

Palestine 1948: Myth, Memory and Historiography
University of Maryland Syllabus (August-October 2014)

Tel Aviv University
International Program
Fall Semester, Monday 14:15-19:30

University of Maryland
(UMD Monday-Wednesday 9:00 – 10:50 am)

TAU: Dr. Anat Stern, anat.stern@mail.huji.ac.il

Office Hours: By appointment

UMD: Dr. Daniel Zisenwine, dzisenwine@gmail.com

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description: The 1948 first Arab-Israeli war still provokes multi-dimensional debates, both in the academic and public circles. In the Palestinian and Arab collective memory, the war is engraved as the *Nakba* – the catastrophe, while Israel celebrates it as its day of Independence. For both communities it is the formative event of their National history. In recent decades, Israel's "New Historians", alongside other researchers, contributed to changes in the way Historians, and even the Israeli public, see their past. In this course we will attempt to provide the students with basic knowledge and analytical tools to search for historical facts and to decipher narratives and memories.

Note: This course will follow the UMD academic calendar. The class will begin Sept. 3. From mid-October to December students will meet (virtually) in their Monday class with their TAU counterparts, and Wednesday on their own with Prof. Zisenwine.

Aims: The course will explore the historical background of the Jewish and Palestinian communities during the first half of the twentieth century. It will discuss the currents

that lead to the war and discuss the eruption of the first stage of fighting, the “civil war” of “inter-communal war” (December 1947- May 1948), and later on the Arab armies’ invasion of May 1948 and the second stage of inter-state war, until the ceasefire agreements on 1949. We will examine both national narratives, and the debate around the New Historians, while trying to realize the often complex and ambiguous “truth”.

Grading:

Active participation in class	10%
Quizzes	10%
Mid Term Exam	30%
Short Term Paper	20%
Final Paper	30%

Requirements for the UMD sessions (apart from the joint sessions with Tel Aviv University):

These sessions will provide vital background material to the joint sessions with Tel Aviv University students. Students will need to gain good familiarity with the topic through class lectures and discussions. Active participation is encouraged and will be graded (see above). Several short quizzes on the class readings will be given during this period, along with an in-class midterm exam that will cover these background sessions. This exam will consist of several essay questions on the course themes. In addition, students will submit a short term paper and a longer final paper that will already cover topics and themes taught together with TAU.

Book Purchase – Recommended for this part of the course:

1. Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999* (New York, 1999)

Internet research guidelines: It is hard to overestimate the importance of the internet, or its contribution, to the build up of contemporary knowledge of the world

around us. Albeit it needs to be used wisely. This means that one must be selective and careful when relating to internet-based sources, identifying and distinguishing opinions from facts, and journalism from academics. Most importantly, one should make clear reference to internet sources, allowing the reader the opportunity to consult these resources as and if required. Please also note that the 'world-wide web' – www – exists in many languages. Many sources about Israel in English, for instance, will be aimed at tourists or readers living primarily in English-speaking regions of the world. Sources might differ when reading them in other languages. Use the internet critically. You can never be too safe, so do ensure both the reader and yourself that you know well what your internet sources are.

University of Maryland Syllabus (September-October):

(Note: Some of the readings below will be suggested readings, not required.)

Week 1: Introduction and Preliminary Discussion

E.H. Carr, "The Historian and His Facts" in idem *What is History?* 2nd Edition (London, 1986), pp. 1-24

Kenneth W. Stein, "A Historiographic Review of the Literature on the Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict", *American Historical Review*, Vol. 96, No. 5 (December, 1991), pp. 1450-1467.

Neil Caplan, "Zionism and the Arabs: Another look at the 'New' Historiography", *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 36 No. 2 (April 2001), pp. 345-360

Joel Beinin, "Forgetfulness for Memory: The Limits of the New Israeli History", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 34 No. 2 (Winter 2005), pp. 6-23.

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

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

Week 2: The Origins of Jewish Nationalism

Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, (London, 1972), pp. 3-39; 84-135

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999* (New York, 1999), pp. 14-26; 37-68.

Anthony D. Smith, *Ethno-Symbolism and Nationalism* (----), pp. 3-21.

Anthony D. Smith, "Zionism and Diaspora Nationalism", *Israel Affairs*, Vol. 2 No. 2 (Winter 1995); Also appears in Anthony D. Smith, *Myths and Memories of the Nation* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), pp.203-224.

Week 3: Arabs and Jews in Ottoman Palestine

Israel Kolatt, "The Organization of the Jewish Population of Palestine and the Development of its Political Consciousness before World War I", in Moshe Maoz (ed.), *Studies on Palestine during the Ottoman Period* (Jerusalem, 1975), pp. 311-245.

Baruch Kimmerling and Joel S. Migdal, *Palestinians: The Making of a People* (Cambridge MA, 1993), pp. 3-20; 35-61; 64-72.

Neville Mandel, *The Arabs and Zionism before World War I* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1970), pp. 32-57; 223-231.

Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (New York, 1997), pp. 9-34, 89-118.

Week 4: Post World War I Settlements

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 67-120.

M.E. Yapp, *The Making of the Modern Near East, 1972-1923* (London and New York, 1987), pp. 275-286, 288-294, 301-306, 322-331, 348-351.

Mayir Verete, "The Balfour Declaration and Its Makers", *Middle Eastern Studies*, 4, 1970, pp. 48-76.

Week 5: The Emergence of Palestinian Nationalism

Muhammad Y. Muslih, *The Origins of Palestinian Nationalism* (New York, 1988), pp. 1-11, 69-88, 175-224.

Yehoshua Porath, *The Emergence of the Palestinian Arab Movement, 1918-1929* (London, 1974), pp. 31-69.

Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness* (New York, 1997), pp. 145-175.

Week 6: British Policy in Palestine

Bernard Wasserstein, *The British in Palestine: The Mandatory Government and the Arab-Jewish Conflict, 1917-1929* (London, 1978), pp. 73-88, 139-164, 236-241.

Taysir Nashif, "Palestinian Arab and the Jewish Leadership in the Mandate Period", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 6 No. 2 (Summer, 1977), pp. 113-121.

Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2006), pp. 1-30, 31-64.

Week 7: Towards a Jewish State

Kenneth W. Stein, *The Land Question in Palestine, 1917-1939* (Chapel Hill and London, 1984), pp. 40-79; 212-221.

Noah Lucas, *The Modern History of Israel* (London, 1975) pp. 167-185.

Week 8: The Arab Revolt

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 121-160.

Tom Bowden, "The Politics of the Arab Rebellion in Palestine 1936-39", *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 11 No. 2 (May, 1975), pp. 147-174.

Kimmerling and Migdal, pp. 51-63; 96-123.

Week 9: The End of the British Mandate:

Steven Spiegel, *The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict: Making America's Middle East Policy, from Truman to Reagan* (Chicago, 1985), pp. 16-44.

Michael J. Cohen, "The Zionist Perspective", in Wm. Roger Louis and Robert W. Stoekey (eds.), *The End of the Palestine Mandate* (Austin, 1986), pp. 79-103.

Walid Khalidi, "The Arab Perspective", in Wm. Roger Louis and Robert W. Stoekey (eds.), *The End of the Palestine Mandate* (Austin, 1986), pp. 103-106.

Joint Sessions with Tel Aviv University Students

Book Purchases – Recommended

1. Ian Bickerton, Carla Klausner, *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Sixth Edition, Boston: Prentice Hall, 2010.
2. Anita Shapira, *Israel A History*. Waltham: Brandeis University Press, 2012.

October 27th, 2014**1. Historical Background I: Palestine in the 19th century and the emergence of Zionism; Palestine under the British Mandate**

Ian Bickerton, Carla Klausner, *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, sixth edition. Boston: Prentice Hall, 2010. pp. 15-33

Charles D. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, sixth edition. Boston: Bedford, 2007. pp. 23-58.

2. Historical Background II:

Ian Bickerton, Carla Klausner, *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, sixth edition. Boston: Prentice Hall, 2010, pp. 34- 80.

Benny Morris, *1948: The First Arab-Israeli War* (New Haven and London: Yale UP, 2008), pp. 1-36.

Israel Kolatt, "The Zionist Movement and the Arabs", in Jehuda Reinharz and Anita Shapira (eds.) *Essential Papers on Zionism* (New York: NYU UPress, 1996), 617-647

W. F. Abboushi, "The Road to Rebellion: Arab Palestine in the 1930's" *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 3. (Spring, 1977), pp. 23-46.

October 29, 2014

3. The British decision to withdraw from Palestine; UNSCOP and its mission

Background on UNSCOP and parts of its report:

<http://www.mideastweb.org/unscop1947.htm>

Morris, Benny. *1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008, pp. 37-74.

Presentation 1: Ritchie Owendale, "The Palestine Policy of the British Labour Government 1947: The Decision to Withdraw", *International Affairs* 56:1 (Jan., 1980), pp. 73-93.

Presentation (?): Evan M. Wilson, "The [USA] Palestine Papers, 1943-1947", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 4. (Summer, 1973), pp. 33-54.

November 3, 2014

4. UN partition resolution, 29 November 1947: Jews, Arabs and the International arena

Elad Ben-Dror, "The Arab Struggle Against Partition: The International Arena of Summer 1947", *Middle East Studies*, 43:2 (March 2007), 259-293.

Walid Khalidi, "Revisiting the UNGA Partition Resolution", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (autumn, 1997), pp. 5-21

Presentation 2: Jamal al-Husseini, "Palestine Partition Denounced", *Vital Speeches of the Day*, 10/15/47, Vol. 14:1, pp. 2-9.

Presentation 3: Abba Hillel Silver, "Palestine Partition Acceptable", *Vital Speeches of the Day*, 10/15/47, Vol. 14:1, pp. 10-15.

November 5, 2014

5. The first stage of the war – "the civil war" or "the inter-communal war".

Benny Morris, *1948: The First Arab-Israeli War* (New Haven and London: Yale UP, 2008), pp. 37-74.

David Tal, "The Forgotten War: Jewish-Palestinian Strife in Mandatory Palestine December 1947-May 1948", *Israel Affairs*, Spring/Summer 2000, Vol. 6 Issue 3/4, pp. 3-22.

Presentation 4: Fauzi Al-Qawuqji, "Memoirs, 1948 Part I", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, vol. 1, no. 4 (summer, 1972), pp. 27-58.

November 10, 2014

6. Turning points in the "civil war": The Hagana moves to the offensive; Nachshon Operation; IZL, Lehi and Deir Yassin.

Benny Morris, *1948: The First Arab-Israeli War* (New Haven and London: Yale UP, 2008), pp. 75-112.

Presentation 5: Walid Khalidi (ed.) "The Fall of al-Qastel", in "Selected Documents on the 1948 Palestine War", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 3. (spring 1998), pp. 60-105.*

Presentation 6: Matthew Hogan, "The 1948 Massacre at Deir Yassin Revisited", *Historian*, winter 2001, Vol. 63 Issue 2, p. 309-333.

November 12, 2014

7. Fighting in Mixed cities. The Fall of Haifa – a Case Study and a comparison to Jaffa

Motti Golani, "The 'Haifa Turning Point': The British and the Civil War in Palestine", *Middle Eastern Studies*, Apr 2001, Vol. 37 Issue 2, p. 93-130.

Walid Khalidi, "The Fall of Haifa Revisited", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 37:3 (2008), 30-58.

Presentation 7: Itamar Radai, "Jaffa, 1948: the fall of a City", *Journal of Israeli History*, vol. 30, no. 1, March 2011.

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Grading:

Active participation in class	20%
Class presentation	30%
Seminar paper	50%

Requirements: Class meetings will consist on group discussions based on reading assignments. Each student will be responsible for reading the weekly materials: come prepared to talk about the question motivating the author, the central argument, the type of evidence used, and how the piece fits into the array of other readings. Additionally, once during the course, each student will be responsible to present and lead a short discussion about certain articles in class. The presentation must be submitted in paper form and in addition to the presentation include questions for discussion and student's critique of the reading material (1 paragraph).

During the second half of the course, each student will undertake a study of a topic related to the 1948 War. The (10-15 pages) paper can present an Arab, Jewish and international perspective or any combination of the three. Comparative and interdisciplinary studies are also welcome. The students will submit a proposal for a final paper with a clear research question and initial bibliography by XXXXXX. Final paper will be submitted by the last session.

Book Purchase – Recommended

1. Benny Morris, *1948: The First Arab Israeli War*, New haven and London: Yale University press, 2008.
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Lectures and Reading Material

October 27, 2014

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November 3, 2014

3. The British decision to withdraw from Palestine; UNSCOP and its mission

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November 10, 2014

4. UN partition resolution, 29 November 1947: Jews, Arabs and the International arena

Elad Ben-Dror, "The Arab Struggle Against Partition: The International Arena of Summer 1947", *Middle East Studies*, 43:2 (March 2007), 259-293.

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November 12, 2014

5. The first stage of the war – "the civil war" or "the inter-communal war".

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David Tal, "The Forgotten War: Jewish-Palestinian Strife in Mandatory Palestine December 1947-May 1948", *Israel Affairs*, Spring/Summer 2000, Vol. 6 Issue 3/4, pp. 3-22.

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November 12, 2014

6. Turning points in the “civil war”: The Hagana moves to the offensive; Nachshon Operation; IZL, Lehi and Deir Yassin.

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Presentation 6: Matthew Hogan, “The 1948 Massacre at Deir Yassin Revisited”, *Historian*, winter 2001, Vol. 63 Issue 2, p. 309-333.

November 17, 2014

7. Fighting in Mixed cities. The Fall of Haifa – a Case Study and a comparison to Jaffa

Motti Golani, “The ‘Haifa Turning Point’: The British and the Civil War in Palestine”, *Middle Eastern Studies*, Apr 2001, Vol. 37 Issue 2, p. 93-130.

Walid Khalidi, “The Fall of Haifa Revisited”, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 37:3 (2008), 30-58.

Presentation 7: Itamar Radai, “Jaffa, 1948: the fall of a City”, *Journal of Israeli History*, vol. 30, no. 1, March 2011.

November 19, 2014

Submit research question and bibliography

8. The formal birth of Israel- Israeli Declaration of Independence: the debate before declaration; decision making and meaning to the future. Change in society.

Tuvia Friling and Ilan, Troen, “Proclaiming Independence: Five Days in May from Ben Gurion’s Diary”, *Israel Studies*, Spring 98, Vol. 3:1, pp. 170-195.

Elyakim Rubinstein, “The Declaration of Independence as a Basic Document of the State of Israel”, *Israel Studies*, Spring 98, Vol. 3 Issue 1, p. 195-211.

Presentation 8: Jehuda Reinharz, “The Transition from Yishuv to State: Social and Ideological Changes”, in Laurence J. Silberstein (ed.), *New Perspectives on Israeli History*, NY: NY University Press, 199 pp. 27-41.

November 24, 2014

9. Jewish and Palestinian-Arab military forces balance and power relationship

Yoav Gelber. *Palestine, 1948: War, Escape and the Emergence of the Palestine Refugee Problem*. Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 2001, pp. 31-45, 59-73.

Rashid Khalidi, "The Palestinians and 1948: the underlying causes of failure", in: Rogan, Eugene L. and Avi Shlaim. (Eds.) *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2nd Edition, 2007, pp. 79-103.

Presentation 9: Issa Khalaf, "The effect of socioeconomic change on the Arab Societal Collapse in Mandate Palestine", *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, vol. 29, no. 1, February 1997, pp. 93-112.

Presentation 10: Kenneth Stein, "One hundred years of social change", in Laurence J. Silberstein (ed.), *New Perspectives on Israeli History*, New York 1991.

Presentation 11: Mohe Naor, "From Voluntary Funds to National Loans: the Financing of Israel's 1948 War Effort", *Israel Studies*, Vol. 11 No. 3, Fall 2006, pp. 62-81.

December 1, 2014

10. The Inter-state war – May 15 onwards: The Arab invasion to Palestine; the aims of the invaders; the role of the Arab league; inter-Arab relations.

Avi Shlaim, "Israel and the Arab Coalition in 1948", in: Rogan, Eugene L. and Avi Shlaim. (Eds.) *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2nd Edition, 2007, pp. 79-103.

Joshua Landis, "Syria and the Palestine War: fighting King Abdullah's "Greater Syria Plan", *ibid.*, pp. 176-203.

Presentation 12: Charles Tripp, "Iraq and the 1948 War: A mirror of Iraq's disorder", in Rogan and Shlaim, *The War for Palestine*, pp. 125-149.

Presentation 13: Matthew Hughes, "Collusion across the Litani? Lebanon and the 1948 War", *ibid.* pp. 204-227.

December 3, 2014

11. Egypt and Palestine, 1948: memories versus history

Mohamed Hassanein Heikal, "Reflections on a Nation in Crisis, 1948", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 18:1 (1988), pp. 112-120.

Fawaz A. Gerges, "Egypt and the 1948 War: internal conflict and regional ambition", in Rogan and Shlaim, *The War for Palestine*, pp. 150-175.

Presentation 13: Walid Khalidi, "[Nasser's Memoirs of the First Palestine War](#)", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 2, No. 2. (winter 1973), pp. 3-32.

December 8, 2014

12. The Ten Days battles: Conquest of Nazareth, and What happened in Lydda and Ramla?

Benny Morris, *1948: The First Arab-Israeli War* (New Haven and London: Yale UP, 2008), 273-301.

Presentation 14: Avraham Sela, Alon Kadish, "Myth and Historiography of the 1948 War revisited: the Case of Lydda", *Middle East Journal*, pp. 617-634.

13. The Truces, Count Brnadotte's plan and assassination; the second truce and "All Palestine Government": Why a Palestinian State did not emerge in 1948. Post-second truce: Hiram and Yoav operations.

Joseph Heller, "[Failure of a Mission: Bernadotte and Palestine, 1948](#)", *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 14, No. 3. (Jul., 1979), pp. 515-534.

Presentation 15: Avi Shlaim, "The Rise and Fall of the All-Palestine Government in Gaza" *Journal of Palestine studies*, 20:1 (1990), pp. 37-53.

Benny Morris, *1948: The First Arab-Israeli War* (New Haven and London: Yale UP, 2008), pp. 320-349.

Presentation 16 : S. Yizhar, *Khirbet Khizeh* (a story).

December 22nd, 2014

15. Ethnic cleansing or self-defense? The debate over the Refugee Problem

Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Revisited* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2004), pp. 588-604.

Presentation 17: Ilan Pappé, "The 1948 Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 36:1 (2006), 6-20.

Presentation 18: Shabtai Tevet, "Charging Israel with Original Sin", *Commentary*, 88 (1989), pp. 24-33.

December 29th, 2014

16. Conclusion: What really happened?

Benny Morris, *1948: The First Arab-Israeli War* (New Haven and London: Yale UP, 2008), pp. 392-420.

Mordechai Bar-On, "Conflicting Narratives or Narratives of a Conflict: Can the Zionist and Palestinian Narratives of the 1948 War be bridged?", in Robert . Rotberg (ed.) *Israel and the Palestinians Narratives of Conflict*, Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 2006, pp. 142-173.

Presentation 19: Gelber, Yoav. *Palestine, 1948: War, Escape and the Emergence of the Palestine*

Refugee Problem. Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 2001, pp. 298-302.

Presentation 20: Edward Said, "Afterword: the consequences of 1948", in: Rogan, Eugene L. and Avi Shlaim. (Eds.) *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2nd Edition, 2007, pp. 248-261.

December 15, 2014

