Course Syllabus for Spring Semester, 2014

Course Focus: This class will emphasize one of the longest running international threats to peace in the world today, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The content of the course will emphasize the conflict’s history, each side’s evolving political culture, religious ingredients, and efforts to reduce or eliminate the level of violence by resolving the issues that separate the two sides. The influence of and differences between outside powers and the impact of political and religious terrorism are also examined and analyzed. The course’s assumption is that neither side in the conflict should be considered monolithic and that differences and variations within the Israeli and Palestinian communities will be explored.

Course Requirements: Each student will be responsible for purchasing and reading several treatments of the conflict. In addition, a number of essays will be distributed by hard copy or electronically in class. The readings will be discussed during class meetings. The readings will form a basis and general background for research endeavors that will be completed during the last weeks of the semester and will depend on material gathered during the trip. The breakdown is as follows:

- research project: 60%
- class discussion: 20%
- study tour participation: 20%

Each research effort will be individually supervised. The student will provide a presentation to the class and invited guests during the last four weeks of the semester. Copies of each research project will be made available to other members of the class one week prior to the date of the presentation.

Required Readings: Selections from the following books will be made available through the campus bookstore:

- Alan Dershowitz, *The Case for Israel*
- Ken Levin, *The Oslo Syndrome*
- Walid Shoebat, *Why I Left Jihad*
- Stefan Tifkovic, *The Prophet's Sword*
- *Koran*

Class Attendance: It is assumed that all classes will be attended. All sessions during the study tour in Israel and Palestine also require attendance. If possible, anticipated absences should be discussed beforehand with the instructor. Unforeseen absences will require work that will have to be made up.

Course Information:

Instructor: Martin Slann
Location: 215 BUS
Office Hours: M – F during business hours and by appointment
E-mail: martin_slann@uttyler.edu
Office Phone: 903-566-7368
Fax: 903-566-7377
**Class Meeting Schedule:**

January 13 – Introduction and Overview;

January 27 – History of the Region: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries

February 3 – History of the Region: From the Balfour Declaration to the Intifadas

February 10 – The Religious Dimension; reading – *The Prophet’s Sword* and the *Koran*

February 17 – The Legal Dimension of the Conflict; reading – *The Case for Israel*; pro-Palestinian United Nations resolutions (to be provided in class)

February 24 – Economic issues of the conflict

March 3 – Preparation for trip

March 6-16 – Travel to and Interviews in Israeli and Palestinian areas

March 17 – Consequences of conflict; reading – *Why I Left Jihad*

March 24 – Perception and Reality; reading – *The Oslo Syndrome*

March 31 – Presentation of Research Projects

April 7 – Presentation of Research Projects

April 15 – Presentation of Research Projects

April 22 – Presentation of Research Projects