Course Description

In 1962 John F. Kennedy told Israeli Foreign Minister Golda Meir: 'The United States has a special relationship with Israel.' This course will examine the different facets of this special relationship: cultural affinity, common strategic interests and the pro-Israel lobby. It will also provide an historical survey of U.S. policy towards The Arab-Israeli conflict.

Learning Objectives

• To identify, analyze and assess the major elements of the U.S.-Israeli relationship
• To gain knowledge and understanding of the historical development of U.S-Israeli relations

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Class Participation 10%
   You are expected to come to class on time prepared to discuss the assigned readings.
   The lecturer reserves the right to hold pop quizzes on the readings.
   Discussion and debate are strongly encouraged.

2. Midterm 20%
   There will be a midterm exam on sections 1-6 of the syllabus. Format TBA

3. Class Presentation 10%
   Each student is required to make a class presentation of 10-15 minutes, during weeks 7-12.
   Each week 2 students will make a present one side of a debate.
   Presentations should make use of all the relevant readings - required and recommended
   Presentation topics will be assigned in the first class.

4. Final exam 20%
   There will be a final exam on sections 8-13 of the syllabus. Format TBA

5. Long paper 40%
   18-25 pages (excluding footnotes & bibliography)
   The paper must be about US-Israeli relations and it must answer a question
   You must get permission for your paper subject and paper title by 1 March 2013
   You must present a preliminary bibliography for your paper by 30 March 2013
   To assist you with this, a special seminar paper bibliography is available on blackboard.
   The long paper is due by in class on Thursday 25 April 2013 & by email rynhold@gwu.edu
Class Policies
Attendance at classes is mandatory. If you are not able to attend for a legitimate reason, you must let me know, preferably, at least 24 hours before class in order to receive an “excused” absence. Late papers will not be accepted except in extreme circumstances with documentation and prior approval.
Note: I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus during the semester. I will announce any changes in class.

University Policies
Religious Holidays: Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations.

Academic Integrity: I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

Support for Students outside the Classroom
Disability Support Services (DSS)
Any student who needs an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information refer to: http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/

University Counseling Center (UCC) 202-994-5300
The University Counseling Center offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations; confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices

Security: In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location
Course Readings

Class readings are assigned on a weekly basis. Some texts are required reading, others recommended reading.

Note, sometimes an excerpt from a chapter or article is assigned rather than the whole thing.

Required Texts

The following required texts are available for purchase at the University Bookstore and through online sources. You may also purchase them from previous students.

Steven Spiegel, The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict, (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1986)

Required texts from sources other than these books will be available on blackboard or via on-line databases of journal articles.

Recommended Texts

The following books are recommended as providing a very useful overview of U.S.-Israeli relations.

Bernard Reich, Securing the Covenant: United States-Israel relations after the Cold War (Westport: Praeger, 1995)

For reference purposes, the following source is useful:

'U.S.-Israel Relations' http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/ustoc.html

For current developments in U.S.-Israeli relations, see the following news sources:

The Washington Post www.washingtonpost.com
Jerusalem Post (Israel) www.jpost.com
Ha'aretz (Israel) www.haaretz.com
Jewish Telegraph Agency (U.S.) www.jta.org
PART ONE: THE COMPONENTS OF THE US-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP

1. Introduction: The Foundations of the Special Relationship and US Policymaking

Required reading

Recommended reading

PART 1: U.S.-Israeli Relations and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

This section focuses on the relative importance of various factors in the formation of US policy towards Israel in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict from 1948 until now. These factors include: U.S. strategic interests, U.S. domestic and bureaucratic politics, ideology & culture, the behavior of Israel & the Arabs/developments in the Middle East.

Overview (read the relevant chronological section each week, for weeks 2-6)

Required reading

**Yaacov Bar-Siman Tov, 'The United States & Israel since 1948: A Special Relationship' *Diplomatic History* Vol. 22, No. 2, 1998**

2. 1949-1968 Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson

Required reading
Spiegel, *The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict*, pp. 50-61, 94-100, 118-125


Required reading

Recommended reading
Spiegel, *The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict*, pp. 166-380
Quandt, *Peace Process*, pp. 177-289
   Required reading
   Spiegel, *The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict*, pp. 395-407
   Quandt, *Peace Process*, pp. 245-259, 284-320

5. Clinton 1993-2000
   Required reading
   Recommended reading

   Required reading
   Robert O. Freedman, 'George W. Bush, Barak Obama, & the Arab-Israeli Conflict' in Freedman, *The U.S. and Israel; Six Decades of Relations*, pp. 36-78
   Recommended reading

7. US Policy to the Peace Process: Between Conflict resolution and Conflict Management
   Should the US be a forceful mediator or a temperate facilitator?
   Required reading


8. Culture, Religion & Public Opinion: Are Americans United or Divided about Israel?
   Required reading
   Jonathan Rynhold, 'The Partisan-Ideological Gap/Divide' in Book Manuscript
   Recommended reading
   Jonathan Rynhold, 'The Mainline Church and Hostility to Israel' in Book Manuscript, Chapter 5
9. **American Jews and Israel: Are American Jews growing more distant from Israel?**

*Required reading*

Steven M. Cohen & Arie Kelman, 'Beyond Distancing: Young Adult American Jews and Their Alienation from Israel' (2008), pp. 8-21 [www.acbp.net/About/PDF/Beyond%20Distancing.pdf](http://www.acbp.net/About/PDF/Beyond%20Distancing.pdf)


**10. American Domestic Politics & the Pro-Israel Lobby: How powerful is the pro-Israel lobby? Does it dictate, severely constrain, or somewhat influence U.S. policy to Israel and the conflict?**

*Required reading*
- Mansour, Beyond Alliance, pp. 240-259
- Dan Flesher, Transforming America's Israel Lobby (Virginia: Potomac: 2008) pp. 32-56, 97-101

Jonathan Rynhold, 'Is the Pro-Israel Lobby is a Block on Reaching a Comprehensive Peace Settlement in the Middle East?' Israel Studies Forum, 25 (1) 2010, pp. 30-36


*Recommended reading*
- Marvin Feuerwerger Congress and Israel, (Westport: Greenwood: 1979) pp. 177-192

**11. The Strategic Relationship: Is Israel a Strategic Asset or a Strategic Liability to the US?**

*Required reading*
- Camille Mansour, Beyond Alliance: Israel in US Foreign Policy (Columbia Univ. Press, 1993), pp. 1-10
- Shibley Telhami, 'Understanding the Challenge' Middle East Journal, 2002, Vol. 56 no. 1, pp. 9-18
- Dennis Ross & David Makovsky, Myths, Illusions & Peace: Finding a New Direction for America in the Middle East (N.Y: Viking, 2009), pp. 12-30, 268-282


*Bernard Reich, Securing the Covenant: US -Israel relations after the Cold War (Westport: Praeger, 1995), pp. 35-64
12. Patron-Client Relations: Is the U.S. or Israel in charge? Does the 'Tail Wag the Dog'?  
*Jonathan Rynhold, 'Is the Pro-Israel Lobby is a Block on Reaching a Comprehensive Peace Settlement in the Middle East?' pp. 37-49  

Recommended reading  

13. PART 3: ISRAELI APPROACHES TO THE US  
Required reading  
Dana Allin & Steven Simon, The Sixth Crisis, (Oxford Univ. Press, 2010), Ch. 2, pp. 45-74