

HIST 216: *Israel/Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*

Instructor: David Stenner

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Office hours:	Tue 11:00am-12:15pm; Wed 9:00-10:30am; Thu 11:00am-12:15pm
Class days and times:	T&R 3:00-4:15pm
Classroom:	MCM 216

Course Description:

This course studies the history of a land claimed by two peoples. It is a history of contradictions: both straightforward and rife with nuance; full of moments of hope and catastrophe, cultural fusion and racial hierarchies, resistance and collaboration, optimism and despair. We begin our intellectual journey with the rise of Jewish nationalism (Zionism) and the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire during the 19th century and conclude with contemporary debates on the (im-) possibility of an equitable solution for the Holy Land. We will not primarily focus on armed conflicts, but on the daily experiences of regular women and men living in the region; Jews, Muslim, and Christians will all be part of a single narrative that tells the story of a land and its inhabitants.

In addition to learning about the history of Israel/Palestine, you will also be introduced to historical methodology. What do historians do? What is historiography? And why does all of this matter to us today? These are some of the questions we will be addressing by analyzing not only primary sources and academic scholarship, but also fiction literature such as novels and poems. Moreover, we will engage with the vast cinematography dedicated to this conflict: documentaries, dramas, and even an animated film allow us to truly immerse ourselves in the region and thereby better understand its people. Finally, you will become better writers: throughout the course, you will analyze interactions between different cultures through a number of writing assignments.

Required Books:

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006) [ISBN-13: 978-0521683159]

Ghassan Kanafani, *Men in the Sun and Other Palestinian Stories* (New York: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999 [1962]) ISBN-13: 978-0894108570

Readings available through the course website [CW]

Grading:

20% essay #1 (29 February @ 7pm)

30% essay #2 (due 28 April @ 4:30pm)

20% online exam (9 April, 3:00-4:15pm)

30% in-class writing responses

Week 1: Palestine Before Zionism

1/14: Course Introduction

1/16: Ottoman Palestine

Readings:

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, p. 1-34. [CW]

Week 2: The Emergence of Zionism

1/21: Anti-Semitism and Jewish Nationalism

1/23: Settling the Holy Land

Film Clips: *1913: Seeds of Conflict* (2015), dir. Ben Loeterman

Readings:

Primary source selection: Leon Pinsker's *Auto-Emancipation* (1882); Theodor Herzl's *The Jewish State* (1896) and *Who Fears a State?* (1898); The Basel Program (1897). [CW]

Salim Tamari, *Mountain against the Sea* (Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2008), pp. 71-92. [CW]

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, p. 35-61.

Week 3: The End of the Ottomans

Day 1/28: World War I

Film Clips: *1913: Seeds of Conflict* (2015), dir. Ben Loeterman

Day 1/30: Creating Palestine

Film Clips: *Bundayim* (2012), dir. Eran Torbiner

Readings:

Primary Source: *The Resolution of the General Syrian Congress* (1919) [CW]

Salim Tamari, *Year of the Locust: A Soldier's Diary and the Erasure of Palestine's Ottoman Past* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011), pp. 3-26 & 91-160. [CW]

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, p. 61-90.

Week 4: The Mandate

Day 2/4: The Yishuv

Film Clips: *Avoda* (1935), dir. Helmar Lerski

Day 2/6: Arab Resistance

Readings:

Primary Sources: Ze'ev Jabotinsky's *The Iron Wall* (1923); Arab Office, *The Arab Case for Palestine* (1946); and Martin Buber, *The Case for a Binational State* (1947) [CW]

Salim Tamari, *Mountain against the Sea* (Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2008), pp. 133-49. [CW]

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, pp. 90-116.

Week 5: 1948

2/11: Independence

Film Clips: *1948: Creation & Catastrophe* (2017), dir. Andy Trimlett

2/13: Nakba

Film Clips: *The Diaries of Yosef Nachmani* (2006), dir. Dalia Karpel

Readings:

Radwa Ashour, *The Woman from Tantoura: A Palestinian Novel* (Cairo: American University in Cairo Press, 2014), pp. 1-64. [CW]

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, p. 116-140.

Week 6: Making Israel

2/18: The Military Regime

2/20: Jews from Muslim Lands

Film Clips: *The Ancestral Sin* (2017), dir. David Deri

Readings:

Leena Dallahseh, “Persevering through Colonial Transition: Nazareth’s Palestinian Residents after 1948,” *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 2 (Winter 2016), pp. 8-23. [CW]

Jacqueline Kahanoff, “Bridge to the Oriental Immigrants,” in Behar and Ben-Dor, *Modern Middle Eastern Jewish Thought* (Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2013), pp. 205-212. [CW]

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, p. 141-182.

Week 7: 1967—The Year that Changed Everything

2/25: Black Power and Palestine: Transnational Countries of Color

(Guest Lecture by Dr. Michael Fischbach, Randolph-Macon College)

2/27: Challenging Ashkenazi Hegemony

Film Clips: *Forget Baghdad* (2002), dir. Samir

Readings:

CIA Report: *Problems behind the battle lines* (1972) [CW]

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, pp. 183-198 & & 210-211.

Week 8: From Secular to Religious Zionism

3/10: “Greater Israel”: The Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza

3/12: The Settler Movement

Film Clips: *The Settlers* (2016), dir. Shimon Dotan

Readings:

Amos Oz, *In the Land of Israel* (New York Vintage Books, 1984), pp. 103-123.

Ghassan Kanafani, “Returning to Haifa” in *Palestine’s Children* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2000 [1969]) [CW]

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, p. 198-202.

Week 9: Palestinian Resistance

3/17: The PLO

Film Clips: *Terror in the Promised Land* (1978), dir. Malcolm Clarke

3/19: The “Peace Process”

Film Clips: *Matzpen* (2003), dir. Eran Torbiner

Readings:

Ghassan Kanafani, *Men in the Sun* (1962)

Primary Sources: *Yasir Arafat’s Address to the UN General Assembly* (1974) & *Response to Arafat’s Address* (1973) [CW]

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, p. 202-209 & 212-219.

Week 10: The End of the Zionist Consensus

3/24: The Lebanese Civil War

Film Clips: *Waltz with Bashir* (2008), dir. Ari Folman

3/26: From the Intifada to the Oslo Peace Treaty

Film Clips: *Stories from the Intifada* (2014), dir. Mariam Shahin

Readings:

David Grossman, *The Yellow Wind* (1987), pp. 65-89, 145-74, 188-96. [CW]

Primary Sources: *Communiqué No. 1 of the Intifada* (1988); *Leaflet No. 1 of the Islamic Resistance Movement* (1988); *The West Bank Rises Up* (1988). [CW]

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, p. 219-252.

Week 11: The Second Intifada

3/31: “Mowing the Lawn”

Film Clips: *Death in Gaza* (2004), dir. James Miller

4/2: **NO CLASS** due to conference travel

Readings:

Breaking the Silence, *Soldiers’ Testimonies from the South Hebron Hills (2000-2008)*, pp 3-5, 8-11, 15-18, 24-33. [CW]

Ilan Pappé, *A History of Modern Palestine*, p. 253-298.

Week 12: The Post-Peace Generation

4/7: Protesting Neoliberal Israel

Film Clips: “Daniel Gutwein and Pirates of the welfare state,” episode #3 from the TV Mini-Series, *Magash Ha’keseif* [The Silver Platter] (2015), dir. Doron Tsabari and Amir Ben-David

4/9: **ONLINE EXAM**

Readings:

Ari Shavit, *My Promised Land: The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel* (New York: Spiegel & Grau, 2013), chs. 5, 12 & 14-15. [CW]

David N. Myers, "The failed promise of Ari Shavit's 'My Promised Land,'" *Jewish Journal* (December 25, 2019) [CW]

Week 13: Living Under Occupation

4/14: Resistance and Collaboration

Film Clips: *Omar* (2013), dir. Hany Abu-Assad

4/16: The Separation Barrier Wall

Readings:

Eyal Weizman, *Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation* (London: Verso, 2007), pp. 111-182. [CW]

Beshara Doumani, "Scenes from Daily Life: The View from Nablus," *Journal of Palestine Studies* Vol. XXXIV, No. 1 (Autumn 2004): 37-50. [CW]

Week 14: The Holy Land in the 21st Century

4/21: Israel: Ethno-nationalism, Resistance, and Apathy

Film Clips: *Israel vs. Israel* (2010), dir. Terje Carlsson

4/23: Palestine: Fracture and Despair

Film Clips: *Slingshot Hip-Hop* (2008), dir. Jackie Reem Salloum

Readings:

Leila Farsakh, "The One-State Solution and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Palestinian Challenges and Prospects," *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 65, No. 1, Winter 2011, pp. 55-71 [CW]

Omar Barghouti, *Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: The Struggle for Palestinian Civil Rights* (Chicago: Haymarket, 2011), pp. 49-62. [CW]

David N. Myers, "Why I Oppose a Boycott, Mostly," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, March 16, 2014. [CW]