



University of Florida
Spring 2020

Israelis and Palestinians

Professor: Tamir Sorek

Time: Tuesday 11:45 - 1:40, Thursday 12:50 - 1:40

Place: 0120 Fine Arts Building C

Office hours: 1120H Turlinton

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The course discusses the Israeli-Palestinian interactions focusing on the way collective identities are shaped by the conflict. It combines historical outlining of the conflict's development from the beginning of Zionist immigration to Palestine until the current day, with thematic analysis of its dynamics. The course juxtaposes different subjective points of view and motivations of the various actors involved and analyzes the socio-political process as products of these interrelated positions. Special emphasis is given to the significance of interdependency of culture and politics; national symbolism as both product of the conflict and an element that maintains it; and the significance of heroism, victimhood and martyrdom in shaping the conflict and the identities of the parties involved. Class meetings include lectures, movies, and discussions.

Assignments and Grading:

Attendance

The course is heavily based on class lectures, movies, and discussions. Therefore, class attendance is **mandatory**. Legitimate reasons for absence include only documented medical conditions or absences pre-approved by the instructor. Any other absence is considered an unexcused absence. You are allowed two unexcused absences but from the third unexcused absence you will lose one percentage point from your final grade for every meeting you miss. **Six unexcused absences or more will automatically result in failing the course.**

Reading

- James L. Gelvin, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War*, Cambridge University Press, 3rd edition, 2014.

Other items on the list are available through the library's electronic reserve system or the provided web links.

On-line commentary (20%)

Students are expected to post a short but thoughtful commentary (approximately 250 words) on ten reading items – **before** class. Five of these items should be submitted by 2/16 and five after 2/16. This assignment is an integral part of the learning process, and therefore late submissions will not be counted under any circumstances. The commentary should answer the question/s appearing on Canvas/Discussions under the relevant thread. If a question does not appear, the commentary should include one paragraph summarizing the main argument/s and one paragraph conveying your own perspective on the text. Grades will not be given to each report separately but twice during the semester, on 2/16 and at the end of the course.

Class participation (10%)

Consistent attendance is a necessary but not satisfactory condition for getting the maximal participation grade. You are expected to take an active part in the classroom, **based on your reading**. If you do not feel comfortable talking in public you can substitute it by the following options: reacting to your class-mate comments on the discussion board; submitting extra commentaries, beyond the ten required; submitting extra movie reviews.

Two movie reviews (2 x 5%)

Throughout the semester we will watch several documentary movies. You are required to submit a review of at least two of them, no later than 7 days after the screening. If you submit more than two reviews, the two highest grades will be counted toward your final grade. A review is not a summary - you are expected to write your thoughts about the movie as a student in the course 'Israelis and Palestinians'. The length should be approximately 400 words.

Quizzes (28%)

Throughout the semester you will be required to take four quizzes. Each quiz will take 10 minutes and its weight in the final grade is 7%. If you missed a quiz because of an unexcused absence you will not be able to make up for it.

Final take home exam (32%)

During the last class meeting, students will receive specific instructions for a final take home exam. The exam will be in the form of an essay in which students are expected to implement the knowledge they acquired in the classroom and the reading materials. The grade will reflect the student's knowledge of the course materials, the way she/he implements the theoretical concepts, and the level of organization and clarity of the arguments. Students will have three days to complete the assignment.

Grading Policy

Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade point can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Grading Scale

| | |
|----|--------|
| A | 93-100 |
| A- | 90-92 |
| B+ | 87-89 |

| | |
|----|-------|
| B | 83-86 |
| B- | 80-82 |
| C+ | 77-79 |
| C | 73-76 |
| C- | 70-72 |
| D+ | 67-69 |
| D | 63-66 |
| D- | 60-62 |
| E | 0-59 |

Make-up policy

The course assignments are mandatory and there is no way to substitute them by other assignments or extra-credit, except under the following conditions:

- 1) Students who missed a quiz for a **justifiable documented** reason will be able to take the quiz at the instructor's office. In this case it is your responsibility to schedule a make-up quiz with the instructor as soon as you can and no more than a week after you are back to campus.
- 2) Students who missed more than five meetings for a **justifiable documented** reason will be required to make up for this absence by submitting a paper based on the instructor's guidelines.

Plagiarism

Using others' ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information is considered plagiarism and is a serious violation of the honor code of the University of Florida (please see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php> for details). Submitting plagiarized work will automatically result in a failing grade in this course and will be reported to the relevant authorities in the university. In order to prevent plagiarism, papers submitted in this class, including your reading reports and movie reviews, will be checked by the Turn-it-in software.

Students with disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>.

Class schedule and reading assignments

1/7 Introduction

1/9: Different ways to tell the story

Reading:

- 1) "The Land and its Lure", Ch. 1 (pp. 1-13) from Gelvin
- 2) Adwan, Sami, Dan Bar-On, and Eyal Naveh. *Side by Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*. New York: The New Press, 2012, pp. 1-25.

1/14: Cultures of Nationalism

Reading: "Cultures of Nationalism", Chapter 2 (pp. 14-45) from Gelvin

1/16: First encounters

Reading:

- 1) Excerpts from Herzl: Old New Land.
- 2) Excerpts from: Yitzhak Epstein, The Hidden Question, first appeared in *HaShiloah* (Odessa), 17 (July–December, 1907) 193–206. Translated by Alan Dowty, in: "A Question That Outweighs All Others: Yitzhak Epstein and Zionist Recognition of the Arab Issue", in: *Israel Studies* 8 (Spring 2001): 34-54 (only pages 42-53 are required).
- 3) Ottoman voices against Zionism (translated by Michelle U. Campos), from the course website.

1/21 Arabs and Jews under British rule

World War I and the Palestine Mandate (Ch. 4., pp. 76-91 from Gelvin)

1/23 Arabs and Jews under British rule -II

Adler, Raya. 1988. "The Tenants of Wadi Hawarith: Another View of the Land Question in Palestine." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 20:197-220.

1/28: Emerging Nationalisms and Revolt

From Nationalism in Palestine to Palestinian Nationalism (Ch. 5, pp. 92-117 from Gelvin)

Movie – The Diaries of Yossef Nachmani

Quiz 1

1/30: Emerging Nationalisms and Revolt - II

Cohen, Hillel (2015). *Year Zero of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: 1929*, Brandeis University Press (pp 1-33).

2/4 – 2/6: The 1948 War - Nakba and Independence

Meron Benvenisti, *Sacred Landscape: The Buried History of the Holy Land since 1948*, University of California Press, 2002, pp. 101-172

2/11-2/13: Historiographic controversy on 1948

Masalha, Nur. *Expulsion of the Palestinians: The Concept of "Transfer" in Zionist Political Thought, 1882-1948*. Institute for Palestine Studies, 1992. 8-14; 93-102;175-199

Morris, Benny. *A History of the First Arab-Israeli War* (New Haven: Yale University Press., 2008), pp. 392-420

2/18: Statehood and homelessness

Tibawi, A. L. (1963). The Palestine Arab refugees in Arabic poetry and art. *Journal of The Royal Central Asian Society*, 50(3-4), 262-272.

2/20: Statehood and homelessness-2

Kadman, Noga. *Erased from Space and Consciousness: Israel and the Depopulated Palestinian Villages of 1948*. Indiana University Press, 2015, Ch.3.

2/25: The Arab Israeli Wars

“The Arab Israeli Conflict” (Ch. 8, pp 166-197 from Gelvin).

- **Quiz 2**

2/27: Re-emergence of Palestinian nationalism

- 1) Pp. 198-214 from Gelvin
- 2) The Palestinian National Charter: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plocov.asp

3/10: The occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

Zertal, Idith, and Akiva Eldar. 2007. *Lords of the Land: The War Over Israel's Settlements in the Occupied Territories, 1967-2007*: Nation Books, pp. 3-54.

3/12: The occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip - II

Land Grab (Summary):

http://www.btselem.org/English/Publications/Summaries/200205_Land_Grab.asp
http://www.btselem.org/Download/200205_Land_Grab_Eng.pdf (pp. 7-22, 37-45).

3/17: First Intifada (1987-1993)

pp. 214-230 from Gelvin

3/19: First Intifada –II

King, Mary E. 2009. *A Quiet Revolution: The First Palestinian Intifada and Nonviolent Resistance*: Basic Books. Pp. 1-10.

3/24: The Oslo Process

Robert Malley and Hussein Agha, Camp David: The Tragedy of Errors, *New York Review of Books*, August 9, 2001

- **Quiz 3**

3/26: Second Intifada

- 1) Pp. 231-254 from Gelvin
- 2) "Suicide Bombers: Dignity, Despair, and the Need for Hope: An Interview with Eyad El Sarraj", *Journal of Palestine studies*, 2002 31(4) pp:71-76

3/31: The siege on the Gaza strip

- 1) Winter, Yves. "The Siege of Gaza: Spatial Violence, Humanitarian Strategies, and the Biopolitics of Punishment." *Constellations* 23, no. 2 (2016): 308-19.

4/2: Arabs in a Jewish State

Sorek, Tamir. *Palestinian Commemoration in Israel: Calendars, Monuments, and Martyrs*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2015 (p. 1-7; 13-18; pp. 41-65).

4/7: Arabs in a Jewish State-II

The Future Vision of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel, The National Committee for the Heads of the Arab Local Authorities in Israel, December 2006:
<http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/dec06/tasawor-mostaqbali.pdf> (pp. 9-18)

4/14: Religion and conflict - I

Cohen, Hillel (2017). The Temple Mount/al-Aqsa in Zionist and Palestinian National Consciousness: A Comparative View, *Israel Studies Review*, 32(1)

4/16: Religion and conflict – II

- 1) Document: The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).
- 2) Hamas: A Document of General Principles and Policies (2017): <http://hamas.ps/en/post/678/a-document-of-general-principles-and-policies>
- 3) Inbari, Motti. 2012. *Messianic religious Zionism confronts Israeli territorial Compromises*, Cambridge University Press (p. 1-11, 15-36).

4/23: Solutions?

Reading:

- 1) Gush Shalom Forum, "Two States or One State", A debate between former Knesset Member Uri Avnery and Dr. Ilan Pappé, May 8, 2007 http://gush-shalom.org.toibillboard.info/Transcript_eng_improved.mht
- 2) The Palestine Strategy , 2011, *Towards new strategies for Palestinian national liberation*, [http://www.palestinestrategygroup.ps/Regaining_the_Initiative_FINAL_17082008_\(English\).pdf](http://www.palestinestrategygroup.ps/Regaining_the_Initiative_FINAL_17082008_(English).pdf)
- 3) The Israeli Initiative: http://www.hayozma.org/rewr-true/language-en_us/Introduction.aspx
- 4) Nathalie Tocci, "One, Two or More States in Israel-Palestine? That Isn't the Question"- <http://www.iai.it/en/publicazioni/one-two-or-more-states-israel-palestine-isnt-question>
- 5) Two States, One Homeland – an Open Land for All: <http://www.alandforall.org/english-main>

Quiz 4