

Winter 2014

The Arab-Israeli Conflict

HTST 386
T/R 0930-1045
EEEL 161

Instructor: Shaiel Ben-Ephraim



Moshe Dayan and Abdullah el Tell, agree to a cease fire, Jerusalem, 30 November 1948

The course will analyze the origins and development of the Arab-Israeli conflict, starting with the emergence of the Zionist movement through to the impact of the “Arab spring” on Arab-Israeli relations. The course will take special care to put the story of war and peace between the Zionist movement and its Arab neighbors within a wider regional and international context.

Major themes in the course will include:

- 1) The evolution of two nationalist movements side by side.
- 2) The importance of the struggle for regional hegemony in the Middle East and the changing role of Israel in this context.
- 3) The role of major powers in the conflict: does the tail wag the dog?
- 4) Israel: part of or apart from the Middle East. Cultural elements in the conflict.
- 5) The complex dynamic between the Palestinian-Israeli ethnic conflict and the international elements of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
- 6) State-society relations in the Middle East and the conflict.