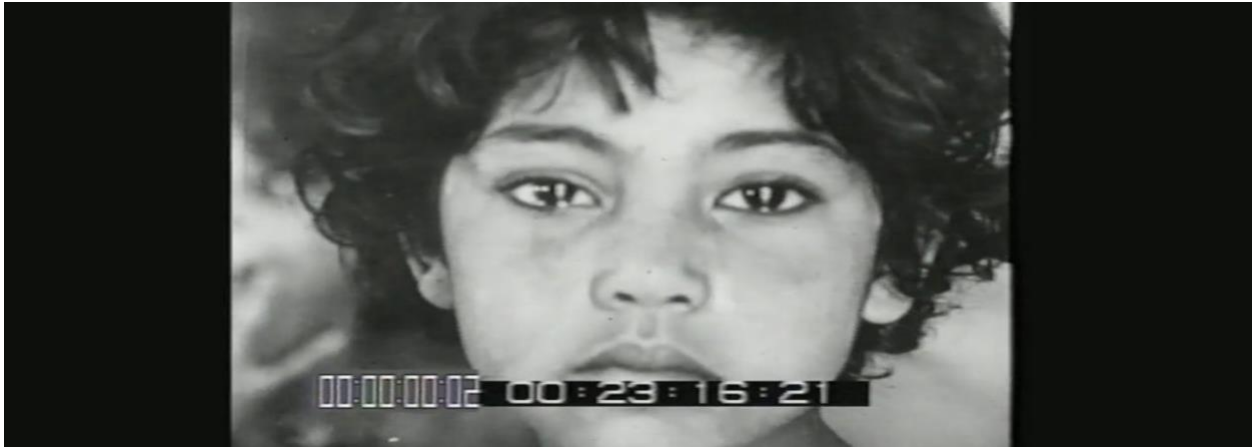


The Israeli-Arab Conflict on Stage and Screen



JST3930 | Tue 1:55 PM – 2:45 PM and Thursday 1:55 PM – 3:50 PM | Office Hours: Tue 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM @ Turlington Hall 1120 | Email: royholler@ufl.edu

Many encounters between Israelis and Palestinians take place on the stage. The playhouse and the cinema host a rich tradition of fictional and documented depictions of the conflict, offering a unique look into complex realities through different representations of Israel and Palestine. In this course we will screen, read and discuss movies, theatrical and modern dance production that critique and challenge official state narratives, ideologies and histories.

Required Course Materials

I will provide you with all readings through the course site. These texts must be brought to class. Failure to come in with the assigned readings will result in removal of student from session.

Movies and Documentaries: Students will view films during the semester. Some films will be screened in class. Others will be available through streaming services or via direct link. Students must see required films no later than they are assigned.

Expectations:

Attendance and Participation: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> (Links to an external site.). The following are guidelines made by the instructor.

- Attendance: is mandatory, will be taken daily and recorded in the Canvas gradebook. You are allowed two “personal days” for the semester, after which each

absence that does not meet university criteria for “excused” will result in a two-point deduction from your final grade. Excessive absences (more than 50%) will lead to a failing grade in the class.

- **Participation:** The class is discussion based. Consistent informed, thoughtful, and considerate class participation is expected and will be evaluated using the rubric below. The instructor will inform you of your participation grade to date when mid-term exams are returned and schedule a conference if you are earning below 70% of the possible points. **NOTE:** If you have personal issues that prohibit you from joining freely in class discussion, e.g., shyness, language barriers, etc., see the instructor as soon as possible to discuss alternative modes of participation.
- **Class Etiquette:** To make this class as enjoyable and collaborative experience as possible, there are a few in-class policies: I expect you to attend all classes. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones during class time. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum.
- **Canvas:** All assignments, lecture notes, handouts, study guides, grades, etc. will be posted on the course website on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check the website regularly and keep up to date with the class.

List of Graded Assignments:

Assignment	Description	Requirements	Points
Reading Journal	The reading journal entries will be available on the course website. For each entry you will provide a self-reflective or critical response, based on assigned readings of the week. Entries will be evaluated and graded based on the quality of writing and its correspondence with the assigned reading.	100 words weekly	20%
Analytical Essay	Comparative, 6-page paper analyzing course themes through literary analysis of two texts from syllabus, of different global cultures. Students will use a given question bank or a topic of their choice.	1500 Words	30%
Final Project	For the final project you will create a website based on the theme of our course: conflict. You will have the opportunity to focus on any aspect of the Israeli-Palestinian debate or other current/historical conflicts.	Presentation + Final product	40%
Participation	The class is discussion based, meaning you shouldn't expect hour long lectures. The success of our class is based on your active discussion and group work!	Active participation	10%



Tentative Reading/Viewing List:

Week 1 (Jan. 9th)

Tue. Welcome!

Thu. Brecht. *Mother Courage*. Scenes 1 – 7.

Week 2 (Jan. 16th)

Tue. Finish: *Mother Courage*. Finish.

Thu. Loterman, *1913 Seeds of Conflict*. Screening.

Week 3 (Jan. 23rd): National/Heroic Cinema

Tue. *This is the Land* + Early Zionist Films. Selections.

Thu. Cohen. *Hill 24 Doesn't Answer* (1955).

Week 4 (Jan. 30th): Early Palestinian Cinema

Tue. *The Flower of All Cities* (1969)/ *The Urgent Call of Palestine* (1973) + Gertz and Khleifi.
From Bleeding Memories to Fertile Memories

Thu. *They Don't Exist*. Mustafa Abu Ali (1974).

Week 5 (Feb. 6th): Theater of Revolution

Tue. Ghassan Kanfani. *Returning to Haifa*. (Act 1 + 2).

Thu. *Returning to Haifa*. Finish + Scham, "Competing Israeli and Palestinian Narratives."

Week 6 (Feb. 13th): Facing the Other

Tue. *Khirbet Khizeh* (1977) + *Hole in the Moon* (Selections)

Thu. Joel Beinin and Lisa Hajjar, "Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict"

Week 7 (Feb. 20th) The Films of Michel Khleifi

Tue. *Wedding in Galilee* (1987)

Thu. Ella Shohat on "Wedding in Galilee,"

Week 8 (Feb. 27): Representations of the Arab in the New Wave of Israeli Cinema

Tue. *Hamsin* (1982).

Thu. Telmissany, "Displacement and Memory" + Selections from *Avanti Popolo*,

Week 9 (Mar. 6th) : Theater of Revolution II

Tue. Hanoch Levin, *Murder* (Act 1 +2).

Thu. *Murder*. Cont. (Act 3).

----- SPRING BREAK -----

Week 10 (Mar. 20th): Shooting and Crying

Tue. *Lebanon*. (2009)

Thu. Dorit Naaman, "Orientalism as Alterity in Israeli Cinema"

Week 11 (March 27th): Cinematic Responses to the Intifada

Mon. *Paradise Now* (2005) + Nashef, "Demythologizing The Palestinian"

Thu. *The Bubble* (2007)

Week 12 (Apr. 3rd): Responses to the Intifada. Cont.

Mon. *Waltz with Bashir* (2008) + Hollander, "Shifting Manhood."

Thu. Fleifel. *A World not ours* (2014).

Week 13 (April 10th): Israeli-Arab Cinema

Mon. *Junction 48* (2016).

Thu. *In Between* (2016).

Week 14 (April 17th): Co-Existence?

Mon. Hillel Kogan, *We Love Arabs*.

Thu. Final Project Showcase.

Week 15 (April 24th): Wrapping Up

Student Learning Outcomes

Content: *Students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline(s).*

- **Identify, describe, and explain** the development of the Israel-Arab conflict, as presented in film, and theater. **Assessments:** Class participation, journal entries, comparative papers and final project.
- **Identify and critique** how conflict and displacement influence global systems, through the preceptive of the Israeli and its neighbor states. **Assessments:** Class participation, journal entries, comparative papers and final project.

Critical Thinking: *Students carefully and logically analyze information from multiple perspectives and develop reasoned solutions to problems within the discipline(s).*

- **Analyze and Evaluate** literary, historical and visual narratives by and about soldiers, victims of war, refugees and displaced individuals, that depict the experience and help us construct a critical approach to our own experiences of privilege and prejudice. **Assessments:** Class participation, journal entries, short and comparative papers and Final Project.
- **Connect** the complex relationships in the Middle-East and how these are influenced and altered by variants like religion/ ethnicity/race and gender. **Assessments:** Class participation, journal entries, short and comparative papers and Final Project.

Communication: *Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline(s).*

- **Develop and present** their own findings in writing and through experiential projects that apply the experience of local conflicts, to better express their own backgrounds and realities, engaging with other lived experiences. **Assessments:** Class participation, journal entries, short and comparative papers and Final Project.

Connection: *Students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline(s).*

- **Review** how narratives of conflicts can help students create approaches and strategies promoting justice and equality to local and global minorities and migrant sub-groups **Assessments:** Class participation, journal entries, comparative papers and final project.

Other Policies:

Late Submission Policy: Journals, assignments, thesis, papers, all must be submitted by the date and time listed on Canvas.

Students Requiring Accommodation: who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process: 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/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). 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.bluer.com/ufl/> ([Links to an external site.](#)). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/> ([Links to an external site.](#)).

Academic Honesty: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio: The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> ([Links to an external site.](#)) or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.