UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
Department of History

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

Dr. Martin Bunton                      MAC D115
CLE B223                   MR 1000-1120
Office Hours: Wed, Thurs 230-330pm, or by appointment.
mbunton@uvic.ca

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 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).

Evaluation: Research assignment (4th 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.
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.  
Recommended: M. Bunton, A Very Short Introduction  

3. (21-24 Jan)  
WW1 and the Postwar Settlement.  
Required reading: Smith, ch 2.  

4. (28-31 Jan)  
Mandate Palestine.  
Required reading: Smith, ch 3.  

5. (4-7 Feb)  
Required reading: Smith, ch 4.  

6. (11-14 Feb)  
Required reading: Smith, chapters 5-6.  

7. (18-21 Feb)  
READING BREAK  

8. (25-28 Feb)  
Required reading: Smith, chs 7-8.  

9. (4-7 Mar)  
Required reading: Smith, chs 8-9.  
On coursespaces: Amos Oz, In the Land of Israel.  

10. (11-14 Mar)  
Required reading: Smith, chs 8-9; Caplan chs 8-9.  
On coursespaces: G. Robinson, Building a Palestinian State (excerpts)  

11. (18-21 Mar)  
Required reading: Smith, chs 10-11.  
On coursespaces: Raja Shehadeh, Palestinian Walks.  

12. (25-28 Mar)  
Video: Shattered Dreams DS119.76 S457  

13. (1-4 Apr)  
Exam Review.
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 4th 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
   _______ _______

2. 1917-1937
   _______ _______

3. 1937-1947
   _______ _______

4. 1947-1967
   _______ _______

5. 1967-1987
   _______ _______

6. 1987-present?
   _______ _______