

University of Florida
Spring 2011

Israelis and Palestinians

JST 4936/7998 - POS 4931/2772 – SYA 4930/2684

Professor: Tamir Sorek

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

Place: E222 CSE (Tuesday), E119 CSE (Thursday)

Office hours: 206 Walker Hall, Thursday 10-12, or by appointment

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The course discusses the Israeli-Palestinian conflict 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. The lectures and reading demonstrate how the internal structures of both societies influence and are influenced by the dynamics of the conflict. 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 three different textbooks, each one of them tells the Palestinian-Israeli interaction in a different way. 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, 2007.
- Allan Dowty, *Israel/Palestine*, Polity Press, 2008.
- Paul Scham, Walid Salem, and Benjamin Pogrund: *Shared Histories: A Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue*, Left Coast Press Inc, 2006

Each one of these books highlights general themes of the conflict, but none of them provides a detailed history of the conflict. If you are interested in more details, the following book is recommended: Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-2001*, Vintage books, 2001.

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 (150-200 words) on the reading items – **before** class. Please remember – a commentary is not a summary.

Class participation (12%): You are expected to take an active part in the classroom. If you do not feel comfortable talking in public you can substitute it by commentary on the discussion board of the course website.

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 paper (25%)

Class schedule and reading assignments

1/6: What is the conflict about?

1/11: Different ways to tell the story

Reading:

- 1) "The Land and its Lure", Ch. 1 (pp. 1-12) from Gelvin
- 2) "Introduction: Two Worlds Collide", Ch. 1 from (pp 1-20) from Dowty
- 3) Reading: Pages 7-10 from "Shared Histories"

1/13: Palestine before the conflict

Reading: "The Jewish Story" and "The Arab Story", Chapters 1+2 (pp 21-68) from Dowty

1/18: The origins of the Zionist movement

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

1/20: First encounters

Reading:

- 1) Excerpts from Herzl: Old New Land, 119 - 125
- 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.

1/25: Movie: Pillar of Fire (A Zionist cinematic narrative)

Arabs and Jews under British Mandate in Palestine

1/27: Movie: The Diaries of Yossef Nachmani by Dalia Karpel (Israel, 2005)

Reading: Ch. 4 (pp. 76-91) from Gelvin

2/1: The emergence of Palestinian national identity

Reading: Ch. 5 (pp. 92-115) from Gelvin

2/3: Palestine in WWII and the partition plan of 1947

Reading: Pages 116-125 from Gelvin

Quiz 1

2/8: The Holocaust and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Reading: Shared Histories, pages 135 – 176: a. The Holocaust, the creation of Israel, and the shaping of Israeli society (Dalia Ofer); b. The Holocaust in the Palestinian perspective (Ata Qaymari); c. Discussion 4.

2/10: The 1948 War: Nakba and Independence

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

2/15: The Historiographic debate

Reading: Pages 177-250 from Shared Histories

2/17 – The Arab-Israeli War

Reading: Pages 165-194 from Gelvin.

Quiz 2

2/22: Re-emergence of Palestinian nationalism

Reading: 1) Pages 196-211 from Gelvin

2) The Palestinian national covenant: <http://www.mideastweb.org/plocha.htm>

2/24: Israel and the PLO in Lebanon

Reading: 1) 126-130 from Dowty

2) “Hitler is Already Dead, Mr. Prime Minister”, pages 396-404 from: Tom Segev, *The Seventh Million: The Israelis and the Holocaust*

3/1: The occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

Reading:

1) 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

2) Diplomatic and Legal Aspects of the Settlement Issue: <http://www.jcpa.org/brief/brief2-16.htm>

Clips:

3) <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-849124133667622483>

4) Land Confiscation in Ertas: <http://corky.net/~eran/yossi/Ertas%20200507%20Forweb.WMV>

3/3: The first Intifada (1987-1993)

Reading: Elias Rishmawi, "Tax Revolt in Beit Sahur" in Lynd et al, (eds.) *Homeland: Oral Histories of Palestine and Palestinians*, pp. 271-281

Reading: "Public Opinion and Political Change: Israel and the Intifada", Asher Arian; Michal Shamir; Raphael Ventura, *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 24, No. 3. (Apr., 1992), pp. 317-334.

3/15: The Oslo Process

Reading: Ch. 10-11 (315-397) from Kimmerling, Baruch and Joel S. Migdal, *The Palestinian People: A History*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2003

3/17: Arabs in a Jewish State

Reading: Ch. 1 (pp. 1-13) and 8 (150-182) from: Tamir Sorek, "Arab Soccer in a Jewish State" Cambridge University Press, 2007

3/22: Movie: Channels of Rage

Quiz 3

3/24: **Arabs in a Jewish State:** Discussion of a document: *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)

3/29: Mizrahi/Ashkenazi cleavage in Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Reading: Shenhav, Yehouda "The Jews of Iraq Zionist Ideology and the Property of the Palestinian Refugees of 1948: An Anomaly of National Accounting". *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 31: 605 – 630, 1999

Excerpts from the movie: "The Dimmis: To Be a Jew in Arab Lands"

3/31: Palestinian Christians and Muslims

Reading: Rabinowitz, Dan "Strife in Nazareth: Struggles over the Religious Meaning of Place", *Ethnography*, vol. 2, no. 1, pp. 93-113, Mar 2001

4/5: Zionist and Palestinian Martyrs

Reading: 1) Yael Zerubavel, "The Battle of Tel Hai," *Recovered Roots*, pp. 39-47

2) "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

4/12: Religion and the Conflict

Reading:

1) Kimmerling, Baruch: "Religion, Nationalism and Democracy in Israel," *Constellations*, 1999, 6, 3:339-363

2) Document: The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas):
<http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm>

3) "Dear God, this is Effi" Ari Shavit interviews Effi Eitam, *Haaretz*, March 21, 2002.
<http://www.haaretz.co.il/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=143671>

Quiz 4

4/14: Solutions?

Reading:

1) Chapter 8 (Pages 204-216) from Dowty

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