

## The Arab-Israeli Conflict

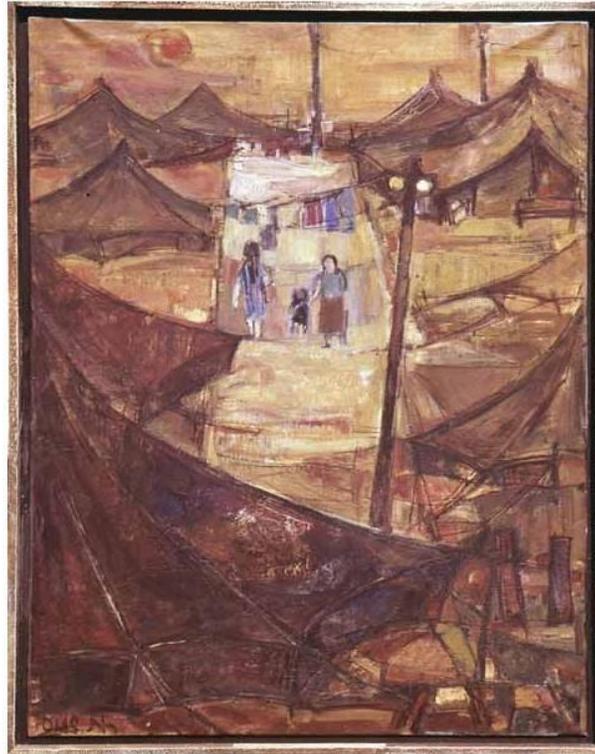
HIST 4276, 4276-350, & 6276 (Fall 2019)

Professor Beverly Tsacoyianis

Email: [btscynis@memphis.edu](mailto:btscynis@memphis.edu)

Class meets M/W 2:20pm-3:45pm, Mitchell 305

Office hrs: M/W 10-11am & by appt, Mitchell 119



*Immigrant Transit Camp*, by Ruth Schloss, 1953. 81x60 cm, oil on canvas.  
Now at Mishkan LeOmanut (Museum of Art) in Ein Harod. Schloss (1922-2013),  
born in Germany, emigrated to British Mandate Palestine in 1937

**Course Description:** This course examines the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day with a focus on the region known today as Israel and Palestine. Topics covered include late Ottoman society, Zionism, WWI, the British Mandate in Palestine, the Holocaust and WWII, the creation of the Jewish state of Israel and of the Palestinian diaspora, the Arab-Israeli wars of 1967 and 1973, the First and Second Intifadas, and related social, political, and cultural developments.

**Course website:** our eCourseware page. Enter with UUID and password. Readings on the syllabus are subject to change with as little as three days' notice via email to class. Check your university email daily. Consult my note on eCourseware about email etiquette before emailing me.

### Required Texts:

- Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A History with Documents*, 8th edition (Bedford/St. Martins, 2012) ISBN 9781457613487
- Mark LeVine and Gershon Shafir, eds. *Struggle and Survival in Palestine/Israel* (University of California Press, 2012) ISBN 9780520262539, referred to below as L/S
- All other readings are on eCourseware. Print and bring to class. This affects your participation grade.

### Useful links:

- ProCon.org's pages on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, <http://israelipalestinian.procon.org>
- Ottoman History Podcasts, <http://www.ottomanhistorypodcast.com/>
- B'Tselem maps, <http://www.btselem.org/maps>

### Grading breakdown

Participation:	25%
Book review:	20%
1948 paper:	25%
Final paper:	30%

**The HERC:** The History Educational Resource Center is the History Department's comprehensive undergraduate center offering academic advising, internship information, career counseling, history tutoring, movie screenings, professor chats, and info sessions. It's open in Mitchell 147 from 9am-2pm weekdays. See <https://www.memphis.edu/history/herc/index.php>. For events see: [www.facebook.com/memphisher](http://www.facebook.com/memphisher). Email Dr. Goudsouzian for info [cdykes@memphis.edu](mailto:cdykes@memphis.edu).



### Course Policies

- **Bring readings to class.** Smartphones, laptops, e-readers, and recording devices are not allowed unless you see me by Aug. 28 and I approve their use. If you cannot print, bring written notes with important passages cited. **Informed participation is essential to success in this class.**
- All written assignments must be double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Papers that do not meet these guidelines receive an automatic 3-point deduction.
- All papers must be submitted via Dropbox by 5pm local time on the due date. Papers submitted after 8:01pm will be considered a day late. At 8:01pm the next day, they are considered 2 days late. Late assignments receive a penalty of 3 points for every day overdue.
- Attendance at all classes is mandatory excluding emergencies. I allow 2 unexcused absences and 2 late arrivals (under 10 minutes late) but other absences and late arrivals will impact your participation grade. I decide what constitutes a valid excused absence and require documentation to weigh validity.
- Download the LiveSafe app and note the university inclement weather hotline (901-678-0888), crisis management <http://memphis.edu/crisis/>, Behavioral Intervention Team <http://www.memphis.edu/bit/>, Office of Student Accountability, Outreach, and Support <https://www.memphis.edu/saos/contact-us.php> and “Run, Hide, Fight” (active shooters) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0>.
- All students must follow University policies on honesty, academic misconduct, and plagiarism. See [http://www.memphis.edu/history/academic\\_misconduct\\_policy.php](http://www.memphis.edu/history/academic_misconduct_policy.php). The penalty for plagiarism in my classes is failure of the assignment and possibly failure of the course. On citing properly see [http://www.memphis.edu/history/using\\_sources.php](http://www.memphis.edu/history/using_sources.php)
- Any student anticipating physical or academic barriers based on the impact of a disability is encouraged to communicate this to me privately. Contact Disability Resources for Students (DRS) at <http://www.memphis.edu/drs/> and 110 Wilder Tower, 901-678-2880. DRS coordinates access and accommodations for students with disabilities. I will provide reasonable and necessary academic accommodations if students submit written verification from DRS. Information on disability is confidential and it is entirely the student's choice whether to disclose a disability diagnosis.
- Extra Credit: Students may submit a 2pg analytical response for extra credit on either or both films we'll watch in class (*A Tale of Love and Darkness* and *In Between*) reflecting on the film and citing two or three assigned readings including our textbooks to add up to 4 points to your class discussion grade. Other extra credit in the News section of our eCourseware add 2 points to your participation grade per event. Limit 10 points for extra credit to participation grade.

### Course Requirements:

- A book review (2-3pgs) of a first-person narrative account of the conflict. Pick from the list of memoirs in eCourseware. Borrow the book (ILL, etc) and read it outside of class. I encourage you to discuss your memoir with me during office hours or by appointment before the due date. Due Oct. 10 (20%)
- A paper (4-5pgs) on the Palestinian refugees of 1948 and the new Israeli historians. Due Nov. 4 (25%)
- A final paper (6-8pgs) topic chosen in consultation with me. Topic and bibliography (including 2 articles and one book) due 11/13. Presentations in class 12/4 and 12/11. Final paper due 12/11. (30%)
- Participation (25% of overall grade) is based on quizzes (50%), class discussion (20%), presentations (10%), & attendance (20%). Students must make *relevant, routine, and substantive* contributions in class discussions and in the weekly quizzes to earn a participation grade of A- or higher. Routine means verbally participating at least twice each class session. Relevant means comments must refer to specific lines in assigned material for that day. Substantive means comments must be a significant contribution to advancing class discussion.

- Starting in week 2, students must submit a **1 or 2 paragraph response to that week's readings** via the Quiz section of eCourseware. (This is the bulk of the quiz portion of your participation grade, excluding pop quizzes in class.) Each paragraph must be at least 3 sentences long. Due every Wed. by 11am. These will help you reflect on readings and films and prepare you for class participation. You may write using formal or informal writing, but your response must be coherent. I respond to submissions by noon every Wednesday.
- All students must give one 10-minute oral presentation in class on class readings to help structure discussions. In the presentation, students should analyze the readings and reflect on the author's main argument and sources, rather than summarizing. Students must also present on their final paper Dec. 4 and Dec. 11.

A+	100-97
A	96-94
A-	93-90
B+	89-87
B	86-84
B-	83-80
C+	79-77
C	76-74
C-	73-70
D	69-65
F	64 or below
I	Incomplete

**Honors Component:** See eCourseware for additional guidelines on class presentations, primary source analysis, and the extra course readings which are:

- Michelle Campos, "Between 'Beloved Ottomania' and 'The Land of Israel': The Struggle over Ottomanism and Zionism among Palestine's Sephardi Jews, 1908-1913," *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 37 (4) (November 2005): 461-483.
- Sandy Sufian, "Anatomy of the 1936-39 Revolt: Images of the Body in Political Cartoons of Mandatory Palestine," *Journal of Palestine Studies* 37 (2) (Winter 2008): 23-42.
- Amos Oz, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, (Chatto & Windus, 2003), excerpt.
- Amos Harel and Avi Issacharoff, *34 Days: Israel, Hezbollah, and the War in Lebanon* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2008), excerpt

**Graduate Students:** Must complete all above components, except final is 12-15pgs and more historiographic.

All readings listed under a given day are to be read *prior* to attending class that day. Readings with an asterisk (\*) are available in eCourseware.

### Week 1: Introduction to the course

Mon. 8/26

- Guidelines, identity chart, and contract. Map distributed (due 9/9).

Wed. 8/28

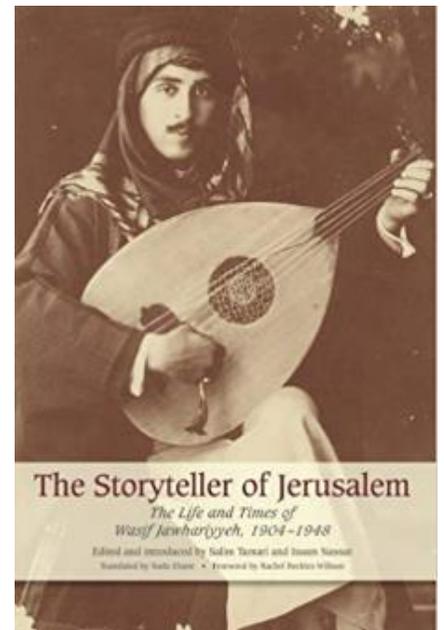
- Smith, 12-26.
- L/S, 1-18.

### Week 2: Palestine in the Late Ottoman Period

Mon. 9/2: No class, Labor Day.

Wed. 9/4

- \*Issam Nassar, "From Ottomans to Arabs," in *The Storyteller of Jerusalem*, xxxi-xli, 276-278.
- L/S, Ch. 1: "Left Naked on the Beach," 27-38
- L/S, Ch. 3: "A Musician's Lot: Wasif Jawhariyyeh's Old Jerusalem," 51-62.



### Week 3: Crises in Europe, Political Zionism, and Labor Zionism

Mon. 9/9 (Map assignment due)

- Smith, 26-39.
- L/S, Ch. 2: on Haim Amzalak, 39-50.
- L/S Ch. 4: "Revolutionary Pioneer: Manya Shochat and Her Commune," 63-76.
- In class: clips from *Exodus* (dir. Otto Preminger, 1960)

Wed. 9/11

- \*Herzl, *The Jewish State* (~25 pages)

- L/S, Ch. 5: “Hero or Antihero?” 85-103.
- \*Yosefa Loshitzky, *Identity Politics on the Israeli Screen* (2001), 1-14.
- In class: Nadjari’s *A History of Israeli Cinema*, section on early Zionist film

#### Week 4: British Mandate Palestine

Mon. 9/16

- \*Wasif Jawhariyyeh, *Storyteller of Jerusalem, 1904- 1948* excerpt.
- \*Honors: Campos article

Wed. 9/18

- Smith, 103-129.
- L/S Ch. 6: “A Son of the Country,” 104-124.

#### Week 5: Arab-Jewish Relations and Palestinian Identity

Mon. 9/23

- \*Lockman, *Comrades and Enemies...1906-1948*, excerpt.
- \*Honors: Sufian article

Wed. 9/25

- \*Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity*, excerpt.

#### Week 6: Revisionist and Other Zionisms

Mon. 9/30

- \*Begin, *The Revolt: Story of the Irgun* (Schuman, 1951), excerpt.
- L/S Ch. 9: “Hillel Kook: Revisionism and Rescue,” 157-169.

Wed. 10/2

- L/S Ch. 7: “The Ordeal of Henya Pekelman, a Female Construction Worker,” 125-140.
- \*Shohat, “Sephardim in Israel...” *Social Text* 19/20 (1988): 1-35.

#### Week 7: Palestinian Arab Resistance, 1930s

Mon. 10/7

- Smith, 129-147.
- L/S Ch. 8: “A Nation in a Hero,” 141-156.
- \*Schleifer, “Izz al-Din al-Qassam,” 137-151.

Wed. 10/9: No class, Yom Kippur

Thurs. 10/10: **2-3pg memoir paper due** by 5pm on Dropbox.

#### Week 8: WWII, the Holocaust, and 1948

Mon. 10/14: No class, Fall Break Sat. 10/12-Tues. 10/15

Wed. 10/16:

- L/S: 173-177, and Ch. 10: “Matar ‘Abdelrahim,” 179-195.
- L/S Ch. 11: “Joseph Spronz,” 196-220.

#### Week 9: 1948 continued

Mon. 10/21

- \*Rogan, *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948* (2007), excerpt
- Begin film in class, *A Tale of Love and Darkness* (dir. Portman, 2015) 99 minutes

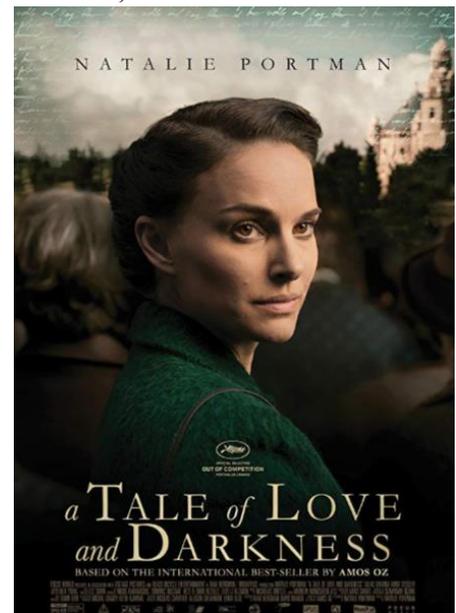
Wed. 10/23

- finish film in class and discuss (extra credit: response by 5pm 10/27)
- \*Tamari, *The Storyteller of Jerusalem*, 238-257.
- L/S Ch. 14: “A Tale of Baghdad and Tel Aviv,” 256-270.

#### Week 10: Citizenship, Race, and Belonging

Mon. 10/28

- Smith, 219-248.



- \*Yanai, “The Citizen as Pioneer: Ben-Gurion’s Concept of Citizenship,” *Israel Studies* (1996): 127-143.
- \*Gershon Shafir and Yoav Peled, *Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship*, excerpt.
- \*Honors: Amos Oz excerpt

Wed. 10/30

- L/S Ch. 15: “Is Slavery Over?” 271-287.
- L/S: pp.291-294 and Ch. 16: “Of Possessions and Disposessions,” 295-305.

### Week 11: Israel and the Arab World, 1957-1967

Mon. 11/4

- Smith, 259-276.
- **4-5pg paper on 1948 due by 5pm 11/4.**

Wed. 11/6

- Smith, 276-290.
- L/S, Ch. 18: “The Village against the Settlement,” 318-336.

### Week 12: The Conflict since 1967

Mon. 11/11

- Smith, 301-331.
- \*Yair Auron, *Israeli Identities*, preface and introduction
- \*Gershon Shafir, *A Half Century of Occupation*, excerpt

Wed. 11/13

- L/S Ch. 22: “Yigael Amir...” 384-398.
- L/S Ch. 21: “From Religion to Revenge...” 370-383.
- Topic and bibliography of final paper due by 5pm 11/13.

### Week 13: Israel, Lebanon, and Palestine (1982 and beyond)

Mon. 11/18

- Smith, 365-379.
- \*Honors: 34 Days excerpt
- In-class film *In Between* (dir. Hamoud, 2018) 103min (extra credit: response by 5pm 11/22)

Wed. 11/20

- Finish *In Between* and class discussion.

### Week 14: Uprisings and Reactions

Mon. 11/25

- Smith, 446-469.
- \*Wendy Pearlman in *Civil Resistance in the Arab Spring* (Oxford UP, 2016) 34 pages

Wed. 11/27: No class, Thanksgiving break: 11/27-Sun. 12/1

### Week 15: Peace and other Taboos

Mon. 12/2

- \*Loshitzky, “Forbidden Love in the Holy Land,” 112-153.
- L/S Ch. 23: “Mais in the War of the Words,” 399-412.
- Smith, 515-518, 523-526, 550-554.

Wed. 12/4 (Last day of classes)

- \*Excerpt, Alexander on trauma and memory
- Final paper small group workshop and 15-minute in-class diplomacy exercise

Our mandatory final paper presentations are during our scheduled final exam period of Wed. **Dec. 11, 1:00-3:00pm. Final paper due in Dropbox Wed. Dec. 11, by 5pm.** Though the final paper is in lieu of a final exam, we will meet for final presentations. See eCourseware for presentation and paper guidelines, info on incompletes, and late submission point deductions.

