



Rothberg International School
בית הספר לתלמידים מחו"ל ע"ש רוטברג
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים



Department of Summer Courses
and Special Programs

המחלקה לקורסי קיץ
ותוכניות מיוחדות

The History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (48499)

Summer Semester: June 28 – July 22, 2021
45 academic hours | 3 academic credits

Instructor: Dr. Menahem Merhavy
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Tentative Syllabus

Course Description and Objectives

In this course we are going to deal with some of the pivotal events in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the early twentieth century to the present. The evolution of the conflict between Arab states, the Palestinians and the Zionist movement, the Arab-Israeli wars and the peace negotiations and treaties between Israel, Egypt Jordan and the Palestinian national movement, are some of the main themes in this course.

We will learn of the complexity of the conflict, the role of the conflict with Israel in intra-Arab relations, as well as the development of the Palestinian national movement from its inception, its relations with Arab countries, as well as its division between PLO and Hamas. Beyond discussions, the course will include panels and historical “trials” where students will present the case of conflicting views on the events they have learned about.

Course Requirements

- ***Class attendance and participation.***
- ***Preparation of bibliography for class discussion and submission of analytical paper.***

It is mandatory for all students to attend classes, guest lectures, field trips, etc. Failure to attend classes will result in a student being denied the right to partake of the final assignment and receive a final grade in a course. Students who have a justified reason to miss a class (illness, mourning, etc.) must communicate with their instructors and the Department of Summer Courses and Special Programs, and complete the material that they have missed. Students who have missed classes due to illness must obtain a signed and stamped sick-note from a treating physician and submit it to the Dept. of Summer Courses and Special Programs immediately following their return. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence. The Department reserves the right to refer the issue to an Academic Committee. In some cases, the Academic Committee may decide, in light of the requirements of the course, that it is not possible to make

up for the missing course work.

The course will also include a field trip where students will visit the sites where history becomes reality.

Weekly reading assignments; classroom discussions, analytical paper.

Final Grade Breakdown:

- 15% - Short paper
- 85% - Final exam

Course Outline

Class 1

Background, history and national mythology

Readings:

- R. J. Zwi Werblowsky. *Jerusalem: Center of Three Monotheistic Faiths*
The meaning of Jerusalem to Jews, Christians and Muslims Overseas **library E114 W484; Main library DS 119.9 W47**
(Jerusalem: Israel Universities Study Group for Middle Eastern Affairs, 1983).
- Theodor Herzl, *The Jewish State* (1896) **Overseas library 933.612 H582; Main library DS 149 H514**

Class 2 -3

The British Mandate

Readings:

- Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: the story of the Palestinian struggle for statehood*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006). Chapter 2. **Overseas library E329.4 K45; E-book**
- Hillel Cohen, *Year Zero of the Arab-Israeli Conflict 1929*, (Waltham, Massachusetts: Brandeis University Press 2015), ch. 2, pp. 59-121. **Overseas library E329.2 C678; E-book**
- Benny Morris, *1948: a history of the first Arab-Israeli war*, (New Haven [Conn.]: Yale University Press, 2008), ch. 2 – "The UN Steps In." **Overseas library E325.21 M875; E-book**

Documents to read:

- The McMahon Letter (1915)
- The Balfour Declaration (1917)
- The General Syrian Congress (1919)
- Peel Commission Report (1937)

Class 4

The War in 1948 and its aftermath

Readings:

- Gudrun Krämer, *A history of Palestine*, ch. 12, pp. 296-323. **Overseas library E95 P891; ERESERVE**

- Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: the story of the Palestinian struggle for statehood*, (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006), ch. 4, pp. 105-139. **Overseas library E329.4 K45; E-book**

Class 5-6

1967 and its Aftermath

Readings:

- Moshe Shemesh, Arab politics, Palestinian nationalism, and the Six Day War: the crystallization of Arab strategy and Nasir's descent to war, 1957-1967, (Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 2008), ch. 1 (pp. 1-26). **Main library DS 127 S485 2008; ERESERVE**
- Avraham Sela, *The decline of the Arab-Israeli conflict: Middle East politics and the quest for regional order*, (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1998), ch. 6, pp. 97-106. **Overseas library ME320.9 S464; E-book**

Documents to read:

- Nasser Resignation Broadcast (1967)
- UN Security Council 242 (1967)
- PNC National Charter (1968)

Class 7-8

Histories and Narratives

Readings:

- Jawad, Saleh Abdel. 2006. "The Arab and Palestinian Narratives of the 1948 War" in in *Israeli and Palestinian Narratives of Conflict: History's Double Helix*, edited by Robert I. Rotberg. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 72-105. **Overseas library E327.56 R842; ERESERVE**
- Rashid Khalidi, *The formation of Palestinian Identity: The Critical Years 1917-1923*, in *Palestinian Identity*, New York: Columbia University Press, 1997, ch. 7, pp. 145-175. **Overseas library E320.9(A) K45; E-book**
- Meir Litvak, *constructing a national past: the Palestinian case*, in *Palestinian collective memory and national identity*, New York City, NY: Palgrave-Macmillan, 2009, ch. 4, pp. 97-133. **Overseas library E301.35(A) L782; ERESERVE**

Documents to read:

- Fatah: The Seven Points (1969)

Class 9

Field Trip: 1948 -1967 in and around Jerusalem

Class 10

1973 and the Beginning of Peace Talks

Readings:

- Avraham Sela, *The decline of the Arab-Israeli conflict*, ch. 8, pp. 133-150. **Overseas library ME320.9 S464; E-book**
- Itamar Rabinovich, *Waging peace: Israel and the Arabs, 1948-2003*, (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2004), ch. 2. **Overseas library E327.172 R116; E-book**

Class 11

The Palestinian National Movement, from Armed Struggle to Peace Talks

Readings:

- Meir Litvak, The Islamization of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict: the case of Hamas, Middle Eastern Studies 34:1 (1998), pp. 148-163. **E-journal**
- Shaul Mishal and Avraham Sela, The Palestinian Hamas: vision, violence, and coexistence, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), ch. 1. **Overseas library 297.19 M678; E-book.**

Class 12

Final Exam