

JUS/HIST/MENAS/SGPP 418/518
Historiography: The Annals of the Arab Israeli Conflict
Professor Asher Susser
Stein Professor of Israel Studies

Fall 2015

Tuesdays, Thursdays 12:30 - 1:45 pm

Chavez 103

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BRIEF COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course on the historiography of the Arab Israeli Conflict will engage in a comparative analysis of the various Israeli approaches with those of their Palestinian counterparts. The course analyzes what has been learned about history, the writing of history, and how that informs the various approaches to understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course deals with key issues in the study of the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict raising a series of historical and methodological questions. The goal of the seminar is to discuss questions such as historical revision and revisionism; the use and manipulation of source material; alternating historical and ideological perspectives; historical consciousness and historical responsibility; and the manner in which all of the above are reflected in contemporary scholarship on Israel's relations with the Palestinians and the wider Arab world.

The discussion is developed through the prism of the "old" Israeli history; the evolution of the Israeli school of "New Historians" and their critics; the changes that have taken place over the years in the contours of this debate; and recent trends amongst key Palestinian historians. During the seminar, at various points, original documentation in Hebrew and Arabic (in translation) will be introduced and analyzed in conjunction with the literature.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of this course you will be able:

- 1) to identify and explain the significance of the primary sources and data relating to the Arab Israeli Conflict;
- 2) to trace the development of and recent trends among Israeli and Arab histories of the conflict;
- 3) to identify the principle Israeli and Arab historians of the conflict and their writings;
- 4) to explain the ideological underpinnings of these histories and historians;
- 5) to form and express your opinions clearly while remaining respectful of the viewpoints of others;

COURSE FORMAT

This course uses a lecture format. You are expected to complete the required readings before coming to each class. In the class, we will discuss the readings and the issues that arise from them as they relate to understanding the history and historiography of the Israeli Arab Conflict.

COURSE MATERIALS AND ADDITIONAL READINGS ARE POSTED ON D2L

All readings will be posted on the course D2L site. In addition, the syllabus and other course materials will be posted on D2L, as will be announcements about class cancellations (if necessitated by faculty illness), relevant lectures and events, and more.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Readings: You are expected to complete all required readings before class. There will be several primary documents and other readings that you will find on the course's D2L website.
2. Research Paper: You will write one research paper (15 pages) on a topic selected in consultation with the instructor. Papers must be submitted by the date to be determined. Do not submit papers in folders or plastic binders. Simply staple the pages in the upper left-hand corner. Papers should be formatted with one-inch margins and in a standard 12-point font.
3. Exams: Two exams will be given; a mid-term and a final.

HONORS CREDIT

Students wishing to contract this course for Honors Credit should email me to set up an appointment to discuss the terms of the contract and to sign the Honors Course Contract Request Form. The form is available at <http://www.honors.arizona.edu/documents/students/ContractRequestForm.pdf>

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate students enrolled in this course will complete all assignments – including enhanced reading assignments. They will write a longer and more sophisticated term paper (15-20 pages). They will meet with me at least once prior to their completing their paper. They will provide leadership in the classroom, as appropriate to their University standing.

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Grades for this course will be determined on the basis of these factors: completion of readings; class participation; demonstration of understanding of the issues, methods, and theories; and the research paper, the mid-term, and the final exam.

The research paper will account for 40% of the grade, the mid-term will account for 25% and the final exam will account for 25% of the grade, and class participation will account for 10% of the grade. Final grades will be assigned according to the following percentages.

90.0-100%	A
80.0-89.99%	B
70.0-79.99%	C
60.0-69.99%	D
59.99% and below	E

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance and Administrative Drops is available at:

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/classatten.htm>.

The UA policy regarding absences on and accommodation of religious holidays is available at

<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies-and-codes/accommodation-religious-observance-and-practice>.

Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean designee) will be honored. See: http://uhap.web.arizona.edu/chapter_7#7.04.02

UA Non-discrimination and Anti-harassment policy:
<http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at:
<http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/aaindex.html>

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at:
<http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

Requests for incompletes (I) and withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with university policies which are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/grade.htm#I> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2015-16/policies/grade.htm#W> respectively.

Copyright for Course Materials

This professor and The University of Arizona take copyright laws seriously. The professor retains the copyright for all lectures and course materials. The professor's copyright includes student notes or summaries that substantially reflect the professor's lectures or materials. These materials are made available only for personal use by students, and may not be distributed or reproduced for commercial purposes without the professor's express written consent. This does not restrict students from sharing notes on an individual basis for personal use. Violation of copyright laws is strictly forbidden by the Student Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course and/or legal sanctions.

Standards of Student Conduct

The professor encourages the use of computers in class for note-taking and class-related activities. The use of computers for email, web browsing, etc., and the use of cell phones and pagers are strictly forbidden. Students violating this rule will be asked to leave the class for the day.

Plagiarism and other forms academic misconduct are strictly forbidden according to the Student Code of Academic Integrity

(see studpubs.web.arizona.edu/policies/cacaint.htm).

Behavior that could be considered threatening is also strictly forbidden according to UofA policy (see policy.web.arizona.edu/~policy/threaten.shtml).

Special Needs and Accommodations

It is the University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on Disability Resources and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu/>.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate. In keeping with University policy I will provide reasonable accommodation of any student's religious beliefs with regard to the scheduling of examinations and other academic requirements for this course. Please consult with me at least two weeks in advance of any such scheduling issues.

The information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grading policy, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as deemed appropriate by the professor.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part I: Introductory Discussion

Week One

Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt and Margaret Jacob, *Telling the truth about History* (New York: W.W Norton, 1994), pp. 198-309.

Part II: The "Old" Israeli History and its Problems

Week Two

Lawrence Silberstein, *New perspectives on Israeli History; The Early years of the State* (New York University Press, 1991), pp. 3-23.

Shabtai Teveth, *Ben Gurion and the Palestinian Arabs* (Oxford University Press, 1985), Preface and pp. 149-201.

Week Three

Jon and David Kimche, *Both Sides of the Hill* (London: Secker and Warburg, 1960). Introduction, Chapters Six, Seven and Eleven.

David Horowitz, *State in the Making* (New York: Alfred Knopf, 1953), pp. 305-349.

Week Four

Netanel Lorch, *The Edge of the Sword; Israel's War of Independence, 1947-1949* revised ed., (Jerusalem: Massada Press, 1968), pp. 45-72; 89-100; 137-144; 331-370.

Part III: The “New” History

Week Five

Avi Shlaim, *Collusion Across the Jordan; King Abdallah, the Zionist Movement, and the Partition of Palestine* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988), pp.1-19; 513-549; 613-623.

Avi Shlaim, “The Debate about 1948,” *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies (IJMES)*, 27 (1995), pp. 287-304.

Week Six

Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949* (Cambridge University Press, 1989), pp. 61-154; 286-296.

Shabtai Teveth in *Middle Eastern Studies (MES)* (April 1990), Norman Finkelstein in *Journal of Palestine Studies (JPS)* (Autumn 1991, Winter 1992).

Benny Morris, “The New Historiography: Israel Confronts its Past,” *Tikkun* (Nov-Dec 1988), pp. 19-23, 99-102.

Benny Morris, “Revisiting the Palestinian Exodus of 1948,” in Eugene Rogan and Avi Shlaim (eds.), *The War for Palestine, Rewriting the History of 1948* (Cambridge University Press, 2001), pp. 37-59.

Mid-Term Exam, October 6, 2015

Part IV: Counter Critical Approaches and the Evolving Debate

Week Seven

Efraim Karsh, *Fabricating Israeli History; The ‘New Historians’* (London: Frank Cass, 1997), pp. 37-107.

Avraham Sela, *Middle Eastern Studies (MES)*, Vol. 28, No. 4 (October 1992), pp. 623-688.

Karsh on Morris, *Middle East Quarterly*, Vol. 6, No. 1 (March 1999); Morris on Karsh in *JPS*, Vol 27, No 2 (Winter 1998).

Week Eight

The Morris-Shlaim Exchange in *The Guardian* February 2002

Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 588-601.

Ilan Pappé, *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* (Oxford: One World, 2007), pp. 86-126.

Benny Morris, "The Liar as Hero," *The New Republic*, 17 March 2011.

Week Nine

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims; A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999* (New York: Knopf, 1999). Preface, Chapters 1, 13 and Conclusion.

Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall; Israel and the Arab World* (New York: Norton, 2000).
Preface, Prologue, Chapter 15, Epilogue

Anita Shapira, "The Past is Not a Foreign Country" in *The New Republic*, November 29, 1999, pp. 26-36.

Week Ten

Itamar Rabinovich, *The Road Not Taken; Early Arab-Israeli Negotiations* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991). Introduction, Chapter 3, Conclusion.

Avi Shlaim, "Husni Zaim and the Plan to Resettle Palestinian Refugees in Syria," *JPS* (Summer 1986), pp. 68-80.

Mary Wilson, *King Abdullah, Britain and the Making of Jordan* (Cambridge University Press, 1987), pp.199-208.

Part V: Palestinian Perspectives

Week Eleven

Issa Khalaf, *Politics in Palestine; Arab Factionalism and Social Disintegration, 1939-1948* (State University of New York Press, 1991), pp. 1-6: 63-158; 231-248.

Week Twelve

Walid Khalidi, "Plan Dalet Revisited," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 18, No.1 (Autumn 1988).

Rashid Khalidi, "The Palestinians and 1948: the underlying causes of failure," in Rogan and Shlaim, *ibid.*, pp. 12-36.

Week Thirteen

Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage; The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006), pp. 1-104.

Week Fourteen

Yezid Sayigh, *Armed Struggle and the Search for State; The Palestinian National Movement, 1949-1993* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997). Preface, Introduction, Conclusion.

Bishara Doumani. "Palestine versus the Palestinians? The Iron Laws and Ironies of a People Denied," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 4 (Summer 2007).

Week Fifteen

Course Summary and Conclusion:

What have we learned about history, the writing of history, and the Arab-Israeli conflict?

Final Exam per Final Exam Schedule

Examples of Original Documentation in English Translation for Class Discussion

Hebrew

- Plan Dalet
- Israel's Declaration of Independence

Arabic

- PLO Charters 1964, 1968
- PLO Resolutions of 1974
- PLO Declaration of Independence and Resolutions of 1988
- The Arab Initiative 2002