

Course Title: The Gun and the Olive Branch: Times of War and Peace in Israel and Palestine (OLLI, UC Berkeley)

Instructor: Marwan Daoud Hanania, Ph.D.

Dates, Duration, and Times: The course starts on Tuesday, September 17, and ends on Tuesday, October 22. Classes meet for 6 weeks every Tuesday, 1.5 hours per session (1:30-3 PM).

Note About Live Attendance and Recording:

This course will be taught live, online. Class sessions will be recorded.

Course Description:

This course examines modern Israeli and Palestinian history in a nuanced manner relying on multiple sources and modes of study. We will go back to the origins of Arab-Jewish co-existence and conflict. We will then present the key events defining Arab-Jewish relations (and, later, Palestinian-Israeli tensions) from the late 19th century to the present. We will explore a variety of topics, including the inception of Zionism, the movement of populations into and between areas of the Middle East, the rise of Palestinian nationalism, the establishment of the State of Israel, the 1948 and 1967 wars, the Palestinian refugee crisis, the first Intifada, the Madrid Peace Conference, the Oslo Accords and Oslo Peace Process, the second Intifada, and the current conflict in Israel and Palestine.

Calendar of Topics:

Tuesday September 17th

Syllabus Review, Paper Review, Nuts and Bolts
Political Geography of the Middle East and of Israel/Palestine
Why is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict important and difficult to resolve?
Different approaches to studying the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Middle East
Judaism, Christianity, and Islam's ties to Israel/Palestine
The Jewish Diaspora:
 Historical overview
 Integration, segregation, and persecution
 Geographical distribution
Palestine under the Ottoman Empire:
 Historical Background
 State Policy
 Reform

Religion, Culture and Society
Economy

Tuesday September 24th

Zionism and the Zionist Movement, 1870-1914
Origin and Development of Zionism
Major Ideas
Palestinian and Arab Nationalism, 1870-1914
Organization
Major Ideas
Early Reactions to Zionism/Palestinian and Arab Nationalism
Preview WWI and Beyond

Tuesday October 1st

World War I, the Post-War Settlement, and the Mandate for Palestine:
Palestinian and Arab nationalism
Sykes-Picot Agreement
Husayn-McMahon Correspondence
Balfour Declaration
Military outcomes of WWI
The creation of the post-war mandatory system
The British Mandate
Palestinian Leadership and Politics
Zionist Leadership and Politics
Factors leading to the Arab Revolt
Impact of the Arab Revolt
British Policy after 1939
The Middle East during World War II
The Legacy of the Holocaust
The UN Partition Plan
The Arab-Jewish Civil War
The Establishment of the State of Israel
The 1947-1949 Wars (the Arab-Jewish Civil War and the Arab-Israeli War, both popularly known as the 1948 War)
The Palestinian Refugee Crisis
The Impact of 1948 on Israeli and Palestinian Collective Memory
Debate about Reasons for Palestinian Flight and Responsibility for the Refugee Crisis

Tuesday October 8th

Israel and Palestinian-Israelis
The Rise of Nasser and Pan-Arab Nationalism
The Suez Conflict of 1956
Pan-Arabism: Successes and Failures

The Establishment of the PLO and Fatah
Israeli Politics to 1967
Superpower Rivalries and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Causes and Events Leading to the 1967 War
Major Military Events and Short-term Results
Outcomes: Territory, Refugees and a Changed Regional and International Political Landscape
The Khartoum Conference
UN Security Council Resolution 242
Long-Term Impact of the 1967 War
The Battle of Karameh and the Rise of Fatah
The Jordanian-Palestinian Civil Conflict of 1970-1971
Israel, the PLO and Lebanon
Cold War Diplomacy
The 1973 War
Israeli and Palestinian Tactics and Strategies, 1968-1987
The conflict in Lebanon and its relationship to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, 1975-2006
The Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty and its Impact on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
The West Bank under Israeli Occupation
Israel and the PLO after Lebanon
The Tail-End of the Cold War

Tuesday October 15th

The First Intifada: Roots, Events, Consequences
The First Gulf War and its Impact on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
The Madrid Talks
The Oslo Accords
The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement (Oslo 2)
Palestinian Opposition to Oslo
Israeli Opposition to Oslo
The Camp David Negotiations
The Taba Discussions
Reasons for Failure and Differing Interpretations

Tuesday October 22nd

Causes of the Second Intifada
Major Events and Consequences of the Second Intifada
The Separation Barrier and the Consolidation of Settlements
Israeli Disengagement from Gaza
The Annapolis Conference
Israeli Invasions of Gaza
The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Today:
 Major issues and sources of disagreement
 Internal Israeli Divisions

Internal Palestinian Divisions
The role of the US and other powers
The Impact of the Arab Spring and Regional Conflicts
COVID-19
The Abraham Accords
Israel, Hamas, and Fatah
Recent Events in Israel and Palestine (2022-2023; October 7th, 2023; the War since then)

Textbook I recommend (I will also send you some recommended readings once the course starts):

Charles Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents* (any edition, but the more recent the better)