University of Pittsburgh
Fall Term 2014-2015

Spatial Planning in Contested Spaces:
The Case of Israel and Palestine

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Courseweb site: http://courseweb.pitt.edu/

Course description:
Modern day Israel and Palestine – that is the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River - covers an area that is six times smaller than the state of Pennsylvania, but has about the same population size (about 12.7 million people). In addition to the high density of population this land is the heart of a religious, ethnic, national, and political conflict. This context makes spatial planning an immense challenge and on the other hand spatial planning is used often as a tool for achieving various political agendas.

After presenting some brief background on the geography and the history of the land, this course will focus on the following topics amongst others: National and regional planning, the New Towns scheme, water planning issues, transportation planning, Jerusalem’s geopolitical question, tourism development in historic cities such as Nazareth, Acre, Bethlehem, the fence of separation, affordable housing plans, etc.

Course Requirements:
1. Submission of two research assignments during the semester (30% each = 60%)
2. Research paper (40%), due at the end of the Fall Term
**Course outline and reading assignments**

**Week 1 (August 28)**  
Introduction to the Course and some Historical, Geographical and Geopolitical Background on the land west to the Jordan River

**Week 2 (September 4)**  
Socialist Nation building and transformation into a neoliberal economic system, the history of planning in Israel, the “Development Towns” (Arad as a case study)

Reading:  


1st Assignment given (Due October 2)  
“Planning Bedouin cities and villages”

**Week 3 (September 11) – No Class**  
Prof. Shoval is a keynote speaker at a workshop in San-Sebastian, Spain

**Week 4 (September 18)**  
The planning system and planning paradigms, metropolitan planning and national planning (Water issues and TAMA 31, 35)

Reading:  


**Week 5 (September 25 – no class – Rosh Hashana)**
Week 6 (October 2)
Borders, the “fence of security” and the “settlements” over “the green line”

Reading:


2nd Assignment given (due October 16)
“Tourism planning in historic cities”

Week 7 (October 9)
Gated communities and case studies of planning for sub-sectors in recent years: Kibbutzim, Arab towns, Bedouins, Haredim

Reading:


Week 8 (October 16)
Tourism planning in historic cities: Acre, Nazareth and Bethlehem

Reading:

**Week 9 (October 23)**
Urban development and planning of Jerusalem I

**Reading:**


**3rd Assignment given (due December 11)**
Research paper “Jerusalem’s geopolitical futures”

**Week 10 (October 30)**
Urban development and planning of Jerusalem II

**Reading:**


**Week 11 (November 6)**
Tourism Planning in Jerusalem I

**Reading:**


**Week 12 (November 13)**
Tourism Planning in Jerusalem II
**Reading:**

**Week 13 (November 20)**
Jerusalem’s geopolitical futures?

**Reading:**


**Week 14 (November 27 – no class - thanksgiving)**

**Week 15 (December 4 – no class)**
Prof. Shoval is a keynote speaker at a workshop in Bolzano, Italy

**Week 16 (December 11)**
Presentations of the research papers (15 minutes plus questions) and submitting them.

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**Course Policies:**

**Pitt's Academic Integrity Policy:** “Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed.”

**Plagiarism:** It is important that the written and oral work that you present in this course reflect your own reading, critical analysis, and writing. Plagiarism includes: a) submitting someone else’s work in your name whether that someone else is someone you know or someone who posted their work on the Internet; and whether you paid for
the material or not; b) submitting your own work from another course without
disclosure to the instructor; c) copying passages verbatim or in close paraphrase from
published or unpublished material written by someone else without properly using
quotation marks and/or without citing your source.

Citation of Sources: In everything you write for this class, you must properly cite your
sources using either the Chicago (footnote) or MLA (parenthetical citations and works
cited) methods. For references on how to cite according to different academic styles, see http://pitt.libguides.com/citationhelp

General writing help is available through the Writing Center:
http://www.composition.pitt.edu/writingcenter/

Late papers: For every business day that a paper is late, your grade will be lowered by
10 points out of 100 for that assignment.

Rewrites: Rewrites will not be allowed on the papers in this class. Pay careful attention
to comments and markings on previous assignments in order to improve your writing
over the course of the semester.

Students with disabilities: If you have a disability for which you are or may be
requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and
the Office of Disability Resources and Services (216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-
7890; TDD: 412-383-7355; fax: 412-624-3346) as early as possible in the term. DRS
will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations.

Absence policy: You may have 3 absences from class during the semester—NO
QUESTIONS ASKED. This includes minor illness so take care of yourself. For each
additional absence that is not excused, you will lose 2 points out of 100 for the
semester. If you have a serious medical condition that requires hospitalization and as a
result you miss more than 3 classes, you will need to bring documentation of the
hospitalization and accommodations will be made, as appropriate. If other unforeseen
circumstances cause you to miss class, please discuss an excused absence with the
instructor. Job interviews, activities for other classes, extracurricular activities, family
events, are NOT unforeseen circumstances. Use your 3 “free passes” for these if
necessary. Religious holidays are excused absences (see below). Absences other than
illness will be excused only if the student brings a 1 page paper to the next class
summarizing the readings for the class missed.

Religious holidays: “the University of Pittsburgh has a tradition of recognizing
religious observances of members of the University community in instances where
those observances may conflict with University activities. When such conflict occurs,
students and faculty should make every effort to reach mutually agreeable arrangements
to reschedule the academic activity or provide a substitute activity or evaluation.
Students should be encouraged to alert faculty to the potential for such conflicts as
early in the term as possible.”

Technology ground-rules: Cell phones may not be used at any time. Do not expect to
access documents using your smart phone. Computers, tablets, and the like are
permitted under the following conditions: it is expected that you are using your device to take notes and/or access information relevant to the class, including readings. If you can't resist the urge to check Facebook or e-mail during class, I recommend that you not use electronic devices during class.

E-mail: “Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu). Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications.”