

HST 410/510
Israel in the Eyes of the West: Parallel Narratives of the Israeli-Arab Conflict
Spring Quarter 2010
T/Th 2:00 pm – 3:50 pm

Instructor: Linda Maizels
Taught at: Portland State University
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The creation of an historical master narrative can provide the members of a collective, whether it takes the form of a nation, an identity group, or another type of corporate entity, with a way of understanding themselves and of creating a sense of communal unity and purpose. That same narrative can also be used as a tool to influence the opinions of outside observers and groups, particularly in times of crisis. In the case of both the larger Israeli-Arab conflict and the Israeli-Palestinian struggle embedded within it, the competing narratives of the conflict presented by the two sides have been instrumental in winning the support of individuals, independent groups, and governments, thereby changing and often complicating the core conflict. This course will use this idea to examine the ways in which the narratives used by Israelis and Palestinians in the public arena have influenced the countries and citizens of the Western world in their relationship to the State of Israel and how this has, in turn, influenced the conflict itself.

Students needing an accommodation should immediately inform the course instructor. Students will be referred to the Disability Resource Center (725-4150, drc@pdx.edu) to document their disability and to obtain appropriate support services.

Required Texts

- *Shared Histories: A Palestinian-Israeli Dialogue*, eds. Paul Scham, Walid Salem, Benjamin Pogrund [indicated in syllabus as “Scham”]
- Edward W. Said, *Orientalism*
- Walter Laqueur, *The Changing Face of Anti-Semitism: From Ancient Times to the Present Day*

All other required readings can be downloaded from the class website.

Primary Sources

Many of the class sessions will involve not only secondary source reading but also primary source reading. Primary sources can be downloaded from the D2L website and should be brought to class on the day they are assigned.

Requirements and Assessment

Class participation and regular attendance will help you to succeed in this course. This means that you are expected to be punctual and to remain for the entire class period. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to catch up on material with the help of one of your classmates. I will pass around an attendance sheet at every class. You are also expected to complete the assigned readings before coming to class and should be prepared to discuss those readings.

Students should be able to access D2L using an ODIN password and login. Additional reading materials, relevant websites, and instructions for all papers and assignments will be posted on the D2L class website.

Assignments will be submitted at the beginning of class on the given due date in hard copy form.

Papers sent by e-mail will not be accepted. Late papers will be penalized for every day that they

are late. Thus a "B" paper handed in two days late will receive a grade of C+. All papers not given directly to me should be placed in my box at the History Department (Cramer 441). Criteria for grading are as follows:

Participation/Attendance	10%
Three Essays (due dates listed below)	20% each (60% total)
Collaborative Research Project (8-10 pages)	30%

Extra Credit

If there are relevant extracurricular lectures or events pertaining to the subject, a student may get extra credit if he or she attends and then writes a two-page response paper on the event. Only one extra credit paper allowed per student. All events or lectures must first be cleared with the instructor to qualify for extra credit.

COURSE SCHEDULE

March 29. Introduction

Films:

- *The Road to Jenin*
- *Jenin, Jenin*

Readings: None

March 31. Parallel Narratives in Connection to Jenin

Films:

- *The Road to Jenin*
- *Jenin, Jenin*

Readings: Scham, "Introduction"

April 5. The Beginnings: Jews and Muslims

Readings: Cohen, "Islam and the Jews: Myth, Counter-Myth and History." Ye'or, "Islam and the *Dhimmis*."

Primary Sources:

- Genesis 12:1-3, 15:7, 15:18-21, 17:1-8, 17: 18-21, 23:1-20
- Koran, Sura 17, al-Isra, the Night Journey, Children of Israel
- The Pact of Umar

FIRST ESSAY ASSIGNED

April 7. Arab and Jewish Nationalisms, pt. I

Readings: Cohn-Sherbok and el-Alami, "The Zionist Movement" and "The Origins of Modern Palestine"

Primary Sources:

- Program of the League of the Arab Fatherland
- Announcement to the Arabs, Sons of Qahtan
- *Der Judenstaat (The Jewish State)*
- The Basel Program

RESEARCH PROJECT ASSIGNED

April 12: Arab and Jewish Nationalisms, pt. II

Readings: Scham, 62-91

April 14: Orientalism

Readings: Said, introduction and chapter one

Film: *Lawrence of Arabia*

FIRST ESSAY DUE**April 19: Orientalism**

Readings: Said, chapter two

Film: *Lawrence of Arabia*

April 21: Orientalism

Readings: Said, chapter three and afterword. Kramer, "Said's Splash"

Film: *Lawrence of Arabia*

April 26: World War I and between the wars

Readings: Caplan, "Arabs and Jews under the British Mandate," "Collapse of the Mandate"

Primary Sources:

- The Balfour Declaration
- The 1939 White Paper on Palestine
- Maps of the French and British Mandates

SECOND ESSAY ASSIGNED**April 28: World War I and between the wars**

Readings: Scham, 92-134

May 3: Holocaust and Antisemitism

Readings: Laqueur, chapters 1-3

Film: *Exodus*

May 5: Holocaust and Antisemitism

Readings: Laqueur, chapters 4-6

Film: *Exodus*

SECOND ESSAY DUE**May 10: Holocaust and Antisemitism**

Readings: Scham, 135-176

Film: *Exodus*

May 12: Partition

Readings: Cohn-Sherbok, "The Jewish State." Scham, 177-204

Primary Sources:

- UNSCOP's Plan of Partition with Economic Union
- Maps of Partition

May 17: 1948

Readings: El-Alami, "Toward the Establishment of a Jewish State" Scham, 205-250

Primary Sources:

- State of Israel: Proclamation of Independence
- Letter on the Position of Palestinian Refugees

THIRD ESSAY ASSIGNED**May 19: 1967**

Readings: Bickerton and Klausner, "The Turning Point: June 1967." Smith, from *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict* [selection TBA]

Primary Sources:

- UN Security Council Resolution 242
- Principles Guiding Israel's Policy in the Aftermath of the June 1967 War as Outlined by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol
- Resolutions of the Khartoum Conference
- Map of Israeli Conquests in 1967

May 24: 1967

Readings: Cohen, "Jewish Radicals and Radical Jews"

Primary Sources:

- Rosenberg, "My Evolution as a Jew"
- Kenan, "A Letter to All Good People"
- *Black Panther*, "Zionism (Kosher Nationalism) + Imperialism = Fascism"

May 26: "New Antisemitism"

Readings: Laqueur, chapters 7-11, Klug, "The Myth of the New Antisemitism"

Primary Sources:

- The Palestinian National Charter
- Hamas Charter
- Responses from Western nations

THIRD ESSAY DUE**May 31: The United Nations and Israel**

Readings: Rosenne, "Israel and the UN: Changed Perspectives, 1945-1976." Bayefsky, "The UN and the Jews." Nossel, "Israel and UN Reform."

June 2: Conclusions

Readings: None

FINAL PAPERS DUE BY 5 PM THURSDAY, JUNE 9 IN MY BOX AT THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT (CRAMER 441). WE WILL NOT BE MEETING FOR CLASS ON THIS DAY.