

Amideast Education Abroad Programs

HIST/POLS 381: United States, Morocco, and Israel Relations: Past and Present Syllabus

Credit Hours: 3 credit hours

Program Location: Rabat, Morocco

Name of Instructor:

Course Hours:

Room:

Office Hours: By Appointment

Contact Information: Please reach out to me via the Amideast Online System

Course Description:

The purpose of the course is to explore the evolution of US-Moroccan-Israeli relations and to examine the challenges confronting the future of these relationships after the Abraham Accords and October 7th. The course covers the main critical issues of the Arab/Israeli conflict and the American brokering role, different paths to peace with Arab states, security issues, trade policy (investments in Morocco), military cooperation and Iranian nuclear threat, the New Middle East after the Gaza war, and the Israeli policy in the Maghreb. In addition, the course will address the interactions between international actors such as the American foreign policy in the Middle East vis-à-vis China and Russia.

It will also try to answer the following questions:

- How politicians and diplomats from both sides, Americans and Arabs on the one hand and the international community on the other, have approached the Arab Israeli conflict, etc.
- What are the different paths followed by major actors in the Middle East and in Morocco to solve this conflict?
- Why are Abraham Accords encouraged by some Arab countries but rejected by others?
- What role does American foreign policy play in the peace process?

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able:

- To understand the main factors that shape the evolution of American-Moroccan-Israeli relations.
- To address these goals, analyze U.S. foreign policy in the region, and discuss the interaction between these goals and the interests of Morocco and Israel within the framework of the Abraham Accords.
- To examine the main trends of divergence and convergence in North African public opinions vis-a-vis peace with Israel.
- To evaluate U.S. foreign policy toward Palestinian rights.
- To understand the interaction between different actors in the foreign policy-making process in the U.S. and how it influences the policy toward North African countries.

Knowledge

This course is designed to assist the students to acquire and demonstrate knowledge about:

- The political contentions between Arabs and Israelis from the perspective of a moderate Arab country, Morocco.
- Past and future tensions, wars, and peace before and after the signing of the Abraham Accords
- The reactions coming from some rejectionists in Morocco and their different motivations, including religious, nationalist, and secular organizations.



Skills

This course is designed to assist the students in acquiring or enhancing the following skills:

- Critical analysis of political discourses and ideologies
- Analysis of very emotional issues, value judgments, biases, clichés, and cultural misunderstandings
- Oral presentation skills
- Academic writing skills
- Group reflection on peace between Israel and Morocco

Attitudes

This course is designed to encourage the development of the following attitudes:

- To think critically about one's value judgments and clichés
- Openness towards Muslim and Jewish cultures and their variety of expressions, including Arab Nationalism, Zionism, pragmatism, etc.
- Positive interaction among Arab and Israeli communities
- To reason in terms of the "global destiny" of human societies

Diversity

Diversity in class is everything that makes both students and teachers different from each other. This includes many different factors: race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, ability, age, religious belief, or political conviction. All these factors work together to inform how students (and teachers, and everyone else) encounter the world. Therefore, one of the objectives of this class is to promote diversity by understanding each student brings unique experiences, strengths, and ideas to our classroom to enrich learning in our classroom.

Required Readings

- S Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish, *Essential Israel, Essays for the 21st Century*.
- Michael Stanislawski, *Zionism: A Very Short Introduction*.
- Shai Feldman, Khalil Shikaki, *Arabs and Israelis: Conflict and Peacemaking in the Middle East*.
- Itamar Rabinovich and Jehuda Reinharz, *Israel in the Middle East: Documents and Readings on Society, Politics and Foreign Relations*.
- Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History*.
- Calvin Goldscheider, *Israeli Society in the 21st Century: Immigration, Inequality and Religious Conflict*
- Tomorrow. Gil Troy, *The Zionist Ideas: Visions for the Jewish Homeland—Then, Now,*
- Seth M. Siegel, *Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water-Starved World*.
- Rachel Harris, *Teaching the Arab Israeli Conflict*.
- Ilan Troen, *IS, Imagining Zion: Dreams, Designs and Realities in a Century of Jewish Settlement*.

Recommended websites:

- Robert R. Bianchi, *The Middle East Journal*, Volume 74, Number 4, Winter 2020, pp. 631-634.
 - https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/UAE_Israel-treaty-signed-FINAL-15-Sept-2020-508.pdf
- Parker, Richard B. "U.S. Strategic Interests and the War in the Western Sahara" "in *International Dimensions of the Western Sahara Conflict* Edited by Yahia H. Zoubir and Daniel Volman, Foreword by Mervyn M. Dymally, New York: Praeger Publishers, 1993.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK7QRqrCPdQ>

Assessment Overview

Description	Weight	Due Date
Engagement	10%	Continuous
Oral Presentations	10%	Varies by Student
Midterm Exam	20%	Date:
Final Paper Submission and Discussion	30%	Topic Approval: Week 9 Paperwork Due: Week 12
Final Exam	30%	Week 15

Attendance and Engagement:

Please adhere to the Attendance, Engagement, and Assessment Policies posted on the Amideast Online System

Oral Presentation:

All students are invited to review and present at least one reference from the mandatory reading list related to the course topics during the semester. The reviews should include a summary of the article or chapter of book and its main arguments and situate it in the literature covering Moroccan, Israeli and American relations. Your oral presentation will amount to 10% each of the overall semester grade. The presentation consists of presenting the theme of a class session, a summary of the required reading for the class, and your critiques/comments. It should not go beyond 10 minutes.

Midterm Exam:

There will be a mid-term exam in week 7. It will be in class and is worth 20% of the overall semester grade.

Final Paper:

Each student will write a 3,500-word term paper based on a topic approved by the instructor in Week 8 (description of approximately 100 words).

The research paper should be based on a theoretical topic related to the course or field work documentation and demonstrate adherence to academic standards of citation (quotations, citations, bibliography, etc.). Combination of theory and fieldwork is permitted. The term paper is due in week 11. The term paper constitutes 30% of the semester grade for this course.

Final Exam:

There will be a final exam, which will be either in-class or a take home exam to be completed within the 24 hours preceding the day of the final exam in week 15. Final determination of the nature of the final exam will be made in consultation between the professor and the students in weeks 1 and 5. The final exam is worth 30% of the total grade.

Weekly Course Schedule

Week	Theme(s) to be covered	Preparation/Reading	Exams, Trips, and Holidays
<i>Orientation Week</i>			
Week 1	<p>Introduction to the Course: Method & Themes</p> <p>Jews and Arabs in the early history of Islam: Medina and Mecca</p> <p>Organization of the Course (Planning, Calendar, Exams, Principles, and Goals)</p> <p>Religious discord and conflict of interpretations among religious bodies</p>		
Week 2	<p><u>Guest Speaker:</u> André Godel: Jews and Moroccan Judaism</p> <p>From Dhimmi status to Citizenship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maddy-Weitzman, Bruce, “Israel and Morocco: A Special Relationship”, The Maghreb Review, 21, no. 1 (1996): 36-48. – Segev, Samuel, and, Schumacher, Yvette, “Israel—Morocco Relations from Hassan II to Muhammad VI”, Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs, 2, no. 3 (2008): 49-60. – “Press Conference with Prime Minister Peres upon his return from Morocco – 24 July 1986”, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, July 24, 1986. 	Last Day to Add/Drop Courses: Date TBD
Week 3	Wars: 1948- 1956-1967-1973-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/UAE_Israel-treaty-signed-FINAL-15-Sept-2020-508.pdf - The new Israeli and U.S stance on the conflict around Morocco’s Sahara, https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IN/IN11555 	

<p>Week 3 (Continued)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Casablanca Declaration-Mideast-N Africa Economic Summit”, Israel - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, June 30, 1998, https://www.gov.il/en/pages/casablanca-declaration-mideast-nafrica-economic-summit - Kibrik, Roe, and, Goren, Nimrod, “How Morocco relates to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process – opinion” Jerusalem Post, May 8, 2021, https://www.jpost.com/opinion/how-morocco-relates-to-the-israeli-palestinian-peace-process-opinion-667592 	
<p>Week 4</p>	<p>Peace temptation of war in the Israeli-Arab conflict.</p>	<p>Alpher, Yossi, <i>Periphery: Israel’s Search for Middle East Allies</i> (Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2015).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anziska, S. (2018). <i>Preventing Palestine: apolitical history from Camp David to Oslo</i>. Princeton University Press.p75. - Dayan, Moshe, <i>Breakthrough: A Personal Account of the Egypt-Israel Peace Negotiations</i> (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1981) pp 39-54 pp91-97. - Ghali, Boutros Boutros, <i>Egypt's Road to Jerusalem</i> (New York: Random House, 1997) 313. - Quandt, William B., <i>Camp David: Peacemaking and Politics</i> (Washington D.C.: The Brooking Institution, 1986). 	
<p>Week 5</p>	<p>History and Development of Morocco and Israeli relations</p> <p>Ibrahim/Abraham Accords</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-legal-materials/article/abraham-accords-normalization-agreements-signed-by-israel-with-the-uae-bahrain-sudan-and-morocco/4EA3A4BC1D30A3CDC18C886477AD4BDA - https://www.concordia.ca/content/dam/artsci/azrieli/docs/OccasionalPapers/OccasionalPapers-Issue1.pdf 	

Week 5 (Continued)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Podeh, Eli, and, Levi, Einat, “Israel and Morocco: Major Potential for Warm Peace”, <i>Morocco World News</i>, December 17, 2020, https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2020/12/63480/israel-and-morocco-major-potential-for-warm-peace/ 	
Week 6	<p>Field Trip to the association: “Friends of Moroccan Judaism”, Rabat Hassan</p> <p>Morocco-Israeli Military Cooperation, Security, and counter-Terrorism Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – https://www.reuters.com/article/morocco-israel-idUSKBN2I90V2 – https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/israel-participates-in-military-exercise-in-morocco/2629210 – https://www.jpost.com/opinion/israel-morocco-military-cooperation-agreement-is-historic-opinion-688480 	
Week 7	Midterm Exam		
Week 8	Midterm Break		
Week 9	<p>The Economic aspect of Moroccan Israeli Relations</p> <p>Investments and economic exchanges</p> <p>Future Free Trade Agreement</p> <p>Oil and Gas and sustainable resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20220221-morocco-and-israel-sign-trade-and-investment-cooperation-deal – https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/morocco-israel-economic-relations-cement-normalization/2508745 	Paper Topic Approval
Week 10	<p>Cultural and social dimensions of Morocco-Israeli Relations</p> <p>Two identities for one people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3211&context=isp_collection – https://mepc.org/commentary/moroccan-israeli-relations 	
Week 11	Final Term Paper submission and discussion	Paper presentations and Discussions	Final Term Paper Due
Week 12	<p><u>Guest speaker</u>: Israeli General Counselor to Morocco</p> <p>Field trip to the Israeli Bureau de Liaison in Rabat Future Israeli Embassy</p>	Political ties and divergences	

Week 13	<p>Case study 1: The Iranian nuclear program and its impact on Morocco-Israeli relations</p> <p>Iranian penetration in the Maghreb and its impact on Algeria vs Morocco conflict</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13537121.2022.2041304 – https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/israel/2022-07-01/what-america-should-do-if-iran-nuclear-deal-talks-fail 	
Week 14	<p>Case study 2: The Middle East Conflicts and their impacts on Morocco-Israeli foreign policies after October 7th</p> <p>The Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the “two state/stage solution”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – https://www.e-ir.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Conflict-and-Diplomacy-in-the-Middle-East-E-IR.pdf – https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/resources/pwks1.pdf – https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/feb/10/us-biden-two-state-solution-explained-israel-palestine – https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/02/05/israel-palestine-two-state-solution-partition-carnage-ethnic-cleansing/ 	
Week 15	Final Exam: In class open-book exam		Final Exam: Date TBD
Week 16	<i>Reflection Week</i>		