

UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA  
Department of History

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

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CLE B223  
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MAC D115  
MR 1000-1120

**Course Outline:** The subject of this course is the struggle over Palestine/Israel, from the origins of Zionism in the late 19<sup>th</sup> 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 nation-building and state-building; the role played by regional and international actors; the broader context of socio-economic changes; the mobilization of religious groups; and, the possibilities (such as they are at present) for 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, small-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 CourseSpaces (pursuant to the fair dealing guidelines).

<b>Evaluation:</b>	Research assignment (4 <sup>th</sup> March)	40%
	Final Exam (in exam session)	45%
	Participation	15%

- *Students are expected to attend all classes and to keep up with the readings.*
- *Students are required to observe strict standards of academic integrity. The history department has the authority to enforce penalties for plagiarism or cheating of any kind.*

## 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 coursespaces: 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, ch 2.  
On coursespaces: Jonathan Schneer, *The Balfour Declaration* (excerpts).
4. (28-31 Jan) **Mandate Palestine.**  
Required reading: Smith, ch 3.
5. (4-7 Feb) **The War for Palestine, 1947-1949.**  
Required reading: Smith, ch 4.  
On coursespaces: 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 coursespaces: 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 coursespaces: G. Robinson, *Building a Palestinian State* (excerpts)
11. (18-21 Mar) **"Peace Process": Negotiations/Breakdowns, 1987-1993.**  
Required reading: Smith, chs 10-11.  
On coursespaces: Raja Shehadeh, *Palestinian Walks*.
12. (25-28 Mar) **"Peace Process": Negotiations/Breakdowns, 1987-1993.**  
Video: Shattered Dreams DS119.76 S457
13. (1-4 Apr) **Exam Review.**

History 378 A01 Spring 2019  
History of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict  
RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

*What am I looking for?* Rather than simply describing an event, or policy, or personality, the aim of this written assignment should be to present and defend a thesis or argument. Construct a how? or why? question: Why is this event significant? How have historians come to understand the significance of this event? Or compare and contrast developments, policies, etc. You will be required to demonstrate basic historical skills: reading a wide variety of sources from the library; weighing the evidence with care; constructing an argument and supporting it with proper citation of references; etc.

- Your papers should be approximately 10-12 pages long (typed and double-spaced), and should have a single cohesive thesis.
- Footnotes and bibliography are required (this is a research essay!)
- Due 4th March (in class). In the interest of fairness to others, late papers will be penalised (unless other arrangements are made).
- Students must sign up on a sheet provided in the second week of class, and hand in by the 4<sup>th</sup> February a single page outlining the historical question being addressed, proposing ways of structuring the assignment, and including a bibliography of the major sources being used.

1. 1897-1917

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2. 1917-1937

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3. 1937-1947

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4. 1947-1967

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5. 1967-1987

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6. 1987-present?

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