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School of Diplomacy and International Relations

Summer 6-2003

The Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations and Peace Process

Anthony Wanis-St. John Ph.D.

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THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS AND PEACE PROCESS

DIPL 6116

John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations
Seton Hall University

Prof. Anthony Wanis-St. John, Ph.D.
Intensive Summer Session, June 2-6, 2003
3 Credits

Prerequisite: DIPL 6104/4183 *Art and Science of International Negotiation* or permission of instructor.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is generally thought to be intractable. Much journalistic and even scholarly work tends to be partisan, while contributing little to our understanding of how this conflict can be resolved. In fact, there is a significant history of attempts to transform this conflict into coexistence, some of it more and some of it less successful. The instructor will build on his significant field research into the open and secret negotiations between Israel and the PLO, as well as the long history of Arab-Zionist encounters. Participants will take the course by applying lessons learned to other major, seemingly intractable conflicts. A major component of the class will be the simultaneous conduct of actual negotiations by the participants, who will join one of four delegations: a Palestinian or an Israeli negotiation delegation, negotiating either interim or permanent issues. For Summer 2003, the course will be taught as an intensive, one week executive format.

Beyond learning the significant history, diplomacy and negotiation efforts, participants will gain insight by actually joining either an Israeli or Palestinian delegation and negotiating.

Course Structure and Methodology

The format of this course is that of an experiential seminar. It combines compatible elements of both executive education and traditional academic courses. This method works best with highly motivated and independent learners who are not intimidated by a very high degree of classroom participation. 'Spoon-feeding' is not part of the package.

Each day of class will be packed with intense interaction, as well as some personal reflection, seminar discussion and substantive presentation by the instructor. The learning emphasis will be on the participants' *experience*, rather than independent research, lengthy exams, lectures or stacks of reading. In practice, this means that much of the responsibility for learning is transferred to the students as individuals and as a group. We will learn on our own and from each other, as well as from the professor, in contrast with traditional 'frontal' lecture courses in which knowledge is transferred from professor to student, and students only participate to the extent they are confident their questions and comments will not be considered insignificant.

Each morning we will focus on substantive presentation and discussion, as well as preparation for upcoming negotiations. On every afternoon, you will spend most of your time preparing, conducting and communicating about your negotiations. We will occasionally and during class time, make use of learning technologies such as Blackboard's Virtual Class Room features in order to enrich the dynamics of the course. Occasionally, we may view a video of historic value.

Requirements

In addition to a very high level of class participation, you will be evaluated on the *quality* of your interaction in the interactive sessions. Attendance is essential in a five day class. Each day is 20% of the course. Following the completion of the course, each student will submit a Memorandum that analyzes (not simply describes) your role and accomplishments during the negotiations process we conduct. The analysis should draw heavily from the historical and theoretical concepts we have covered in class. Additionally, you must write a brief 'concept paper' on any acceptable aspect of the Palestinian-Israeli peace process. This paper can be an analysis of historic events, or a prescription for future action. Each paper will be 7 pages, double-spaced, Times 12 pt. font, 1" margins.

Both are due in the Digital Dropbox of the Blackboard site for DIPL 6116 on June 20, 2003. Don't forget to hit SEND, rather than ADD.

Pre-class assignment

All participants must come to class having read Charles Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, (New York, St. Martin's Press) Ch. 10. The entire chapter is available in eReserves, through the SHU Library website, and can be downloaded, saved, or printed, according to your preference. Do not fail to do this reading before class.

June 2, Day 1 The Arab-Zionist, Arab-Israeli Encounter

Readings: Anthony Wanis-St. John, *Arab-Israeli Patterns of Secret Diplomacy*, Ch. II [available in Blackboard]

AM Overview of the course and macroview of the conflict; Foundations: History and Diplomacy to 1948: Zionism, Arab Nationalism and the Great Game in the Near East. Politics of War, Politics of Diplomacy: Emergence of the Final Status Issues. Outcomes of the Civil War, War of Independence and Plan Dallet; Assignment of negotiation teams and preparatory meetings

June 3, Day 2 Palestinian and Israeli Direct Communications pre-Oslo, Persian Gulf War

Readings: Wanis-St. John, *Arab-Israeli Patterns of Secret Diplomacy*, Ch. VI

June 4, Day 3 Third Party Interventions: UN and the US (Bernadotte, Kissinger, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton)

Readings

June 5, Day 4 Palestinian – Israeli Interim and Permanent issues

Readings: Amos Oz, *Israel, Palestine and Peace*; Edward Said, *Politics of Dispossession*
[these should both be in eReserves]

June 6, Day 5 Learning from Success and Failure

Readings: Charles Enderlin, *Shattered Dreams*, Ch. 4