

INTL4780
U.S.-Israeli Relationship
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:45-14:00
Baldwin Hall 0322

Dr. Eli Sperling
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:15am-12:15pm
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Republican and Democratic Presidents alike have created tensions with and had positive impacts on the pre-1948 Zionist community in Palestine and then state of Israel (established in May 1948) since the inception of the Zionist-US relationship at the turn of the twentieth century. Since US-Israeli strategic ties grew in the late 1960s, no matter who is in office, there have been certain norms that can be expected from the American government and President with regard to their policies towards Israel. However, with changing political landscapes in Israel, the US and the Middle East, there are aspects of the US-Israel relationship that have been called into question by both sides, leaving the future uncertain. Through an engaging survey of scholarly, journalistic, cultural and other sources, this course will explore the past, present and potential future forecasts for the ever-changing US-Israel relationship.

Required Text:

- Freedman, Robert. *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US-Israeli Relations*. Routledge, 2019.
- Gilboa, Eytan, and Efraim Inbar. *US-Israeli Relations in a New Era: Issues and Challenges after 9/11*. Routledge, 2009.
- Additional readings will be available on ELC and at the library.
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Grading

Grading Scheme

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	00-59

Grade Composition

Quizzes: 10%
Group Presentation: 15%
Participation: 20%
Midterm: 20%
Final paper: 35%

Assignments

Quizzes

There will be 5 pop quizzes about the readings during the semester

Short writing assignments:

There will be two short writing assignments

Presentation

Students will be divided into pairs in the middle of the semester. Each group will research, present a different core issue in the US-Israel relationship. During the last three weeks of the semester, each group will give a 20 minute presentation—details will be discussed in the first weeks of the semester.

Participation

Students should regularly attend class, having read all the required readings. They should be prepared to both pose and answer questions about the readings and engage in discussion on the broader subject matter.

Midterm Exam

Midterm exam covering the topics in the course so far.

Final Paper

The final paper topic will relate to students' group assignments for their presentation. Further instructions about the final paper will be discussed in the second half of the semester.

Policies

Academic Integrity

Every student must agree to abide by UGA's academic honesty policy and procedures known as A Culture of Honesty and the University of Georgia Student Honor Code, which work together to define a climate of academic honesty and integrity at the university.

Special Needs

This course is guided by the assumption of dignity and respect for all persons in the classroom. My hope is to support diversity of learners and to provide a non-threatening environment. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of classes), and make sure that you have contacted the Disability Resource Center: <http://drc.uga.edu>

In-Class Discussion Guidelines:

Civility and respect are essential when engaging in productive academic discourse. All

communications for this course should be conducted constructively, civilly, and respectfully. Differences in beliefs, opinions, and approaches are to be expected. Please bring any communications you believe to be in violation of this policy to my attention. Active interaction with peers and your instructor is essential to success in this course, paying particular attention to the following:

Be respectful of others and their opinions, valuing diversity in perspectives, backgrounds, abilities, and experiences.

Challenging ideas, phenomena and the scholars that we engage with is integral to critical thinking and the scholarly process. Please articulate your written and verbal communications carefully and thoughtfully, recognizing that a positive atmosphere of healthy discourse is encouraged.

It is important to do the reading! We will be discussing nuanced and often complicated circumstances. Being a productive member of in-class discussions means doing the reading and being prepared to talk about those assignments and how they relate to lectures and concepts discussed in class.

Class Schedule and readings:

* This is a tentative schedule; changes will be made/posted to ELC during the semester

1. Tue. January 10: Review the Syllabus

2. Thur. Jan. 12: The United States and Israel

- Elizabeth Stephens, *US Policy Towards Israel: The Role Of Political Culture In Defining the 'Special Relationship'*, Portland: Sussex Academic Press, 2006.
- *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US-Israeli Relations*. Routledge, 2019. **Introduction.**

3. Tue. Jan. 17: Discussion Session—Israel and the United States

- *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US-Israeli Relations*. Routledge, 2019. **Chapter 7.**

4. Thur. Jan. 19: US interests in the Middle East

- Samuel Lewis, “The United States and Israel: Constancy and Change,” in William Quandt (ed.) *The Middle East: Ten Years after Camp David* (Washington D.C.: Brookings Institute, 1988), pp. 217-57
- *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US-Israeli Relations*. Routledge, 2019. **Chapter 5.**

5. Tue. Jan. 24: Truman, American Jews and Israel

- *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US-Israeli Relations*. Routledge, 2019. **Chapter 6.**
- Michael Ottolenghi, Harry Truman’s Recognition of Israel,” *The Historical Journal*, Vol. 47, No. 4 (2004), pp. 963–988.

6. Thur. Jan. 26: Discussion Session—What is American Zionism in the early 1950s?

7. Tue. Jan. 31: 1956 Suez Crisis

- Shapira, Anita. *Israel: A History*. Boston: Brandeis UP, 2012. Pp. 222-270.

8. Thur. Feb. 2: Discussion Session—The Cold War, Nuclear Weapons and Kennedy

- David Tal, “Symbol or Substance? Israel’s Campaign to Acquire Hawk Missiles, 1960-1962.” *International History Review* (Canada), Vol. XXII no. 2, (June 2000), pp. 304-317

9. Tue. Feb. 7: Political and Social Divides

- Little, Douglas, “The Making of a Special Relationship: The United States and Israel, 1957-68,” *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (1993): 563-585.
- Kohavi, Noya. “Why Was the 1965 Beatles Concert in Israel Really Canceled?” *Haaretz*, January 12, 2018, www.haaretz.com/1.5018895
- Chetrit, Sami Shalom. “Mizrahi Politics in Israel: Between Integration and Alternative.” *Journal of Palestine Studies*, vol. 29, no. 4, 2000, pp. 51–65.

10. Thur. Feb. 9: June 1967 (Short Writing Assignment)

- Bunch, Clea Lutz. “Strike at Samu: Jordan, Israel, the United States, and the Origins of the Six-Day War.” *Diplomatic History*, 32:1 (2008): 55-76.
- Shapira, Anita. *Israel: A History*. Boston: Brandeis UP, 2012. pp. 295–306
- Goldstein, Yossi. “The Six Day War: the war that no one wanted,” *Israel Affairs*, 24:5 (August 2018): 767-784.

11. Tue. Feb 14: Discussion Session— What changes/what does after 1967?

- Noam Kochavi, “Joining the conservative brotherhood: Israel, President Nixon, and the political consolidation of the „special relationship“, 1969–73”, *Cold War History*, Vol. 8, No. 4, November 2008, pp. 449- 480.

12. Thur. Feb 16: October 1973 and the transition towards Carter

- Blanga, Yehuda. “‘The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming’: American Management of the Crisis Associated with Ending the October 1973 War.” *Middle Eastern Studies*, 49: 4 (2013): 563-580.
- Kenneth W. Stein, “Evolving a Diplomatic Legacy from the October War: The US, Egyptian, and Israeli Triangle,” in Asaf Siniver (ed.), *The October 1973 War Politics, Diplomacy, and Legacy*, London: Hurst and Company, 2013, pp. 209-229.

13. Tue. Feb 21: Discussion—Camp David

- William B. Quandt, *Camp David: Peacemaking and Politics* (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 2016 (1986). Introduction
- Ajami, Fouad. "The End of Pan-Arabism," *Foreign Affairs* (Winter 1978-1979), pp. 355-373.
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14. Thur. Feb 23: Iran

- Watch HBO series “Hostages” (we will watch the first episode in class)

15. Tue. Feb. 28: Discussion Session—Reagan, Begin and the Lebanon War

- Avner Yaniv and Robert J. Lieber, “Reagan and the Middle East,” *Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 6, No. 4, (1983), pp. 125-137

16. Thur. March 2: Midterm!

Spring Break!

17. Tue. Mar. 14: Discussion—First Intifada, Bush 41

- Scott B Lasensky. “Friendly Restraint: US-Israel Relations During the Gulf Crisis of 1990-1991, Rubin Center, *Middle East Review of International Affairs*, Vol 3, No. 2 (June 1999), pp. 24-35.
- George J. Mitchell and Alon Sachar, *A Path to Peace: A Brief History of Israeli-Palestinian Negotiations and a Way Forward in the Middle East* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016), chap. 4.

18. Thur. Mar. 16: From Madrid to Oslo

- *US-Israeli Relations in a New Era: Issues and Challenges after 9/11*. Pp. 1-33.
- Scott Lasensky, “Paying for Peace: The Oslo Process and the Limits of American Foreign Aid,” *Middle East Journal* 58, no. 2 (2004): 210-234.

19. Tue. Mar 21: Oslo II And Netanyahu’s First (Short Writing Assingment)

- Robert O. Freedman, “US. Policy Toward The Middle East in Clinton’s Second Term,” MERIA, Volume 3, No. 1 - March 1999, @ <http://www.biu.ac.il/SOC/besa/meria/journal/1999/issue1/jv3n1a5.html>
- Rynhold, Jonathan. “Making Sense of Tragedy: Barak, the Israeli Left and the Oslo Peace Process.” *Israel Studies Forum* 19:1 (Fall 2003): 9-33.

20. Thurs. Mar. 23: Camp David II

- Raphael Cohen-Almagor, “The Failed Palestinian-Israeli Peace Process 1993-2011: An Israeli Perspective,” *Israel Affairs* 18, no. 4 (2012): 563-576.
- *US-Israeli Relations in a New Era: Issues and Challenges after 9/11*. Pp.1-30

21. Tue. Mar. 28: The Second Intifada and Bush 43

- *US-Israeli Relations in a New Era: Issues and Challenges after 9/11*. Pp.123-157.

22. Thur. Mar. 30: Discussion Session—The Status Quo

- *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US-Israeli Relations*. Routledge, 2019. **Chapter 3.**

23. Tue. April 4: The Obama Doctrine

- Menachem Klein, “An Arab Spring and an Israeli Winter?” *A History of Modern Israel*, 2013, pp. 405–420.
- Kostiner, Joseph. “Saudi Arabia and the Arab–Israeli Peace Process: The Fluctuation of Regional Coordination.” *British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies*, vol. 36, no. 3, 2009, pp. 417–429.

24. Thur. April 6: Discussion—from Obama’s Cairo Speech to the JCPOA

- Carmit Valensi and Udi Dekel. “The Current Challenges in the Middle East Demand a Joint United States-Israel Strategy,” *Strategic Assessment*, Vol 19, No.1, 2016, 25-39.
- *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US-Israeli Relations*. Routledge, 2019. **Chapter 8.**

25. Tue. April 11: Trump’s presidency

- Pew Research Center. “American and Israeli Jews: Twin Portraits From Pew Research Center Surveys,” January 24, 2017, <http://www.pewforum.org/essay/american-and-israeli-jews-twin-portraits-from-pew-research-center-surveys>
- Wang, Yu. “Israel–China Relations in the Trump Era.” *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, vol. 20, no. 3, 2020, pp. 277–300.

26. Thur. April 13: Christian Zionism

- Watch— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo77sTGpngQ>
- *Israel and the United States: Six Decades of US-Israeli Relations*. Routledge, 2019. **Chapter 11.**

27. Tue. April 18: Bibi-Biden

- Eilam, Ehud. “The Relations between the United States, Israel, and Iran.” *Israeli Strategies in the Middle East*, 2022, pp. 137–167.
- *US-Israeli Relations in a New Era: Issues and Challenges after 9/11*. Pp.196-232

28. Thur. April 20: Discussion—What is next?

- *US-Israeli Relations in a New Era: Issues and Challenges after 9/11*. Pp. 233-249.

29. Tue. April 25: Presentations!

30. Thur. April 27: Presentations!

Final Paper Due May 8 by 5:00PM