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:


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

On-line Reading reports (20%): Students are expected to post a short but thoughtful commentary (approximately 250 words) on twelve reading items – before class. Please remember – a commentary is not a summary. Commenting on the items on the reading list marked with * is mandatory.
Class participation (12%): 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 commentary on the discussion board of the course website. Consistent attendance is a necessary but not satisfactory condition for getting the maximal participation grade.

Grading scale for participation
10-12 points
Very frequent and relevant interventions during class discussion
or
Lack of participation in class discussion combined with intensive participation in web

7-9 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 – 6 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)

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%.

Take home (24 hours) mid term exam (15%)

Final take home exam (25%): 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
These assignments are mandatory and there is no way to substitute them by other assignments or extra-credit.

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**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<td>E</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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**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 able 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](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

1/7: Different ways to tell the story
Reading:
1) “The Land and its Lure”, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-13) from Gelvin

1/12: Cultures of Nationalism
1) Reading: "Cultures of Nationalism", Chapter 2 (pp. 14-45) from Gelvin

1/14: First encounters
Reading:
1) Excerpts from Herzl: Old New Land (excerpts from book 3).
3) Ottoman voices against Zionism (translated by Michelle U. Campos), from the course website.

1/19 – 1/21: Arabs and Jews under British rule
Reading for 1/19: World War I and the Palestine Mandate (Ch. 4; pp. 76-91 from Gelvin)


1/26 – 1/28: Emerging Nationalisms and Revolt
Reading for 1/26: From Nationalism in Palestine to Palestinian Nationalism (Ch. 5, pp. 92-116 from Gelvin)

- Quiz 1

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


2/9 - 2/11: Historiographic controversy on 1948
Reading: Pages 177-250 from Shared Histories*

2/16: Statehood and homelessness


2/18: The Arab Israeli Wars
Reading for 2/19: “The Arab Israeli Conflict” (Ch. 8, pp 166-197 from Gelvin).

- Quiz 2

2/23 – 2/25: Re-emergence of Palestinian nationalism

Reading for 2/23: Pp. 198-213 from Gelvin

Reading for 2/25:

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

3/8 – 3/10: The occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip


Reading for 3/10:
1) Land Grab (Summary):
http://www.btselem.org/English/Publications/Summaries/200205_Land_Grab.asp and Chapter 1:


3/17: Quiz 3

3/22 - 3/24: The Oslo Process and the second Intifada

3/29 – 3/31: Religion and the conflict
Reading:
   http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm
2) "Dear God, this is Effi” Ari Shavit interviews Effi Eitam, Haaretz, March 21, 2002.


4/5 – 4/7 : Arabs in a Jewish State
Reading for 4/7: 1) Ch. 1 (pp. 1-13) and 8 (150-182) from: Tamir Sorek, Arab Soccer in a Jewish State Cambridge University Press, 2007

Reading for 4/9:
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)

4/12: Martyrs
Reading:
1) Yael Zerubavel, “The Battle of Tel Hai,” Recovered Roots, pp. 39-47


4/14: The Holocaust and the conflict
Reading: “Hitler is Already Dead, Mr. Prime Minister”, pages 396-404 from: Tom Segev, The Seventh Million: The Israelis and the Holocaust

4/19: Solutions?
Reading:

2) Gush Shalom Forum, “Two States or One State”, A debate between former Knesset Member Uri Avnery and Dr. Ilan Pappe, May 8, 2007
http://gush-shalom.org.toibillboard.info/Transcript_eng_improved.mht

Quiz 4