

**Portland State University
Oregon School of Judaic Studies
Summer 2004**

**Israel and The Arab Nations:
A Simulation Case Study in International Dispute Resolution**

This syllabus is organized in eleven sections as follows:

- I. Times**
- II. Text**
- III. Faculty Information**
- V. Accommodations**
- VI. Course Overview & Outcomes**
- VII. Minimum Course Requirements**
- VIII. Student Evaluation**
- IX. Grading**
- X. Requirements for Written Work**
- XI. General Course Outline**

I. TIMES

Monday – Friday, June 14 – 18, 1:00 pm – 4:35 pm, Cramer Hall, Room 217

II. TEXTS – *Faculty Prepared Course Packet available at Smart Copy*

III. FACULTY INFORMATION

Professor Isaac Ersoff
Email: Isaac.Ersoff@eou.edu

V. ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who may need accommodations, or who may have any emergency medical information about which the instructor should be informed, should contact the instructor either in person or via email as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term.

VI. COURSE OVERVIEW & OUTCOMES

Using an introduction to history of the region and the conflict, the course builds to a structured simulation of international dispute resolution between Israel and Islam. Participants are assigned governmental or political roles and presented with selected issues which they will confront and attempt to resolve. The goal is for students to learn both about the history and complexities of the regional conflict and about the challenges of, and methods available for, resolving them.

VII. MINIMUM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend all classes.
2. Complete all reading and assignments.
3. Participate responsibly in all classroom discussions and activities.

VIII. STUDENT EVALUATION

Student evaluation is based on four components: attendance (promptness), class participation, completion of readings, conflict resolution activities, and final paper. Based on these components, students may earn a total of 500 points for the term, distributed as follows:

Attendance: (5 classes, 20 points each; Total Value = 100 points)

In-Class Activities and Student Participation: (Student participation 50 points; Introductory conflict resolution activity 50 points; International conflict resolution simulation 100 points; Total Value = 200 points)

Writing Requirement:

- Daily One-Page Reflection Questions on Readings (5 days, 20 points each, Total Value = 100 points)
- Final Two-Page Reflection (100 points)

IX. GRADING

A (exemplary) = 450-500 points

B (proficient) = 400-449 points

C (competent) = 350-399 points

D (poor) = 300-349 points

F (unacceptable) = Below 300 points

Important Note: A grade of incomplete is not an option except in the case of an emergency.

X. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITTEN WORK

All written work for this course that is required to be submitted in hard copy or via the Blackboard program's "Digital Drop Box" must adhere to the requirements listed on the following page:

1. Paper Size – 8.5 inches x 11 inches
2. Font – Times New Roman, 12 point
3. Colors – Paper must be white, print must be black
4. Spacing – Double
5. Justification – Full justification
6. Paragraphing – Indented (not blocked)
7. Margins – All margins 1 inch (top, bottom, right, and left)
8. Cover Page – Required, same paper size, font, colors, spacing, and margins as above. List at top left and on separate lines the following information (INCLUDE THE WORDS BELOW):

Name:

Professor:

Course Number:

Course Name:

Date Due:

Date Submitted:

Title of Paper:

XI. GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE

1. Phase One

- a. **History:** The history of the geographic area currently comprising the State of Israel and the neighboring Islamic nations.
- b. **Diplomacy:** The political factors influencing dispute resolution at the international level.
- c. **Methodology of Dispute Resolution:** The hierarchy of dispute resolution: negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and open adversarial conflict.

2. Simulation Phase

- a. **Roles:** Participants are assigned specific governmental or political roles on one side of the Israel/Arab dispute or as members of the international diplomatic community.
- b. **Dispute Resolution:** Participants engage in a structured simulation requiring them to raise issues of national and international importance. Participants attempt to resolve ensuing disputes using the methodology learned previously.
- c. **Incidents:** Unexpected national and international incidents are inserted from time to time in order to make the simulation as realistic as possible.
- d. **Record Keeping:** Participants keep a detailed record of events, issues, agreements, violations, and other matters using a variety of methods, including maps, charts, and graphs.

2. Reflection/De-Briefing

- a. **Progress:** Following completion of the structured simulation activity, participants review and evaluate progress on three levels: regarding the positions of their constituents (based on their assigned roles); regarding the positions of their opponents; and regarding the outlook for the region and the international situation.
- 3. **Obstacles:** Participants identify analyze the obstacles to more effective and efficient resolution of the dispute.
 - 4. **Facilitators:** Participants identify and analyze the factors that facilitated effective dispute resolution as well as those they feel would do so in reality.

**Syllabus created by Isaac Ersoff
Spring 2004**