ARAB-ISRAELI RELATIONS

SPRING 2015

Dr. Sariel Birnbaum

HIST 574 ARAB-ISRAELI RELATS (C)

Units:
3
Schedule #:
21665

Lecture
2:00pm-3:15pm
MW
AH-2111
S. BIRNBAUM

Description:
Arab-Israeli conflict and diplomacy over Palestine from perspectives of Zionism, Arab nationalism, and Great Power relations from nineteenth century to present.

E-mail: sbirnbaum@mail.sdsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Arab Israeli conflict, which started in the late 19th century and continues to the present, often fills many pages in the newspapers. But only a select few are fully aware of the many nuances, complications and contexts involved in the situation. This course will offer a survey of the conflict from its earliest periods to current events, focusing on the interactions between Zionism and the National Arab movements.

We will not confine our learning to historical facts alone, but will study many different facets of the conflict such as myths, collective memory, and what can be called "popular historiography" (in newspapers, popular literature, and "historiophoty" in cinema).

Special place will be given to cinema. We will watch selected films from various periods and directors, that will shed light on selected issues, such as Jews leaving
Arab countries, Israeli Arabs under military administration, Lebanon War, West Bank and more.

Course objectives

* To familiarize students with basic and important information about the conflict

* To familiarize students with the major historical events of Middle East in 20th century.

  - To familiarize students with the Arab and Israeli cinema industries, and the way they represent the conflict.

* To introduce students to questions about the relationship between conflict, society, cinema and collective memory

* To enable students to write an original research paper, and present it in the class.

Attendance, Participation, and reading

This syllabus is subject to change according to the progress and interest of students in the class.

- Attendance and participation are expected and taken for granted.
- Students are responsible for all required readings as demanded on the class.
- STUDENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PURCHASE READING MATERIALS.
- All students are expected to attend and to contribute productively to the class.
- Attendance policy applies to punctuality (lateness counts as missing class).
- Missing class without justification counts against the grade for the course at a rate of ¼ of the final grade up to the 4th time.
- Missing class without justification for the 5th time results in failure of the course.
- Participation is expected to be thoughtful and informed by the assigned readings for the course.
- Before each class, students are required to read the assigned reading materials for the week according to instructions in class.
- The use of electronic devices, like cell-phones and laptops, in class, not permitted.

Grading for the course

**Exams: 40%** - the goal of the exams is to be sure that the student are familiar with the materials included in the class lectures, the films and the required reading materials. We will conduct midterm and final exams (multiple choice), and also short
exams might be held here and there (with advance notice). MARCH 9 – MIDTERM. For final please follow SDSU instructions.

**Participation in the class:** 10% - the lectures are based upon high level of participation by the students. This part of the final grade is aimed at encouraging active participation and bringing additional knowledge to the class.

**Written assignments, Final paper and in class-presentation:** 50% - the final paper should use the materials, methods and techniques acquired during the course, and implement them to write an independent research paper on a topic that relates to the course's theme.

Students are asked to choose the subject on which they want to write, after consulting with the lecturer, by the fifth week of the course namely till Feb. 27. By April 25th, before submitting the paper, **each student must send a draft of his work** to the lecturer via email, or better, hard copy, and initiate discussion and consultation with him about the progress of his project. The draft will be returned with notes.

In last two weeks of the course it is required by the students to give presentations of their findings in class. The final paper should repeat, develop and revise (if needed) the subject as presented during the presentation.

By MARCH 20th 2015, any student should submit a 1-2 page **book review** or **film review**. The review should be relevant to the final paper, and explain the place of the book/film within the general discussion of the final paper.

The final paper should be a minimum of 10 pages. Originality is valued and highly encouraged. Films were made for the sake of the common people of our times (unlike Egyptian hieroglyphs and many legal texts, for example). Therefore, the findings of undergraduate students can be meaningful and inspirational. All papers will be submitted in hard copy to the lecturer and in electronic copy through turn-it-in (via Blackboard).

**Extra credits might be offered.**

**A note on academic honesty:** Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious breaches of the code of ethics governing academic life, and will result a failure in the course, in addition to disciplinary measures according to the rules of San Diego State University.

**WEEK 01  (Wed. Jan 21st)**

Introduction: the long and complicated conflict.

- Historical general survey of the ancient and medieval history toward the 20th Century and the conflict.

Origins of conflict: Nationalism and Modernism. The Middle East and the Jewish People moving from medieval times to modernity.


**WEEK 02  - (Starting, namely Monday ) JAN. 26**

- Historical general survey of the 20th Century and the conflict.
Original documents (will be sent by mail): Sykes-Picot Agreement, Balfour Declaration, Feisal-Weizmann Agreement

Film: Exodus

**WEEK 03 - FEB. 2ND**
Emergence of Zionism. Balfour declaration.
Book: Theodor Herzl, Jewish state: an attempt at a modern solution of the Jewish question. 1-6, 28-29 (will be sent by mail).

**WEEK 04 - FEB. 9**
Islam and Jews. Arab communities in the late Ottoman Period. Egypt in 19th and early 20th centuries

*Article: Vladimir Ze'ev Jabotinsky "The Iron Wall"
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Zionism/ironwall.html*

Recommended book: Porath, Yehoshua. The emergence of the Palestinian-Arab national movement, 1918-1929.

**WEEK 05- FEB. 16**

Struggle in the days of British mandate: (Great?) Arab revolt 1936-1939.

Film: Attash


**WEEK 06 - FEB 23**

1948: War, Invasion and Refugees. Arab States getting involved

*Article: David Barnett and Efraim Karsh, Azzam’s Genocidal Threat
Middle East Quarterly
http://www.meforum.org/3082/azzam-genocide-threat*

Recommended Book: Yoav Gelber, Palestine, 1948: war, escape and the emergence of the Palestinian refugee
WEEK 07 - March 2
Film: Khirbet Khizeh

Article : Shapira, Anita: Hirbet Hizah: Between Remembrance and Forgetting

WEEK 08 March 9
Film: Ajami


Film: Wedding in Galilee

WEEK 09 March 16
1967 war and aftermath. Khartoum Conference. First stages of Israeli control of Judea and Samaria and Ghazza Strip.
Image of the Jew in Arab cinema

Book: P.J. Vatikiotis, The History of Egypt, Baltimore, pp. 372-390. (Will be sent by lecturer)
Film: Alexandria Why. Fragments from other films

WEEK 10 - March 23
Further developments in Arab countries. Establishment of PLO and Fatah Movements. 1973 war

WEEK 11- April 6
Lebanese Civil War and 1982 Israeli Invasion.


Recommended Film: Waltz with Bashir.

WEEK 12 – April 13
Return of Islam. Iran 1979 Islamic Revolution. Palestinian Historical discourse

Bernard Lewis: Return of Islam (1976)  
https://www.commentarymagazine.com/article/the-return-of-islam/  
Film: Hasan and Murqus  
   Film: Yacubian Building

WEEK 13 – April 20

Oslo Agreements. 2000 Second Intifada Years 2000s and future prospects. Arab Spring. Did Arab cinema predict this upheaval?

Fragments from Shahatta's Shop, Terror and BBQ, I want my right, and more


Film: Paradise now

WEEK 14 – April 27

Disengagement from Gaza, failing negotiations, limited operations in Gaza

Film: Bethlehem (2013)

Conclusion, Presentations

WEEK 15 – May 4

Final exam and submitting the final paper. Good Luck!