your surname in the file name). Extensions for papers or incompletes will not be granted, except in cases of medical emergencies (with a physician’s note); computer issues are not an excuse—always back up your files. Plan ahead so that you do not end up rushing to finish a paper at the last minute. I am always willing to communicate or meet with you to clarify terms, explain readings, or work on your papers.

Extra Credit Response Papers:
Each student may submit up to three extra credit response papers to current news articles on Middle Eastern minorities. To receive credit, read an article from a credible news source and submit a one-page summary of your thoughts. You are strongly encouraged to follow Middle Eastern news during (and after!) the course.

Some mainstream newspaper sources:

- Yediʿot Aḥaronot (Israel; centre): ynetnews.com
- Haaretz (Israel; left): haaretz.com
- Jerusalem Post (Israel; centre-right): jpost.co.il
- The Daily Star (Lebanon): dailystar.com.lb
- ash-Sharq al-Awsat (London): asharq-e.com
- Jordan Times (Jordan): jordantimes.com
- al-Ahram Weekly (Egypt): weekly.ahram.org.eg
- New York Times (US; left): nytimes.com
- Wall Street Journal (US; financial; right): wsj.com
- Christian Science Monitor (US; centre): csmonitor.com
On-Site Office Hours:
Students are strongly encouraged to attend office hours for help understanding course material and readings and with preparing the short essay and research paper. Students who wish to discuss a paper must bring an outline or draft (show you have been thinking about what you will write). Take advantage of this opportunity—invariably, students perform better as a result. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Class Behaviour:
Proper class behaviour includes arriving on time, turning off mobile phones, refraining from chatting with friends in class, and using professional and appropriate discourse. Respect your professor and your classmates by paying attention—do not distract them or take away from their opportunity to learn; do not use electronic devices, take naps, or engage in activities not relating to the class.

Electronic Devices:
Please note that electronic devices are not allowed in my classroom, unless you have a medically-documented disability. Computers, tablets, and phones inhibit students’ learning, serving often as a distraction for them and others sitting nearby. Numerous studies have also demonstrated that information retention is higher when one writes notes by hand. (The only exception to this policy concerns class presentations in which students may use a computer, if so desired.)

Academic Integrity:
Academic integrity is taken very seriously. You may only submit your own original work and must cite (Chicago style) any borrowed ideas, quotations, themes, etc. Plagiarism of any kind will result in a failing grade. Learn more at integrity.ou.edu. Students in need of writing assistance are strongly encouraged to visit the Writing Centre (ou.edu/writingcenter.html).

Although I have strived to ensure the syllabus’ accuracy, it may include mistakes and I may make changes to readings or to dates of assignments. I will announce changes by e-mail and on Canvas.

Grading:
This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Course grades will be assigned on the basis of several elements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short Essay</td>
<td>Saturday 15 February 2020</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Article Proposal</td>
<td>During class sessions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper Proposal</td>
<td>Saturday 22 February</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation/Attendance</td>
<td>During class sessions</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Sunday 23 February</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>Sunday 08 March</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This division of factors aims to give students a fair chance at a good grade by avoiding too much emphasis on one examination method. Nevertheless, a large share of the grade (25%) derives from participation and the discussion presentation, so you must attend and participate in the class to do well. Since the basis to good participation is reading assigned texts, be prepared each week!

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html.
Title IX Resources
For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615-0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office’s website at http://www.ou.edu/content/oo.html

Course Policies
Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
D Gershon Lewental, Ph.D.

Education

- 2011: Brandeis University, PhD in Islamic and Middle Eastern history.
- 2003: Cornell University, AB magna cum laude in Near Eastern Studies and Economics, with a concentration (minor) in International Relations.

Current Positions

- Assistant professor, Department of Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies, Shalem College, Jerusalem.
- Adjunct professor, Department of International & Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2018–present.
- Visiting assistant professor, Departments of History and International & Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2012–2018.
- Board of Directors, Association for the Study of Persianate Societies, 2018–present.

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

- HIST 6600: Seminar in Middle Eastern history—The Modern Middle East
- IAS 5940: Seminar in Middle Eastern history—Minorities in the Middle East
- IAS 5940: Seminar in Middle Eastern history—Arab-Israeli conflict
- HIST 6600: Seminar in Middle Eastern history—Religion and society

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Islamic history and historiography
- Iranian history
- Israeli society
- Memory studies
- The Baha’i faith

Representative Publications and Presentations

- Encyclopædia Iranica (2013): peer-reviewed entries on ‘The Battle of Qādesīya’ and ‘Rostam Farrokhzād’.
- Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World (Brill, 2010): over 70 peer-reviewed entries on Jewish press, rabbis, and diplomats, and long entries on Ottoman Jewry (1650–1835), diplomacy, and Bulgarian Jewry.

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- 2012: Foundation of Iranian Studies Best PhD Dissertation Award
- 2012: Brandeis University Nahum & Anne Glatzer Endowed Dissertation Prize
- 2010: Brandeis University Redstone Dissertation Year Fellowship
- 2009: US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship for Intensive Persian Study (Dushanbe, Tajikistan)
- 2009: Mellon Dissertation Research Grant
- 2005: Brandeis University Graduate School Outstanding Teaching Prize
Major Professional Affiliations

- Association for Iranian Studies (AIS)
- Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS)
- Middle East Studies Association (MESA)
- Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa (ASMEA)
- American Oriental Society (AOS)
- Association for Israel Studies (AIS)
- Association for Jewish Studies (AJS)
- World Union of Jewish Studies (WUJS)