

Dynamics of Middle East Diplomacy

Fall Semester 2022

Dr. Charles Tenenbaum

Associate Professor of Political Science

charles.tenenbaum@sciencespo-lille.eu

@mediaten

Dr. Anne-Sophie Sebban-Bécache

Ph.D in Geopolitics, Director, AJC Paris

anne-sophie.sebban-becache@sciencespo-lille.eu

@AnneSoSebban

Course description

At a time of heightened tensions and instability in the Middle East, understanding the dynamic of history and the logic of contemporary political process appear more complex to decipher and analyze beyond ready-made and often inaccurate schemes of interpretation. From the 1916 Sikes-Picot Accords and the transformations of post-WWI Middle East to the Israeli-Arab wars and subsequent peace processes initiatives, this course will cover extensively the past and current crises and transformations that have singled out the Middle East in contemporary international relations until today.

As students of international relations, we will engage in a review of War & Peace in the Middle East through the lenses of diplomatic practice, endless rounds of negotiations, and crisis management processes. The course will also focus on media representations and the role of social networks as well as civil society in construction of perceptions and misperceptions. Discourses, Media coverage and public diplomacy will be used to better understand the interests and positions of the various actors, local and global, involved in the region's conflicts.

This course will provide students with the necessary tools and knowledge to understand the dynamics of contemporary politics in the Middle East. Students will get the opportunity to become familiar with diplomatic, political and media strategies at the heart of ongoing events.

Course assignments:

Besides suggested and required readings, students will be invited to make extensive use of multimedia resources. Useful websites, movies and selected interviews will be presented to the class. Students will be invited to actively share their point of view and personal experiences in class.

1. The Middle East: Room for debate (Group assignment, 45% of the final grade):

Each session a group of students will present and conduct a debate in class. The topic is first introduced and contextualized before engaging a discussion on the issues at stake. Point of views must be based on documents (texts, documentaries, online resources, interviews) prepared in advance. Participation of the entire class is expected.

An outline of the presentation should be uploaded on the Dropbox before the session (1p.).

- Use the online doc "ME-DEBATES" on the Class Dropbox to enroll for a specific session.

2. Debate report (Group assignment, 30% of the final grade)

After the debate and before the end of the semester, each group will upload a written report on the Dropbox. Reports include a general presentation of the subject, a detailed overview of each positions, and concluding points along with a short list of references (5 min.)

3. The Middle East Glossary project (Individual assignment, 25% of the final grade)

Students will be asked to present a notion, personality or an event chosen from a list of entries selected by teachers. Each student should work on a unique subject. Glossary entries will include a short abstract (Max. of 400 characters) along with a more developed presentation of a notion (Max. of 3 500 characters).

Glossary entries will be written directly online and must be finalized before the last session. Depending on the subject, each entry should include a synthesized presentation of the selected notion, an illustration (example, case study), and 2-3 contemporary questions related to the main theme. A short (3-5 references will be added at the end of your text.

➤ Detailed instructions and list of notions will be shared at the beginning of the semester.

Course sessions:

Session 1: General Introduction

“Pax Economica”?

About the recent normalization of the relations between Israel and Sunni Arab states.

Work assignments, Bibliography

Session 2: Thinking out of the “Middle East box”: the region and its relationship with the outside world.

Case study: Israel & Africa.

Debate : Is economy a sufficient basis for peace in the Middle East?

Debate : Is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (still) the Middle East cornerstone?

Session 3: European & US diplomacy in the Middle East

Debate topic: Can the US bring peace to the Middle East?

Session 4: The road to Oslo and beyond

Debate topic: Were the Oslo agreements a fair deal?

Session 5: Arab Springs

Debate topic: Are the Arab Springs over?

Session 6: Keeping peace in the Middle East

Debate topic: Peace missions: a solution for the region?

Bibliography

1. ABU-NIMER Mohammed, *Dialogue, conflict resolution, and change: Arab-Jewish encounters in Israel*, Albany, N.Y., State University of New York Press, 1999.
2. AGHA Robert Malley and Hussein, « How Not to Make Peace in the Middle East », *The New York Review of Books*, 15 janv. 2009.
3. ASAL Victor, WILKENFELD Jonathan et YOUNG Kathleen J., *Mediating International Crises*, s.l., Taylor & Francis Group, 2006.
4. EBAN Abba, « Interview with Abba Eban », *Journal of Palestine Studies*, octobre 1975, vol. 5, n° 1/2, p. 195-198.
5. GOPIN Marc, *Bridges across an Impossible Divide: The Inner Lives of Arab and Jewish Peacemakers*, s.l., Oxford University Press, 2012.
6. GOPIN Marc, *Holy war, holy peace : how religion can bring peace to the Middle East*, New York, N.Y., Oxford University Press, 2002.
7. INBAR Efraim, « Great Power Mediation: The USA and the May 1983 Israeli-Lebanese Agreement », *Journal of Peace Research*, 1991, vol. 28, 1, Special Issue on International Mediation, p. 71-84.
8. INDYK Martin, *Innocent abroad : an intimate account of American peace diplomacy in the Middle East*, 1st Simon & Schuster hardcover ed., New York, Simon & Schuster, 2009.
9. KELMAN Herbert C., « Interactive Problem Solving in the Israeli-Palestinian Case » dans Ronald J. Fisher (ed.), *Paving the Way. Contributions of interactive conflict resolution to peacemaking.*, Lanham (MD), Lexington Books, 2005, p. 41-63.
10. KISSINGER Henry, *Crisis: The Anatomy of Two Major Foreign Policy Crises*, New York, Simon & Schuster, 2003, 564 p.
11. KRIESBERG Louis, « Mediation and the Transformation of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict », *Journal of Peace Research*, 2001, vol. 38, n° 3, p. 373-392.
12. MANDELL Brian S. et TOMLIN Brian W., « Mediation in the Development of Norms to Manage Conflict: Kissinger in the Middle East », *Journal of Peace Research*, 1991, vol. 28, n° 1, p. 43-55.
13. MILLER Aaron David, *The much too promised land : America's elusive search for Arab-Israeli peace*, New York, Bantam Books, 2008, 407 p.
14. PERSSON Sune, *Mediation & assassination : Count Bernadotte's mission to Palestine, 1948*, London, Ithaca Press, 1979.
15. RABINOVICH Itamar, *The Lingering Conflict : Israel, The Arabs, and the Middle East 1948-2012*, Brookings Institution Press, 2012.
16. RABINOVICH Itamar, *Waging peace Israel and the Arabs, 1948-2003*, Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 2004.
17. RABINOVICH Itamar, *The brink of peace the Israeli-Syrian negotiations*, Princeton, N.J., Princeton University Press, 1999.
18. RABINOVICH Itamar, *The road not taken: early Arab-Israeli negotiations*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1991.
19. RABINOVICH Itamar, *Israel in the Middle East : documents and readings on society, politics, and foreign relations, 1948-present*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1984.
20. Rabinovich, Itamar. 2017. *Yitzhak Rabin: Soldier, Leader, Statesman*. Jewish Lives. New Haven ; London: Yale University Press.
21. ROSS Dennis, *The Missing Peace: The Inside Story of the Fight for Middle East Peace*, 1st ed., New York, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2004, 840 p.
22. TOUVAL Saadia, *Mediation in the Arab-Israeli conflict during and after the Cold War*, Jerusalem, Israel, Leonard Davis Institute, 1999.
23. TOUVAL Saadia, *The peace brokers: Mediators in the Arab-Israeli conflict, 1948-1979*, Princeton University Press, 1982.

24. WITTES Tamara Cofman (ed.), *How Israelis and Palestinians negotiate: a cross-cultural analysis of the Oslo peace process*, Washington, D.C., United States Institute of Peace Press, 2005, 160 p.

Suggested film references:

1. Censored Voices, Mor Loushy, 2015.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIkEyA1pAx8>
2. The Gatekeepers, Dror Moreh, 2012.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N2BqrpLaDVw>
3. The Elusive Peace, BBC, Norma Percy, 2005.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEHqDG1EVHQ>
4. The Price of Oslo, Al Jazeera, Rawen Damen, 2013.
Part I: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgFWEVQTeHM>
Part II: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEHqDG1EVHQ>
5. The Oslo Diaries, Mediala, HBO, Mor Loushy, Danel Sivan, 2018.
6. Conflict zone, Aziz Abu Sarah, National Geographic, 2013. (Part 1, Part 2, Part 3, Part 4)
<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/conflict-zone/cz-pt1-uneasy-coexistence>
7. Le Serment de Tobrouk, Bernard-Henri Lévy, Marc Roussel, Arte, 2012.
8. The Green Prince, Nadav Schirman, Producers Guild of America, 2015.