

Palestine & Israel: Settler- Colonialism and Apartheid  
1 unit

Spring 2015

Facilitator:

Tina Matar

tmata001@ucr.edu

Faculty Sponsor

David Lloyd

david.lloyd@ucr.edu

Location & Time

TBD

Plan for Working with Faculty Mentor:

Professor David Lloyd is the faculty advisor for the student group, Students for Justice in Palestine. He has been working very closely with us for the last two years and has been in constant communication with not only me, but the other students as well. We have had a number of face-to-face meetings throughout the year about forming a class like this, but the number of meetings will again increase now that we have more concrete details and ideas in place. During the quarter that I will be teaching, we will meet at least once a week to discuss the topics and course work. The number of units for winter quarter preparation of 190 credit would be 2 units. The readings we plan to do vary and are attached to this sheet with the syllabus.

Course Description:

This course is about the history of Palestine viewed through contemporary literature and media from before the creation of Israel to today. We will be discussing the side of the conflict that you don't hear on mainstream media. The stories of the Palestinian people and their struggles don't get mentioned, and this class is made to discuss that. This is a unique class on campus because there is not a class that teaches the wide range of topics that will be discussed in class. Not only will this class teach the students the other side of the conflict that they never hear, but it will also allow them to find ways to take part and listen to personal testimonials from people that have lived/ currently live through it.

Course Requirements

- Attend all classes
- Complete write-ups every week
- Participate in class discussions
- Final presentation
- Attend event

Assignments

All assignments must be submitted by the specified due date. All assignments will be announced on a week by week basis during class. Note: this class is not academically challenging nor deeply time-consuming, but the assignments are meant to provoke some thought into the subject.

Below is a brief description of assignments types. Fine details regarding every assignment will be provided with ample time for students to prepare later on in the course.

- Short write up (typed): ½ page, (specific details released every week) to respond to assigned reading or video and be prepared to actively participate in class each week.
- Presentation (really short): during the final week of the quarter. Groups of 2-3 will be assigned. Students will work together and present in class (details to come)

### Grading

- Attendance and active participation (30%)
- Weekly write-ups (30%)
- Final Presentation (20%)
- Event Attendance (20%)

### Attendance & Participation

All classes should be attended. However, if you anticipate an upcoming conflict with reasonable request, please notify the facilitator by email 48 hours beforehand and you may be excused from class upon confirmation. Even though this is an RCourse, active participation, asking questions that are relevant to the subject, and being mindful and respectful of the background and opinions' of your peers is still expected.

### Learning Objectives:

At the end of the term , participants will be able to:

1. Develop a historical understanding of the conflict in the Middle East.
2. Develop an understand of differing perspectives of the people of the Middle East conflict.
3. Develop an understanding of Palestinian voices through contemporary literature and media.
4. Develop an understanding of students personal relation in the conflict and how it affects them, as well as how to develop the skills to communicate their understanding to others.

### Course Schedule

#### **Week 1: Introduction to the Palestine**

Introductions , Watch: Occupation 101 [2006, Documentary, 90 mins:

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0807956/>]

Reading: Edward Said, The Question of Palestine, Introduction and Chapter 1

Discussion: An introduction to understanding the occupation of Palestine 1948-present; (Land, Water, Displacement)

#### **Week 2: Settler-Colonialism and Apartheid**

Reading: Uri Ram, “The Colonization Perspective in Israeli Sociology”, in Ilan Pappé, *The Israel/Palestine Question*, pp. 53-77 [ARES]. Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage*, pp. 182-217.

Discussion: Understanding how settler-colonialism and apartheid function in Palestine, and the particularities of the Palestinian experience. (Occupation, the wall, checkpoints)

### **Week 3: Settler-Colonialism and Apartheid Part 2:**

Reading: Saree Makdisi’s *Palestine Inside Out* and Neve Gordon’s *Israel’s Occupation*

Discussion on the novel and what we discussed last week on checkpoints, the wall, and occupation.

### **Week 4: Refugeehood and Exile**

Readings: Lindholm Schultz, *The Palestinian Diaspora*, Introduction and Chapter 1 and Steven Salaita, introduction to *Israel’s Dead Soul*, pp. 1-11.

David Grossman, *Writing in the Dark* ch.1

Discussion; Guest Speaker to speak about the conditions for Palestinian refugees in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan as well as Palestinian Diaspora transnationally.

### **Week 5: Love Under Apartheid and Women’s Resilience**

Watch Omar [2013, film, 96 minutes: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2852406/>]

Reading: Love Under Apartheid Blogs, Al Qaws and Aswat Statements, Lena Meari, *Sumud: A Philosophy of Confronting Interrogation*.

### **Week 6: Palestinian Youth Movements and Cultural Resilience**

Readings: Sunaina Maira, *Jil Oslo: Palestinian hip hop, Youth Culture and the Youth Movement* Introduction,

Discussion: watch Palestinian hip hop video’s DAM and Shadia Mansour, discuss how artistic expression can become an outlet for cultural resilience, survival and resistance

Watch: *Sling-Shot Hip Hop* [2008, Documentary, 80 mins: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1157718/>]

## **Week 7: Palestine and the International Community**

Reading: Nora Barrows Friedman: *In Our Power: U.S. Students Organize for Justice in Palestine*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Discussion: The role of the UN, ICC, International Law and International Civil society in the supporting the occupation and supporting the struggle against the occupation.

## **Week 8: Oral History Testimonies:**

Discussion: Guest Community Elder to come and discuss the history of the Palestinian struggle and exile, the importance of archiving our histories and Oral history practice.

Watch: *5 Broken Cameras* [2011, Documentary, 94 mins:  
[http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2125423/?ref\\_=fn\\_al\\_tt\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2125423/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)]

## **Week 9: Future Possibilities:**

Reading: Ali Abunimah, *One Country*, Chapter five and 6.

Reading: Benny Morris, *One State, Two States*, pp. 161-201

Discussion: Outlining possibilities for the future of the struggle and Palestinian people. Considering ways in which the international community can play an ethical, responsible and supportive role in allowing the Palestinian people to achieve full self-determination.

## **Week 10: Review of course material and presentations**