

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
Department of History

HSTR 378 A01
History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
subject to change

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MAC D115
MR 1000-120

Course Outline: The subject of this course is the struggle over Palestine/Israel, from the origins of Zionism in the late 19th century to the negotiated agreements that emerged from the Oslo peace process of the 1990s. Major themes to be discussed include: the Ottoman legacy; the structures of British colonialism; the processes of ~~building~~ and statebuilding; the role played by regional and international actors; the broader context of socioeconomic changes; the mobilization of religious groups; and, the possibilities (such as they are at present) for ~~reconciliation~~ ~~reconciliation~~. In discussing these and other themes, close attention will be paid to historiographical issues.

We will also be closely following current events. In frequent, if not regular, ~~group~~ ~~group~~ discussions, students will be required to present and assess articles from the internet and the printed media, as well as participate, thoughtfully and respectfully, in a thorough discussion and analysis of current affairs.

Texts: There are two required texts for the course: Charles D Smith, Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents; Amos Oz, In the Land of Israel; and, Raja Shehadeh, Palestinian Walks. Other readings are available on CourseSpace (pursuant to the fair dealing guidelines).

Evaluation:

MAIN TOPICS and READINGS

- Week 1. (7-10 Jan) 1. Introductions.
2. Historical Overview.
2. (14-17 Jan) The Rise of Zionism / Ottoman Palestine.
Required reading Smith, ch 1
On coursespace G. Shafir, Land, Labour and Origins (excerpts)
Recommended M. Bunton, A Very Short Introduction
3. (21-24 Jan) WW1 and the Postwar Settlement.
Required reading Smith, ch2.
On coursespace Jonathan Schneer, The Balfour Declaration (excerpts)
4. (28-31 Jan) Mandate Palestine.
Required reading Smith, ch3.
5. (4-7 Feb) The War for Palestine, 1947-1949.
Required reading Smith, ch 4
On coursespace A. Shlaim, "Israel and the Arab Coalition in 1948"; R. Khalidi, "The Palestinians and 1948"; A. Shavit, "Survival of the Fittest".
6. (11-14 Feb) Regionalization of Conflict, I: WW2-1967.
Required reading Smith, chapters 5-6.
7. (18-21 Feb) READING BREAK
8. (25-28 Feb) Regionalization of the Conflict, II: 1967-1987.
Required reading Smith, chs 7-8.
9. (4-7 Mar) Israelis, 1947-1987.
Required reading Smith, chs 8-9.
On coursespace Amos Oz, In the Land of Israel
10. (11-14 Mar) Palestinians, 1947-1987.
Required reading Smith, chs 8-9; Caplan chs 8-9.
On coursespace G. Robinson, Building a Palestinian State (excerpts)
11. (18-21 Mar) "Peace Process" Negotiations/Breakdowns, 1987-1993.
Required reading Smith, chs 10-11.
On coursespace Raja Shehadeh, Palestinian Walks
12. (25-28 Mar) "Peace Process" Negotiations/Breakdowns, 1987-1993.
Video: Shattered Dreams DS119.76 S457
13. (14 Apr) Exam Review

