The encounter between the Jewish immigrant-settler society and native Arabs of Palestine had enormous impact on the historical and social development of both people. The local Arab society (that later defined themselves as Palestinians) and that fragment of the Jewish people that immigrated to Zion and felt as homecoming after 2,000 years of exile both had strong sense of belongings to the land and regarded it as their exclusive land. Both felt existentially threaten by the political aims and desires of the other people. Retrospectively, the relations between both people appear to be an inevitable zero-sum total conflict, of “either we or they”. However, the dynamics of the relations was much more complex, and the aim of this course is to examine in a systematic way the major developments and impacts of the Jewish-Palestinian conflict within some comparative and theoretical context (free from ideological bias).

The course presentation will not be chronological, but thematic and will be conducted using the dialogic technique, namely the students will be required as homework to prepare professional contrasting texts dealing with specific issue and to discuses them critically in the classroom.

Reader:


1. A Comparative Theoretical Framework

The Jewish-Zionist/Palestinian relations are inundated by all directly and indirectly involved parties by immense emotions, stereotypes and propagandistic materials, many times wrapped by authoritative-academic covers. It is also guarded by strong vested interests. In order to avoid as much as possible such pitfalls, it is essential to analyze this issue within a comparative theoretical framework, such were the various relations between the local and immigrant people in North and South Americas, North and South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Neither of these case studies are similar with the Zionist nation building process in Palestine and Israel and the local-native peoples responses to them, however it should be very instructive and challenging to examine our case study from this perspective.

Baruch Kimmerling, "A Model for Analysis of Reciprocal Relations Between the
2. A Historical Background I:

The pogroms of 1881 in East European triggered a major Jewish wave of emigration, but only a small portion of it saw the Holy Land as their target of destination, mainly religious sentiments. This was the first encounter between Jewish immigrants and the local Arab population under the rule of the Ottoman Muslim Empire. Despite the non-political character of this, retrospectively counted as the first wave of immigration, it aroused several of basic characters of the relations between these two xenophobic and exclusivist communities during their formative period.


Optional:


3. Land and Demography – Two Resources in the Game


Optional:


4. Creation of Two Rival National Movements


Optional:

5. A Historical Background II:


6. The Politicide of the Palestinian People and the Establishment of the Israeli State


7. A Refugee-Camps Society and the Revival of the Palestinian Nationalism


Optional:


8. 1967-2002: Occupation as a Social System


Optional:


9. The Blooming and the Deterioration of the Jewish-Israeli Society


**An Attempt of Reconciliation: Oslo Agreements and their Failure**
