

Professor Samuel Fleischacker  
Philosophy Department  
University Hall 1407  
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Spring, 2012  
UIC Course Number: 28701  
LCA A005

Office Hours: TR 11-12 or by  
appointment

**Philosophy 230:**  
**Philosophical Issues in the Israel-Palestine Conflict**

Books: Hans Kohn, *Nationalism*  
Bickerton/Klausner, *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*  
Chaim Gans, *A Just Zionism*  
Sari Nusseibeh, *What is a Palestinian State Worth?*

Plus a packet of readings (marked as "P" on the syllabus)

Recommended: Mark Tessler, *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

**1 (January 10<sup>th</sup>). Introduction**

**2 (January 12<sup>th</sup>). Introduction – National Identity**

Reading: Sand, *The Invention of the Jewish People*, Introduction, pp.1-22 (P)  
Bickerton/Klausner, Introduction

**3 (January 17<sup>th</sup>). History of Nationalism I**

Reading: Kohn, pp.9-53  
Bickerton/Klausner, chapter 1

**4 (January 19<sup>th</sup>). History of Nationalism II**

Reading: Kohn, pp.54-91

**5 (January 24<sup>th</sup>). History of Nationalism III**

Reading: Hobsbawm, *Nations and Nationalism*, pp.131-62 (P)  
Bickerton/Klausner, chapter 2

**6 (January 26<sup>th</sup>). Nations as Extensions of Our Selves**

Reading: Kedourie, *Nationalism*, pp.9-50 (P)

**7 (January 31<sup>st</sup>). Nations as Imagined Communities I**

Reading: Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1-36 (P)  
Bickerton/Klausner, chapter 3

**8 (February 2<sup>nd</sup>). Nations as Imagined Communities II**

Reading: Anderson, 37-46, 67-82 (P)  
Bickerton/Klausner, chapter 4

**9 (February 7<sup>th</sup>). Summary of Scholarship on Nationalism**

Reading: Sand, pp. 23-63 (P)

**10 (February 9<sup>th</sup>). Zionism as a Nationalism**

Reading: Moses Hess, in *The Zionist Idea*, pp.119-39 (P)  
Theodor Herzl, in *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp.529-34 (P)  
*The First Buber*, pp.23-6, 30-34 (P)

Re-read Bickerton/Klausner, chapter 1

Recommended: Tessler, ch.1

**11 (February 14<sup>th</sup>). Jewish Debates over Zionism**

Reading: *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp.538-40, 571-6 (P)  
Hermann Cohen, *Reason and Hope*, pp.163-71 (P)

**12 (February 16<sup>th</sup>). Palestinian Nationalism I**

Reading: Muhammad Muslih, *Origins of Palestinian Nationalism*, pp. 11-87  
Re-read Bickerton/Klausner, chapter 1

Recommended: Tessler, ch.2

**13 (February 21<sup>st</sup>). Palestinian Nationalism II**

Reading: Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity*, pp. 63-88 (chapter 4), 145-50 (P)  
James Gelvin, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict*, pp.92-115 (P)

**14 (February 23<sup>rd</sup>) Open Discussion**

Reading: Bickerton/Klausner, chapter 2-3

Recommended: Tessler, chapter 3-4

**15 (February 28<sup>th</sup>). Defending Nationalism Today**

Reading: Margalit/Raz, "Self-Determination" (P)  
Tamir, "The Right to National Self-Determination" (P)

Recommended: Margalit/ Halbertal, "Liberalism and the Right to Culture" (P)

**16 (March 1<sup>st</sup>). A Palestinian Reponse to Tamir and Margalit**

Reading: Muhammad Khalidi, "Formulating the Right of National Self-Determination" (P)  
Bickerton/Klausner, chapter 3-4

Recommended: Tessler, chapter 5

**17 (March 6<sup>th</sup>). Property Rights I**

Reading: Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*, pp.133-46 (P)

**18 (March 8<sup>th</sup>). Property Rights II**

Reading: Hume, *Treatise of Human Nature*, pp. 484-498, 501-513 (P)

**19 (March 13<sup>th</sup>). Property Rights III**

Reading: Fleischacker, *On Adam Smith's Wealth of Nations*, pp. 174-193 (P)

**20 (March 15<sup>th</sup>). Property Rights in Ottoman Palestine**

Reading: Stein, *The Land Question in Palestine*, pp.10-34 (P)  
Shehadeh, *Occupier's Law*, p.22-36 (P)

**Spring Break**

**21 (March 27<sup>th</sup>). Rights to the Land of Israel/Palestine I**

Reading: Leibowitz, pp.229-232 (P)  
Meisels, pp.31-49 (P)

**22 (March 29<sup>th</sup>). Rights to the Land of Israel/Palestine II**

Reading: Erin McKenna, "Land, Property, and Occupation" (P)

**23 (April 3<sup>rd</sup>). Reflections on Zionism Today**

Reading: Gans, *A Just Zionism*, pp.3-51

**24 (April 5<sup>th</sup>). Open Discussion of Gans and Other Issues**

**25 (April 10<sup>th</sup>). Reflections on Zionism Today**

Reading: Gans, *A Just Zionism*, pp.52-109

**26 (April 12<sup>th</sup>). Reflections on Zionism Today**

Reading: Gans, *A Just Zionism*, pp.110-148

**27 (April 17<sup>th</sup>). Reflections on Palestinian Nationalism Today**

Reading: Nusseibeh, *What is a Palestinian State Worth?*, pp. 1-92

**28 (April 19<sup>th</sup>). Reflections on Palestinian Nationalism Today**

Reading: Nusseibeh, *What is a Palestinian State Worth?*, pp. 93-224

**29 (April 24<sup>th</sup>). Reflections on Palestinian Nationalism Today**

Reading: Nusseibeh, "What Freedom Is" (P)

**30 (April 26<sup>th</sup>). Open Discussion**

Requirements:

1) Each Tuesday, at the beginning of class, you are to submit a question on the reading. You may skip 3 Tuesdays.

2) Each Thursday, at the end of class, you are to submit a question on the lectures or class discussions of that week. You may skip 3 Thursdays.

3) Four short papers (2-3 pp.) are due on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>; April 10<sup>th</sup>, and April 26<sup>th</sup>.

4) Keep a journal, in which you record your initial view of what should happen to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict, then add comments throughout the semester as you find things that

either re-inforce or challenge your initial view, and at the end of the semester record your view, at that point, of the appropriate resolution of the conflict. A general summary of the results (3-5 pages) is to be submitted to me, along with your final paper.

**5) All electronic devices, including computers, must be turned off during class. If, for medical reasons, you need a computer to take notes, bring in a doctor's letter to that effect.**