

THE HISTORY OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT
HIST-385-13654
SPRING 2012
UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

Instructor: Nabil Al-Tikriti
Office Hours: W 3:30-6:00, Th 3:30-5 (or by appointment)
Class Time/Location: T/Th 2:00-3:15 PM, Monroe 210

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Course Description:

This course is a survey of the development and evolution of what is commonly referred to as the “Arab-Israeli Conflict” in the past century and a half. Although we will concentrate on the political history of this contested region, we will also explore to some extent the internal dynamics of the respective societies involved in the conflict. The goals of the course are as follows:

- 1) Trace the transformation of Palestine from an Ottoman territory to a special type of settler colony in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- 2) Study the local and international factors that made possible the State of Israel’s establishment.
- 3) Examine the social and economic bases of modern Palestinian and Israeli society and their official national narratives.
- 4) Examine polemical arguments used to support viewpoints connected to this conflict.
- 5) Analyze the ongoing “peace process” and conflicts over land, water and identity.

Course Format:

The majority of class time will consist of an interactive lecture format, whereby I will present and discuss with you a variety of historical topics in rough concert with assigned readings. The first few minutes of class will often be devoted to current events relevant to this international issue. The material presented in lectures will constitute a significant portion of several of your quizzes, as well as your midterm and final exams. Secondary readings supplement lectures. Some class time will be devoted to primary source discussion, provided through certain readings posted on *Canvas*. While you are responsible for all assigned readings, lecture content will be important for exam preparation.

Course Goals: This course satisfies a **major elective** requirement for History majors. As such, it is intended to sharpen students’ skills in the following areas:

- Historical understanding of global processes.
- Ability to conduct self-directed study.
- Ability to read critically primary sources and modern authorities.
- Ability to write with clarity about the past.

In addition to fulfilling a **major elective** for the History major, HIST 384 also satisfies the **Human Experience** and **Global Inquiry** areas of the General Education curriculum. As such, the following are additional goals for this course:

- Students will be able to express an understanding of forces that foster global connections among places, persons, groups, and/or knowledge systems.
- Students will be able to compare and contrast multiple perspectives or theories on global processes and systems.
- Students will be able to reflect upon how global relations impact their own lives and the lives of others.
- Students will be able to explain human and social experiences and activities from multiple perspectives.
- Students will be able to draw appropriate conclusions based on evidence.
- Students will be able to transfer knowledge and skills learned to a novel situation.

Required Texts and Readings:

For this course to be successful, every student must come to class having completed the assigned reading. Readings are drawn from the following required books, as well as from internet sources and handouts.

Herzl, Theodor. *The Jewish State*. Filiquarian Publishing, 2006.

Kanafani, Ghassan. *Men in the Sun*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 1999.

Said, Edward. *The Question of Palestine*. 2nd ed. New York: Vintage Books, 1992.

Smith, Charles. *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History With Documents*. 7th ed. Boston, New York: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2009. **[When Smith is assigned, please bring the book to class.]**

Suggested websites:

It is highly recommended that you consult the following websites during the semester:

<http://www.jpost.com/> (Jerusalem Post, Israel)
<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/> (Haaretz, Israel)
<http://www.ynetnews.com/home/0,7340,L-3083,00.html> (YNet Israel News)
http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/world/middle_east/default.stm (BBC News, Middle East)
<http://www.info.gov.il/eng/mainpage.asp> (State of Israel)
<http://www.pna.org/> (Palestinian National Authority)
<http://www.american-taskforce.org/> (American Task Force on Palestine)
<http://www.guardian.co.uk> (Guardian Weekly)
<http://electronicintifada.net/> (The Electronic Intifada)
www.jadaliyya.com (Jadaliyya)
www.merip.org (Middle East Report)

Grading System:

Participation: 10%

In-Class Writing Assignment: 10%

Quizzes: 10%

Research Paper: 25%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Grading Scale:

95-100 = A	87-89 = B+	80-83 = B-	74-76 = C	67-69 = D+	Below 63 = F
90-94 = A-	84-86 = B	77-79 = C+	70-73 = C-	63-66 = D	

Participation:

Participation is based on attendance, contribution to class discussion, and regular posting and discussion on the course website. .

Quizzes: There will be several multiple-choice/short answer quizzes given during the semester. I will drop the lowest score.

Mid-Term and Final:

The mid-term and final exams will consist of fill in the blank, multiple choice, term-identification, and essay sections. Exam questions will be based on the texts, supplementary readings, lectures, class discussion and select video presentations. The final exam is cumulative. Lecture notes posted on *Canvas* serve as study guides.

Take Home Writing Assignment:

A take home writing assignment will measure your comprehension of Ghassan Kanafani's *Men in the Sun*.

Research / Term Paper:

A 10-12 page term paper covering a topic of your choice will be due towards the end of the semester. It is expected that this paper will display students' knowledge of critical apparatus and scholarly notation. Research sources can consist of internet entries, books, periodicals, music, art, etc – **with full notation**. As writing a solid paper is a process, parts of the assignment will be requested earlier in the semester.

Policy on Make-ups and Late Work:

Make-up exams are given in very rare cases, and only with documented justification for the missed exam. Late work is accepted (and penalized) at my discretion. It is crucial that you advise me of any problems that would impede your ability to complete assignments on time. Students with high absence or failing quiz grades early in the term may receive an unsatisfactory mid-semester report.

Students with Disabilities:

The Office of Disability Services has been designated by the University as the primary office to guide, counsel, and assist students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who require certain accommodations (note taking assistance, extended time for tests, etc.) should contact that office (x1266) as soon as possible so that warranted accommodations can be implemented in a timely fashion. They will require appropriate documentation. If you already receive services through the Office of Disability Services and require accommodations for this class, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss your approved accommodation needs. Bring your accommodation letter to the appointment. I will hold any information you share with me in the strictest confidence unless you give me permission to do otherwise. Disability accommodations must be arranged PRIOR to relevant examinations.

Statement on Academic Honesty:

Cheating and plagiarizing constitute Honor Code offenses. All writing assignments for this class must be original. The unattributed citation of material written by someone other than yourself constitutes plagiarism. You must footnote material you cite, paraphrase, summarize or draw on extensively for inspiration in the writing of your own prose.

“Plagiarism—the use of another person’s ideas or wording without giving proper credit—results from the failure to document fully and accurately. Ideas and expressions of them are considered to belong to the individual who first puts them forward. Therefore, when you incorporate ideas or phrasing from any other author in your paper, whether you quote them directly or indirectly, you need to be honest and complete about indicating the source to avoid plagiarism. Whether intentional or unintentional, plagiarism can bring serious consequences, both academic, in the form of failure or expulsion, and legal, in the form of lawsuits. Plagiarism is a violation of the ethics of the academic community.”

William G. Campbell, Stephen V. Ballou, and Carole Slade, Form and Style: Thesis, Reports, Term Papers, 6th Edition (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1982), p. 52.

For more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, go to:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml> or <http://www.lib.usm.edu/legacy/plag/plagiarismtutorial.php>

Revisions of the Syllabus:

I reserve the right to revise this syllabus at any time during the semester. Materials may be added or subtracted after the start of the term.

Class Schedule and Readings: [NB: Last day to drop class without penalty or charge is Friday, February 3]

I: INTRODUCTION

Tues. Jan. 17: Course Introduction

Thurs. Jan. 19: Jim Groom Visit; Historical Overview of Land & Peoples of Palestine [Smith, 1-11; Said, vii-xlv, 1-15]
[Foundation for Middle East Peace Map Database: <http://www.fmep.org/maps/all-maps>]

II: 19TH CENTURY PALESTINE

Tues. Jan. 24: Palestine in the Ottoman World [Smith, 12-26]

[McCarthy: <http://www.palestineremembered.com/Acre/Palestine-Remembered/Story559.html>]

Thurs. Jan. 26: Zionism Emerges [Herzl, *Jewish State*; Smith, 26-33; Said 14-37] [Quiz]
[“The Bilu Manifesto”]

III: WWI, IMPERIALISM, AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF “PEACE”

Tues. Jan. 31: Arab and “Great Power” Responses to Zionism [Smith, 33-52]

[Donald Wagner: “Christians and Zion”]

Thurs. Feb. 2: WWI & the Peace Settlement [Smith, 53-105]
[1914 Ha-Herut Reading]

IV: PALESTINE DURING THE BRITISH MANDATE

Tues. Feb. 7: Arab & Zionist Institutions in the 1920’s [Smith, 106-164] [Quiz]

[Rose: “The Zionist Imagination”]

[Jabotinsky: “The Iron Wall (We and the Arabs)”]: <http://www.danielpipes.org/article/3510>

Thurs. Feb. 9: West Bank Trip Presentations

V: WORLD WAR II AND THE UN PARTITION PLAN

Tues. Feb. 14: First Intifada, WWII, Holocaust, Fifth Aliyah [Smith, 165-179]

[Weizmann: “Palestine’s Role in the Solution of the Jewish Problem”]

[Anti-Semitism Readings]

Thurs. Feb. 16: The Partition Recommendation [Smith, 179-195]

[King Abdullah: “As the Arabs See the Jews, 1947”]: http://www.kinghussein.gov.jo/kabd_eng.html

VI: THE FOUNDING OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL & PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM

Tues. Feb. 21: **Midterm**

Thurs. Feb. 23: The First Arab-Israeli War [Smith, 195-221, Doc. 4.5]

VII: BUILDING ETHNOCRACIES

Tues. Feb. 28: The Nakbah [Smith, 222-258, Doc. 5.1] **[Paper Abstract Due]**

[Alain Epp Weaver: "Remembering the *Nakba* in Hebrew"]

[Michael Fischbach: "Israeli vs. Palestinian Refugee Claims"]

Thurs. March 1: Ethnocracy in a Jewish State [Smith, 222-258] [Settler Colonialism Reading] **[Quiz]**

[Yiftachel: "Democracy or Ethnocracy?"]

[1951 Air France Ad: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i504g0cR7ug&feature=player_embedded#!]

VIII: BREAK

Mon. March 5-Fri. March 9: **Spring Break**

IX: THE ORIENTALISM CRITIQUE

Tues. March 12: Kanafani, *Men in the Sun* **[Kanafani Writing Assignment Due]**

[Nuri Pelit on Palestinians in Israeli Textbooks: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWKPRC-oSg>]

Thurs. March 14: The Said Critique [Said, 37-82]

[Orientalism Website: <http://www.emory.edu/ENGLISH/Bahri/Orientalism.html>]

[Said's Orientalism Site: http://www.eng.fju.edu.tw/Literary_Criticism/postcolonism/Orientalism.htm]

X: STATELESSNESS AND DISLOCATION

Tues. March 19: Exile and Institution Building [Said, 83-141]

Thurs. March 21: Representation and Identity [Said, 141-181] **[Bibliography & Outline Due]**

XI: THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Tues. March 26: The Suez Crisis and the Age of Nasserism [Smith, 259-270] **[Quiz]**

Thurs. March 28: The Rise of the PLO & the Regional Context [Smith, 270-299]

XII: 1967 & 1973 WARS

Tues. April 3: The Legacy of the Six Day War [Smith, 300-325]

[Moshe Dayan: "A Soldier Reflects on Peace Hopes"]

[Nayef Hawatmah: "A Democratic Solution for the Palestine Problem"]

Thurs. April 5: The 1973 War & Its Consequences [Smith, 325-344]

XIII: PEACE PROCESSES

Tues. April 10: Lebanon Interventions [Smith, 345-393; Said, 182-238] **[Quiz]**

[Hubbell: "The Containment Myth"]

Thurs. April 12: Camp David, US Engagement [Smith, 345-393; Said, 182-238]

[1977 Sadat Speech at the Knesset]

[Mearsheimer & Walt: "The Israeli Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy"]

[Kathleen & Bill Christison: "Dual Loyalties: The Bush Neocons and Israel"]

XIV: THE FIRST INTIFADA & THE GULF CRISIS

Tues. April 17: The Intifada [Smith, 394-432]

Thurs. April 19: The Effects of Occupation [Smith, 433-479] **[Research Paper Due]**

[The Settlement of Jerusalem: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-v-Tpg9xN5k>]

XV: FROM OSLO TO APARTHEID WALL

Tues. April 24: The Palestinian Quest for Statehood After Oslo [Smith, 433-479; Said 239-244]

[“A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm”]

Thurs. April 26: The Second Intifada & The Apartheid Wall [Smith, 480-541]

[PASSIA Wall Page: <http://www.passia.org/links-Wall.htm>]

THE FINAL EXAM IS TUESDAY, May 1, 3:30-6:00 PM