The Global Policy Leadership Practicum is a tool for connecting Dartmouth students to the world and providing real-world international policy experience for a select group of students engaged with the Rockefeller Center.

Our task during the fall term of 2015 is to create a task force report with specific recommendations for U.S. involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The report will be prepared by the group. The (hypothetical) audience for the report would be senior officials in the U.S. State Department, or perhaps a presidential candidate. The report should be substantive, politically nuanced, and historically and culturally sensitive. The recommendations should be as specific and actionable as possible. All of our work in this course is designed to facilitate the creation of this report. Your challenge is to master the substance our topic, but also to create a work process that enables the group to work together effectively. Like much of life, this is a group exercise.

There are four explicit objectives for the course:

1. To gain a deep understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict, including its historical, religious, and cultural roots.

2. To assess the Israel-Palestine situation in the context of broader U.S. foreign policy objectives.

3. To introduce students to policymakers and teach the skills necessary to elicit information from such experts and other “on the ground” sources in a time-constrained environment (like most real task forces) and to evaluate the credibility and value of such information.

4. To analyze a vast amount of information and organize that material into a single meaningful written report with specific, actionable policy recommendations. (There will be a heavy emphasis on writing and presentations throughout the course.)

The fall term will be dedicated to preparing the class for our trip to Israel and Jordan. We will do extensive reading and have several outside speakers. Much of the work on the task force report, such as creating a working outline and drafting background sections, can be done during the fall term.

We will leave for Tel Aviv on December 1st. While in the region, we will spend roughly two weeks meeting with local policy leaders: politicians, academics, journalists, business leaders, U.S. diplomats, and other experts “on the ground” who can help to inform the task force report. The task force report must be completed on the last day of the trip.
Roughly half of the course grade will be based on student work during the fall term in preparation for the international trip; the other half will be based on the single task force memo produced by the entire group. Most important, this is not like a typical Dartmouth class. You are a member of a team and an ambassador of the College.

SUMMER READING:

All students will be expected to complete the following summer reading to provide background on the conflict:

Sari Nusseibeh. *Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life*.


David Fromkin. *A Peace to End All Peace*.

KEY ASSIGNMENTS:

The fall course work is designed to offer a broad background on policy issues related to the history of the Israel-Palestine situation so that students will be prepared for the visit to the region. *All students are expected to contribute meaningfully to every aspect of the information-gathering process.* This will include, but is not limited to: in-class briefings, short policy memos, and written critiques of class readings. Students are responsible for gathering and organizing the material that they need for the final task force report.

GRADING:

The course grade will be based on the following: (60%) individual student work, including presentations and meaningful class participation; (40%) the 30-40 page task force memo prepared collaboratively by the students at the end of the course.

**Individual student assignments:**

*Group presentation* (15%): Each student will be responsible for participating in one group briefing on a topic to be assigned in class. The purpose of the presentation is to brief classmates on a topic relevant to the broader mission of the course. (Some presentation topics have been identified on the syllabus.)

*Weekly reading summaries* (15%): Students will be responsible for writing a cogent 3-4 page response and critique of the weekly readings for class. These are not book reports. Rather, the point of the weekly critiques is to highlight information and themes that are important for the class memo; to raise questions for discussion; and to point out areas for further inquiry/research.

*Class participation* (15%): This course is a collaborative information-gathering exercise. Every student is expected to participate fully in every aspect of the process. Class
participation also includes being a constructive participant in our discussions with policy experts. It may also include other small assignments on an “as needed” basis. **You will be asked to evaluate the participation of your classmates in class, during our meetings, and as participants in the memo process.**

*Executive summary (15%):* After the group memo is completed, each student will write a 3-4 page executive summary of the document. The professor will select one of the executive summaries to be the executive summary for the group memo.

*Group memo (40%):*

At the conclusion of the international visit, the participating students are responsible for producing a single **collaborative** 30-40 page briefing memo with specific policy recommendations. The memo will be evaluated on the quality, feasibility, and specificity of the policy recommendations as well as the degree to which the information is presented in a clear, concise, and accessible way.

**CLASS PRESENTATION TOPICS:**

In groups of two, students will be responsible for briefing the class on each of the following sectarian conflicts and any relevant peace process. The presentation should be roughly 20 minutes in length (plus Q and A) and should focus on lessons from these conflicts that help inform our broader topic of conflict resolution.

1. The Israeli Political Landscape
2. Palestinian Political Landscape
4. Israel and the International Community
5. TBD

**REQUIRED BOOKS** (beyond summer reading):


**COURSE ORGANIZATION:**

**WEEK 1**

**GETTING STARTED**

**Thursday, September 17**

*Discussion of summer reading.*

*Overview of course work plan.*

**WEEK 2**

**OVERVIEW**

**Tuesday, September 22**

*A SNAPSHOT OF WHERE WE ARE NOW*


**Thursday, September 24**

*GUEST: STEVEN SIMON*

**WEEK 3**
UNDERSTANDING THE CONFLICT

**Tuesday, September 29th**

GUEST:  Betsy Winslow from the Tuck School

2013 Student Memo: *Economic Reform in India*
2014 Student Memo: *Insights from Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland*

**Thursday, October 1st**

S. Yizhar. *Khirbet Khizeh*,

Film: “Precious Life”

**WEEK 4**
HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT (CONTINUED)

**Tuesday, October 6th**

Shlomo Ben-Ami. *Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy*

**Student Briefings:**  Overview of Israeli Political Landscape
Overview of the Palestinian Political Landscape

**Thursday, October 8th**

Film: “One Day in September”

**WEEK 5**
MOVING FORWARD

**Tuesday, October 13th**
GUEST: DAN KURTZER


**Student Briefing:** Israel and the International Community

**Thursday, October 15th**

Film: “The Gatekeepers”

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**WEEK 6**

**U.S. INTERESTS**

**Tuesday, October 20th**


**Student Briefing:** U.S. Politics and Public Opinion towards the Israel-Palestine Situation

**Wednesday, October 21st: X-HOUR**

GUEST: MARISSA WIZIG (AIPAC)

**Thursday, October 22nd**

GUEST: BERNIE AVISHAI

Bennie Morris, *One State, Two States.*

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**WEEK 7**

**PAST U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE PEACE PROCESS**

**Tuesday, October 27th**

GUEST: FORMER SENATOR JUDD GREGG

**Thursday, October 29th**


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**WEEK 8**

**CAMP DAVID**
Tuesday, November 3rd

Lawrence Wright. *Thirteen Days in September*

Wednesday, November 4th X-HOUR

GUEST: MARA RUDMAN

Thursday, November 5th

BRIEFING: TBD

WEEK 9
PEACE PROCESS

Tuesday, November 10th


Thursday, November 12th


WEEK 10
CURRENT STATE OF U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

Tuesday, November 17th


Student Briefing: Subject TBD

DECEMBER 1, 2015: FLY TO TEL AVIV, from Newark. (Don’t be late.)