SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-2019

HI4025 – SPECIAL SUBJECT
HISTORY OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

30 CREDITS: 11 WEEKS

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:
The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure. You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR
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TIMETABLE
For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen

Students can view their university timetable at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course aims to provide an historical survey of the development and evolution of what is commonly referred to as the Arab-Israeli conflict. It examines the origins of the Arab-Israeli conflict in an attempt to place it in its historical context, while tracing its developments from multiple angles in order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamic that constitutes ‘the conflict’. The period under examination covers defining moments of the history of the conflicts from the establishment of the Jewish community in Palestine the so-called Old Yishuv, through the subsequent history of the State of Israel from 1948 until the present. The course also explores several contemporary dimensions of the conflict, including the rise of Hamas, the Oslo Accords and the position of Israel in the wider Middle Eastern political context.

The course aims at developing analytical skills to frame the Palestine-Israel conflict based on objective analysis. We will study how to interpret historical developments and evaluate events that not only transformed the geography and politics of the region but also shaped the identities of both Palestinians and Israelis.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The course aims to promote:
• A critical understanding of the historiographical debates on the Arab-Israeli conflict;
• An ability to apply concepts and principals to the main debates on ‘1948’;
• An informed understanding of the contending explanations for the causes of the Arab-Israeli wars after 1948;
• A systematic understanding of how and why an Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian peace process developed in the 1970s and 1980s;
• Comprehensive analytical skills through the study of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

1. Introduction: 2018 Gaza borders protest
2. Narratives, memories, histories of Palestinians and Israelis
3. Late Ottoman Palestine: origins of Arab Nationalism and Zionism
4. World War I: Sykes Picot and the Balfour Declaration
5. The British Mandate of Palestine: the Arab Revolt
6. 1948: Palestine’s Nakba and Israel’s War of Independence
7. Israel between 1948 and 1967: the making of Israeli society, the question of Middle Eastern Jews and the birth of the PLO
8. From war to war: the Sixth Day War and the Yom Kippur War
10. The Oslo Accords (1993): the context of the peace process, Rabin’s assassination to the second Intifada and the collapse of the peace process
11. Israel: Apartheid State or the only democracy in the Middle East? The debate on the “end of the two state solution”

GENERAL READING LIST:

- Simha Flapan, *The Birth of Israel: Myths and Realities* (1988) (tutor also has a copy).
• Peter Mansfield, *A History of the Middle East* (1992)
• Beverley Milton-Edwards, *Conflicts in the Middle East since 1945* (2001)
• Benny Morris, *1948 and After: Israel and the Palestinians* (1994)
• Benny Morris, *The Road to Jerusalem* (2002)
• Ilan Pappe, *The Israel/Palestine Question* (1999)
• Charles Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (1996)

**Articles, useful chapters and articles:**


• Review by Norman Finkelstein entitled ‘How the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 gave birth to a memorial industry’ in the London Review of Books, 6 January 2000 of Peter Novick’s The Holocaust in American Life. The library takes this journal.


• Matthew Hughes, Institute of Historical Research online Reviews in History (September 2000 review of Avi Shlaim’s Iron Wall at http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/paper/hughesMat2.html and September 2001 review of Shlaim and Rogan’s, War for Palestine at http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/paper/hughesMatthew.html.

• Matthew Hughes, ‘Lebanon’s Armed Forces and the Arab-Israeli War, Journal of Palestine Studies (Winter 2005), 24-41. Copy in tutor’s office or e-journals gateway.


• Y Laor, ‘You are Terrorists, We are Virtuous’, *London Review of Books* (17 August 2006), pp.11-12. Copy in tutor’s office or available through library. Critique of Israel’s relationship to its army.


• John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt, ‘The Israel Lobby’, *London Review of Books*, 23 March 2006. Anyone interested in the debate on the effect of the ‘Israel lobby’ in the USA should read this. A copy is available from the tutor’s office. It is an abridged version of a longer article that can be found at [www.ssrn.com](http://www.ssrn.com) or [http://web.hks.harvard.edu/publications/workingpapers/](http://web.hks.harvard.edu/publications/workingpapers/) and put in Mearsheimer under paper author search. The letters in response to this article, including a long one from Alan Dershowitz, can be found in the *London Review of Books* (20 April 2006) (copy also available from tutor’s office).

• Melanie Phillips versus Avi Shlaim debate on ‘Zionism Today is the Real Enemy of the Jews’ of January 2005 at http://www.melaniephillips.com/diary/archives/001020.html and click on the two hyper links at the bottom of Ms Phillips’ page to see the texts of Phillips’ and Shlaim’s speeches.
- Avi Shlaim, ‘The War of the Israeli Historians’, copy of a lecture by Shlaim on the historiographical debate. Copy available from tutor’s office or see http://users.ox.ac.uk/~ssfc0005/The%20War%20of%20Israel%20Histories.html
- Torre Tingvold Petersen, review article entitled ‘How not to stand up to Arabs and Israelis’ in *International History Review*, September 2003. In 2B collection.

**Websites and newspapers:**
- Matthew Hughes, September 2000 review of Avi Shlaim’s *Iron Wall* in IHR *Reviews in History* series go to http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/reviewer.html#h
- Matthew Hughes, September 2001 review of Shlaim and Rogan’s, *War for Palestine* in IHR *Reviews in History* series go to http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/reviewer.html#h
• Benny Morris, ‘Peace? No chance’, from the Guardian, 21 February 2002 at http://www.guardian.co.uk/g2/story/0,3604,653417,00.html
• Avi Shlaim, ‘A Betrayal of History’, from the Guardian, 22 February 2002 at http://www.guardian.co.uk/g2/story/0,3604,653992,00.html
• Avi Shlaim, ‘Ariel Sharon promised peace with security and has decidedly failed to deliver either…’, Times Higher Education Supplement, 26 April 2002, pp.18-19 (good summary of the peace talks of the 1990s).
• For ‘New-Old’ Historiography also try www.thenewrepublic.com

Videos
• Israel and the Arabs: Fifty Years War (1998). This is a set of six programmes recorded on three videos that preceded the publication of Ahron Bregman and Jihan El-Tahri’s The Fifty Years War (1998) book that accompanied the series. This is in the library. This is worth watching.
• Israel and the Arabs (BBC2 2005)

ASSESSMENT
Assessment is based on one three-hour degree examination counting 100% towards the final grade. The degree examination will be held in December. The purpose of the examination is to test your ability to analyse and synthesise material covered in the course. During the examination you will write on two essay questions and two gobbets.

FORMATIVE COURSEWORK
You are required to submit a short essay (about 1500 words) and a written gobbet exercise (about 1000 words), which is a primary source analysis. The essay and gobbet exercise help in the development of analytical and writing skills necessary for the successful completion of the exam.

Gobbet Exercise (about 1000 words)
The deadline for submission is Wednesday, 3 October (week 4), by 3pm. Students will be provided with a choice of primary sources and guidelines on working with primary sources (on MyAberdeen) at the beginning of the course. Gobbet exercises will be returned individually with a mark taken from the CGS scale and written comments. The scholarly apparatus used (bibliography and referencing style) should conform to the History Department Referencing Guide available on MyAberdeen.
Short Essay (about 1500 words)
The deadline for submission is Wednesday, 7 November (week 9), by 3pm. Students will frame questions of their choice after consultation with the course coordinator. Essays will be returned individually with a mark taken from the CGS scale and written comments. Before starting your essay, consult the section on essay-writing in the Department’s Student Guidelines. The scholarly apparatus used (bibliography and referencing style) should conform to the History Department Referencing Guide available on MyAberdeen.

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to MyAberdeen- Organisations-Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

PLEASE NOTE: In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will normally be provided within three working weeks (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Gobbet exercise: Wednesday, 3 October (week 4), by 3pm.
Essay: Wednesday, 7 November (week 9), by 3pm.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS
Submit one paper copy with a completed essay cover sheet to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one official electronic copy to TurnitinUK via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Paper Copy: One paper copy, typed and double spaced, together with an Assessment cover sheet – this should have your ID number clearly written on the cover sheet, with NO name or signature but EVERYTHING ELSE completed, including tutor’s name – and should be delivered to the drop boxes in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds.
Electronic Copy: One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen.
(for instructions please see http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/)
Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 HI4025 Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. HI4025 Essay 1.

Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK, and an identical paper copy, will result in a deduction of marks.
Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

EXAMINATION
Information on how the examination paper will be structured, if necessary, such as how many questions, etc. General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook.

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/.

PLEASE NOTE: Candidates whose first language is not English may refer to English/native tongue dictionaries, when permitted by their Schools to do so. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted in the examination venue. Invigilators are entitled to request inspection of dictionaries prior to the examination, thumbing through them to check that there is no extra written material present.