American Foreign Policy Towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and its regional context  
[HIST489RW-00P/POLS490RW-00P WRT Jr/Sr Colloquium]  
Spring 2014  
Wednesdays 2:00-4:30pm  
Cox Computer Classroom 230B

Dr. Kenneth W. Stein  
History/Political Science – cross-listed  
121 Bowden Hall  
Office hours: Tuesdays 1-2 pm or by appointment (kstein@emory.edu or 404-727-4472)

Content:  
This class will focus on American foreign policy in the Middle East over the last seventy years, with particular emphasis on the Arab-Israeli Conflict. It will look at the origins of American association with the Middle East and then look deeply into American engagement in Arab-Israeli diplomacy. It will review the conflict’s emergence since 1945 and particularly the roles played by external parties. The 1973-1979 period will be highlighted and evaluated regarding how and why diplomacy worked then, but has not been successful since. Through the use of documents, texts, interviews, primary sources, monographs, memoirs, and secondary readings, students will come to define the principles that guided American mediation efforts.

Required Texts:  


Particulars:  
Two papers, engagement in an in-class simulation, and in-class participation throughout the semester will determine the final grade. The first paper (10 pages) is due March 5; the second paper is due the last day of class (25 pages maximum, including all footnotes and bibliography). The first paper will focus on a personality who was associated with the negotiating process from 1977-1979. A list of those personalities appears at the end of the syllabus; the topic of this paper will also be the focus of the student’s in-class identity simulation.
assignment. The second paper is a research/term paper of the student’s choosing, with possible topics also provided at the end of the syllabus.

**Grading:**
Ten-page paper (20%), class participation including in-class identity simulation (20%), weekly summary of readings (five to seven sentence paragraph for each reading) (20%), to be turned in after the class on the date the assignments are due, and research paper (40%). Paper topic decisions for both the short and long papers will be concluded by the end of class period on February 5. Final papers are due at 5pm on April 25, 2014. No extensions will be given.

**Readings:**
Some of the journal articles assigned here are accessible on-line; some are only accessible through the university library. All documents are accessible in the e-book required for purchase above, *History, Politics and Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Other documents assigned weekly are accessible by using the Center for Israel Education website, with URLs provided in the syllabus below.

**CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

**January 15: Class orientation**
American Foreign Policy priorities in Post WWII; The Middle East as A Region; Political Cultures; Legacy of the Palestine Mandate; Origins of the Conflict

**Docs:** Presented in class

**January 22: 1947-1949, Israel’s Independence War and the Palestinian ‘Nakbah’**
What is in a narrative; what is history; and what is revisionism; is the Middle East inherently unstable, a debate?

**Docs:** Epstein, Mufti, Azzam, Partition, FRUS, Kennan, DOI, UNGA 194

**Readings:**

**Document:** The Truman Doctrine, [https://israeled.org/1947-truman-doctrine/](https://israeled.org/1947-truman-doctrine/)

**January 29: The Arab World, Israel, the Arab–Israeli Conflict to November 1967, Roads Not Taken**
What are the respective presidential doctrines and what are they as they relate to the Middle East?

**Assignments for each student:** A two-page paper--Washington, Monroe, FDR, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush I, Clinton, Bush II, and the class will discuss Obama together.
**Document:**
PLO Covenant, [https://israeled.org/plo-national-covenant/](https://israeled.org/plo-national-covenant/)


**Readings:**
Quandt, pp. 1-55; Stein, pp. 1-45.

**February 5: U.S. Foreign Policy Toward the Middle East, 1945-1967**

**Docs:** Kennan and the Tripartite Declaration, 1950

**Readings:** Spiegel, pp. 1-117 and pp. 381-394.


**Document:**

The Eisenhower Doctrine [https://israeled.org/eisenhower-doctrine/](https://israeled.org/eisenhower-doctrine/)

**February 12: From June 1967 to End of October 1973 War: How 1967 Changed it All**

**Documents:**
UNSC 242  [https://israeled.org/un-security-council-resolution/](https://israeled.org/un-security-council-resolution/)

Rogers Plan  [https://israeled.org/u-s-rogers-plan/](https://israeled.org/u-s-rogers-plan/)


**Readings:**
Quandt, pp. 55-129; Spiegel, pp. 118-218; Stein, pp. 46-73.

February 19: Aftermath of October 1973 War to 1977

**Documents**


**Readings:**
Spiegel, pp. 219-314; Quandt, pp. 130-173; Stein, pp. 74-186.


February 26: Sadat, Carter and Begin, 1977-1979--Part I

**Docs:** Palestinian Homeland remark, U.S.-Soviet Declaration, U.S.-Israeli working paper, Begin and Sadat speeches at the Knesset, Camp David Accords, and the Egyptian- Israeli Treaty

**Readings:**
Spiegel, pp. 315-380; Quandt, pp. 177-242; Stein, pp. 187-257.

March 5: Sadat, Carter and Begin, 1977-1979--Part II; first papers are due

Class Simulation: Bring your 10-page papers to class; bring a one-page synopsis of your personality. What did he want in the negotiations? Did he want the Americans involved and if so, how? Include their attitude toward the USSR.

Documents
Camp David Accords  https://israeled.org/resources/documents/camp-david-accords/

Egyptian-Israeli Treaty  https://israeled.org/resources/documents/israel-egypt-peace-treaty/

March 12: Spring Break, no class


Class simulation: What happened before and between 1977 and 1979? What was said? What statements were issued? What pre-negotiations took place? What happened in Jerusalem? What happened at Leeds? What occurred at Camp David? What about the Carter March 1979 visit to Cairo and Jerusalem?

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March 26: Reagan, Bush, Rabin, Arafat and Clinton; no international conference; intifadah; no result in 2000 but the Clinton Parameters

**Docs:** Reagan statement, 1988 PLO ‘caduc,’ Madrid statements and Oslo

**Readings:**
Spiegel, pp. 395-429; Stein, pp. 258-268; Quandt, pp. 245-381.


April 1: George Bush II; the Road Map; Arab Initiative; Annapolis and Kerry Initiative

**Discussion:** Can democracies work in the Middle East? Why? Why not? One state/two states; Point-Counter point

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**Docs:** Bush Future is Dying, Road Map, Arab Initiative, Obama speech in Cairo, Netanyahu’s Bar-Ilan Speech

**Readings:**
Quandt pp. 385-214.


April 2: Guest lecturer--Dr. Jonathan Schanzer, BA Emory College, PhD Kings College, London on “Combating Terrorism Finance: An Insiders’ View from the U.S. Treasury, and where we are on Iran and the Palestinian-Israeli talks;” the making and implementation of foreign policy in a post-Cold War era; coping with the region; changing political landscapes and responses

**Readings:**

April 9: Paper reports:
5 minutes each; prepare a summary sheet of findings for distribution to colleagues, double-sided, single spaced (maximum), can be in outline form or prose; **bring 20 copies and submit as an attachment one day prior to kstein@emory.edu**.

April 16: The Palestinian Issue and the Arab/Islamic Spring: too far in the rear view mirror?

**Readings:**
April 23: What Works in Arab-Israeli Negotiations; the final status issues: settlements, borders, Jerusalem, prerogatives of the Palestinian state

Readings:
Quandt, pp. 415-428.


Possible Term Paper Topics:
These paper topic titles are only suggestive; students are urged to choose either one of these topics or their own in consultation with the professor.
2. Can a Palestinian state be economically “viable?” If so, what are the conditions, and if not, why not?
3. Civil Society and NGO’s: hindrance or help in Palestinian-Israeli relations
4. Islam’s role in shaping the conflict: Qassam, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and others
5. Jerusalem: obstacle or key to a negotiated agreement
6. Memoirs of Mediators: Comparing their content, styles and recollections of Baker, Indyk, and Ross
7. Who represents the Palestinians? And what do they want? Hamas, Fatah, or Arab states
8. Presidents as Mediators: Carter, Clinton, Bush I/II, and Obama -- up or down?
9. Settlements: their history, politics, and sensitivities
11. Outside players in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict: USSR, U.S., Iran, Europe—(pick one) Arab states (Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia—a history)
12. What is in the fine print in UNGA 194, UNSC 242, the 1978 Camp David Accords, the Clinton Parameters, and the Arab-Initiative: compatibility or futility?
13. What has been and should be the U.S. role in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?
14. Do the Europeans have a central role in resolving the conflict? Where, when and how?
15. The Arab/Islamic Spring: impact on extending or resolving the conflict?
16. What role does Jordan play and has played in prolonging or resolving the Palestinian quest for a state?
17. Who makes American foreign policy? What is bi-partisan and what is not as far as the Middle East is concerned?
18. Coping with al-Qaeda, its affiliates and radical Muslim insurgencies: what is the plan with failed states unfolding?

April 25: Final term papers are due by 5pm
Please put them in my mailbox outside of Room 121, Bowden Hall. Please be sure that AFTER you hand in your paper, you email me a copy of it as well. Please send it as an MSW file to be opened on a PC! Do not send it in pdf format! Thank you.