



University of Florida
Spring 2017

Israelis and Palestinians

Professor: Tamir Sorek

Time: Tuesday 1:55 – 3:50, Thursday 1:55 – 2:45

Place: Rogers Hall 0110

Office hours: 205 Walker Hall, Tuesday 11:00 – 12:00 or by appointment

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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:

Reading: The course will use two different textbooks that tell the Palestinian-Israeli interaction in different ways. We will pay attention to the ways political sympathies are reflected in the vocabulary as well as in the emphasis on various events and aspects of the conflict. The following required books are required:

- James L. Gelvin, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War*, Cambridge University Press, 3rd edition, 2014.
- Paul Scham,, Walid Salem, and Benjamin Pogrund: *Shared Histories: A Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue*, Left Coast Press Inc, 2006.

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

On-line commentary (16%): Students are expected to post a short but thoughtful commentary (approximately 250 words) on eight reading items – **before** class. This assignment is an integral part of the learning process, and therefore late submissions will not be counted under any circumstances. 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. It means that by 2/16 you should submit at least four commentaries.

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 twelve required; submitting extra movie reviews.

Grading scale for participation

8 - 10 points

Very frequent and relevant interventions during class discussion

or

Lack of participation in class discussion combined with intensive participation in web

5-7 points

Mid-level participation in class discussions and no participation at web discussions.

or

Mid-level participation in web discussions and no participation at class discussions.

1 – 4 points

Sporadic and infrequent participation in class and/or web discussions.

0 points

Lack of participation in class discussions and no participation in web discussions (reading reports are not included in web discussions)

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 300 words.

Quizzes (32%)

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 8%.

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

Attendance Policy

Class attendance is mandatory. Legitimate reasons for absence include only documented medical condition or absences pre-approved by the instructor. Frequent unjustified absences will affect negatively the student's grade. After one unexcused absence, you will lose one percentage point from your final grade for each additional absence. After four unexcused absences, you will lose 2 points from your final grade for each additional absence.

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 miss a quiz for a justifiable reason will be able to take the quiz at the instructor's office later.
- 2) Students who missed more than six meetings for a **justifiable** 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.

Class schedule and reading assignments

1/5 Introduction

1/10: 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.
- 3) Scham, Paul, Walid Salem, and Benjamin Pogrund: *Shared Histories: A Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue*, Left Coast Press Inc, 2006, pp. 7-10.

1/12: Cultures of Nationalism

- 1) Reading: "Cultures of Nationalism", Chapter 2 (pp. 14-45) from Gelvin
- 2): *Shared Histories*, pp. 62-91.

1/17: First encounters

Reading:

- 1) Excerpts from Herzl: *Old New Land* (excerpts from book 3).
- 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.

1/19 Arabs and Jews under British rule

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

1/24 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.

1/26: Emerging Nationalisms and Revolt

From Nationalism in Palestine to Palestinian Nationalism (Ch. 5, pp. 92-116 from Gelvin)

- Quiz 1

1/31: Emerging Nationalisms and Revolt - II

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

2/2 – 2/7: 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

2/9: Historiographic controversy on 1948

Pages 177-250 from Shared Histories

2/14: 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.

Segev, Tom. 1986. "The First Israelis.", Free Press, Ch. 4 (pp. 95-116).

2/16: The Arab Israeli Wars

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

2/21: Re-emergence of Palestinian nationalism

Pp. 198-213 from Gelvin

- **Quiz 2**

2/23: Re-emergence of Palestinian nationalism – a document

The Palestinian National Charter: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plocov.asp

2/28: 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.

3/14: 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 and Chapter 1:

http://www.btselem.org/Download/200205_Land_Grab_Eng.pdf

3/16: First Intifada (1987-1993):

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

3/21: First Intifada -II

Sayigh, Yezid. "The Armed Struggle and Palestinian Nationalism," in Avraham Sela and Moshe Maoz (eds.) *The PLO and Israel: From Armed Conflict to Political Solution, 1964 - 1994* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997), pp. 23-35

3/23: The Oslo Process and the second Intifada

Reading: Baruch Kimmerling and Joel S. Migdal, The Palestinian People: A History (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2003), "Oslo: What went right?" Ch. 10 (pp. 315-354).

- Quiz 3

3/28: Arabs in a Jewish State

- 1) Sorek, Tamir. *Palestinian Commemoration in Israel: Calendars, Monuments, and Martyrs*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2015 (p. 1-7; 13-18).
- 2) *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)

3/30: Religion and conflict

- 1) Document: The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas):
<http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm>
- 2) Inbari, Motti. 2012. *Messianic religious Zionism confronts Israeli territorial Compromises*, Cambridge University Press (p. 1-11, 15-36).

4/4: National Martyrs - 1

"Suicide Bombers: Dignity, Despair, and the Need for Hope: An Interview with Eyad El Sarraj", *Journal of Palestine studies*, 2002 vol:31 iss:4 pg:71-76

4/6 – National martyrs: 2

Yael Zerubavel, "The Battle of Tel Hai," *Recovered Roots*, pp. 39-47

4/13: Solutions?

Reading:

- 1) 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)
- 2) 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

Quiz 4