**Course Syllabus: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Narratives**

**HP-4976**

**Summer - 2023**

**Instructors:  Eric Nigh**

Eric Nigh virtual office hours

(<https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/7872969753)>:

**Course Overview**

This course is designed to provide a multi-narrative perspective on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. The purpose of the course is to analyze the various points of origin, escalation, de-escalation, and peace attempts that have affected this land and its peoples. Since the conflict is ongoing, we will grapple with contemporary questions and their historical legacies.

**Course Objectives**

Through this course, students will:

* Analyze information on the conflict from a diversity of sources with a critical lens
* Gain strong historical understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the impact historical events have on contemporary developments
* Construct personal opinions regarding the conflict that are rooted in a well-rounded understanding of the history, actors, and narratives involved
* Communicate arguments on often-controversial topics to their peers through their written discussions, media analysis, negotiation proposals, and final paper
* Develop and demonstrate critical evaluation skills about their own work and thoughts and in the assessment of work and thoughts of their peers

**Online Supported Course**

The course will be in taught remotely and will utilize the Canvas online learning platform as an innovative and inclusive space where we can engage a multitude of perspectives through the use of various instructional approaches.

All course materials will be accessible through the WyoCourses module and CIEL Website:

1. Closed caption lectures by multiple scholars with multiple viewpoints on the conflict via the Canvas website.
2. Various readings, mostly academic articles, that will synthesize and analyze narratives on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in addition to documentaries, news articles, legal documents, and news clips. All resources, required and recommended, will be available to students online. There is no textbook to purchase for this course.

**Very important – each week will be different in terms of the required readings and lectures before class and in some weeks during class. Students need to follow online weekly course requirements and messages from the instructor closely to be prepared for each week.**

**Course Requirements:**

Your performance in the course will be analyzed in a number of ways. All expectations, grading guidelines, and deadlines will be clearly explained during the first week of class and mentioned on the Canvas class website. You must successfully complete each of them in order to pass the course.  There will be no incompletes in this course without a medical excuse.

**Class Participation in Discussions (20%)**

Students will be required to participate in the class discussions and to be prepared for them, which means having completed assigned readings and video lectures for every week. Students will be required to post in the class online forum - reflecting on a question about that week’s theme. Participation will include one post where you offer an answer to the posed question, and one response to a fellow classmates’ posts.

**Quizzes (10%)**

There will be three quizzes to test your comprehension of the video lectures and readings for three major sections that the course covers.

**Narrative Blogs (5%):**

Students are asked to create a narrative post about themselves and their motivation for taking the class and submit it online to the course instructor.

**News Analysis (15%):**

Students will create a comparative news poster via Adobe Sparks. They are asked to research news sources from across the political spectrum and different countries and to compare the biases reflected in how an assigned historical or contemporary event is reported about and put it in a visual form on a poster. Students will need to submit a list of at least 6 different news sources as a separate submission to a copy of the poster.

**Interview Project (30%):**Interview Project Proposal and Write-Up:

Students will be asked to send a proposal of who they would like to interview and what questions they would ask. The instructor will provide feedback. Students are required to submit a 5-10 page write-up of the interview with contextual analysis. More details to follow. Graded Proposal: 5% and final write-up: 25%.

**Final Reflections (20%):**

Students will be asked to submit a 4-5 page write-up of their reflections on their learning experience abroad. This assignment will be due immediately upon the conclusion of the study abroad portion of the trip and will follow prompts provided. This assignment is meant to guide students in a self-assessment of their learning experience, examining how their views and understandings have developed over the course of their engagements with Israeli and Palestinian stakeholders.

**Due Date Policy:**The deadlines in this course are firm. Assignments are due promptly unless otherwise noted.  Assignments not turned in promptly are considered late and penalized accordingly.  The only exception to this policy is if your own illness makes you physically unable to attend class, as documented by a signed medical excuse. All other late assignments will be assigned a late penalty of a half letter grade per day.

**Student Rights and Responsibilities:**Please refer to the UW Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a UW student.   Also, any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**Academic Dishonesty**:  The Political Science Department, the University of Wyoming, and your professor take a very dim view about academic dishonesty.  For a definition of academic dishonesty and the administrative procedures for addressing it go to this site: [http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/\_files/docs/uw-reg-6-802.pdf (Links to an external site.)](http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/uw-reg-6-802.pdf) . Students found guilty of academic dishonesty in my courses will receive an F for the course.

**Classroom behavior policy:**Always, treat your presence in the classroom and your enrollment in this course as you would a job.  Act professionally, arrive on time, pay attention, complete your work in a timely and professional manner, and treat all deadlines seriously.  You will be respectful towards you classmates and instructor. Spirited debate and disagreement are to be expected in any classroom and all views will be heard fully, but always we will behave civilly and with respect towards one another. Personal attacks, offensive language, name-calling, and dismissive gestures are not warranted in a learning atmosphere.  As the instructor, I have the right to dismiss you from the classroom, study sessions, electronic forums, and other areas where disruptive behavior occurs.

**Diversity statement:**“The University of Wyoming values an educational environment that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive. The diversity that students and faculty bring to class, including age, country of origin, culture, disability, economic class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, linguistic, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, worldview, and other social and cultural diversity is valued, respected, and considered a resource for learning. “

**Special Needs**:  The University of Wyoming is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students.  If you have a disability, including but not limited to  physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities, and would like to request accommodations in this course due to your disability, , please register with  and provide documentation of your disability as soon as possible to Disability Support Services (DSS), Room 128 Knight Hall. You may also contact DSS at (307) 766-3073 or [*udss@uwyo.edu.*](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu) It is in the student’s best interest to request accommodations within the first week of classes, understanding that accommodations are not retroactive.  Visit the DSS website for more information at: [www.uwyo.edu/udss](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss )

**Student Conduct**: The University of Wyoming is a community of scholars in which the ideals of freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, and freedom of expression are sustained. The exercise and preservation of these freedoms require a respect for the rights of all in the community. Willful disruption of the educational process, destruction of property, interference with the orderly process of the institution, and interference with the rights of other members of the University will not be tolerated. [www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/\_files/docs/uw%20reg%20updates%202014/uw-reg-8-30.pdf](http://www.uwyo.edu/generalcounsel/_files/docs/uw%20reg%20updates%202014/uw-reg-8-30.pdf)

**Duty to Report:**UW faculty are committed to supporting students and upholding the University’s non-discrimination policy. Under Title IX, discrimination based upon sex and gender is prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex- or gender-based discrimination, we encourage you to report it. While you may talk to a faculty member, understand that as a "Responsible Employee" of the University, the faculty member MUST report information you share about the incident to the university’s Title IX Coordinator (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you privacy or confidentiality, there are people who can meet with you. Faculty can help direct you or you may find info about UW policy and resources at <http://www.uwyo.edu/reportit>

You do not have to go through the experience alone. Assistance and resources are available, and you are not required to make a formal complaint or participate in an investigation to access them.

**Substantive changes to syllabus**:  All deadlines, requirements, and course structure is subject to change if deemed necessary by the instructor.  Students will be notified verbally in class, on our WyoCourses page announcement, and via email of these changes.

**Student Resources:**

* DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES: [udss@uwyo.edu](mailto:udss@uwyo.edu), 766-3073, 128 Knight Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/udss (Links to an external site.)](http://www.uwyo.edu/udss)
* COUNSELING CENTER: [uccstaff@uwyo.edu](mailto:uccstaff@uwyo.edu), 766-2187, 766-8989 (After hours), 341 Knight Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/ucc (Links to an external site.)](http://www.uwyo.edu/ucc)
* ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: 766-4286, 312 Old Main, [www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs (Links to an external site.)](http://www.uwyo.edu/acadaffairs)
* DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE: [dos@uwyo.edu](mailto:dos@uwyo.edu), 766-3296, 128 Knight Hall, [www.uwyo.edu/dos (Links to an external site.)](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos)
* UW POLICE DEPARTMENT: [uwpd@uwyo.edu](mailto:uwpd@uwyo.edu), 766-5179, 1426 E Flint St, [www.uwyo.edu/uwpd (Links to an external site.)](http://www.uwyo.edu/uwpd)
* STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT WEBSITE: [www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct](http://www.uwyo.edu/dos/conduct)

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| **CLASS SCHEDULE (current draft)** | | | | |
| **Week** | **Modules** | **Weekly Topic** | **Assignment** | **Lecture Videos** |
| Week 1 | *Introduction to Narrative Analysis* | Introduction to Narratives Analysis | Assignment overviews | - General Introduction to Narrative Analysis (Daniel Brunstetter)  - Narrative in the Region (Daniel Brunstetter)  - Bias and Narrative (Daniel Brunstetter) |
| Narratives of War |  | - How to analyze War (Daniel Brunstetter)  - Justice of going to War (Daniel Brunstetter)  - Ending War and Just Peace (Daniel Brunstetter) |
| Week 2 | *Historical Origins of the Conflict* | Religious Significance of the Region | Personal Narrative Blog/Write-up due | - Overview of Analyzing Religion (Karenjot Bhangoo Randhawa)  - Christianity (Karenjot Bhangoo Randhawa)  - Islam (Karenjot Bhangoo Randhawa)  - Judaism (Karenjot Bhangoo Randhawa) |
| Sweeping History of the Region: Antiquity to the 19th Century | Think about who to interview for final assignment | No lecture videos for this week:  - Antiquity  - Exile  - Empires |
| Week 3 | *Origins of the Conflict: Nationalisms* | The Advent of Zionism | Newspaper Analysis assignment overview | - Nationalism and the Birth of Zionism (David Myers)  - The Rise of the Zionist Movement (David Myers)  - Zionist land settlement in Palestine (David Myers) |
| The Roots of Palestinian Nationalism |  | - Arab Nationalism and Palestinian Identity (Hussein Ibish)  - Finding Nationalism without a State (Hussein Ibish)  - The Rise of the Palestine Liberation Organization (Hussein Ibish)  - Unpacking the “Question of Palestine” (Hussein Ibish) |
| Week 4 | *Origins of the Conflict:*  *Wars and Borders* | 1917 |  | - Introduction to the Dual Narrative Approach (David Myers and Hussein Ibish)  - Israeli Narrative on 1917 (David Myers)  - Palestinian Narrative on 1917 (Hussein Ibish)  - Engaging the 1917 Narratives and post 1917 realities and attitudes (David Myers and Hussein Ibish) |
| 1948: Liberation vs. Catastrophe | Newspaper Analysis due and shared in class | - Israeli Narrative on 1948 (David Myers)  - Palestinian Narrative on 1948 (Hussein Ibish)  - Engaging the 1948 Narratives and post 1948 realities and attitudes (David Myers and Hussein Ibish) |
| Week 5 | *Uprisings, Interim Peace Negotiations: 1980s - 90s* | 1967 | Students will receive information for negotiation exercise | - Israeli Narrative on 1967 (David Myers)  - Palestinian Narrative on 1967 (Hussein Ibish)  - Engaging the 1967 Narratives and post 1967 realities and attitudes (David Myers and Hussein Ibish)  - Extro on Dual Narrative Analysis (David Myers and Hussein Ibish) |
| The First Intifada and the Oslo Peace Talks | Final interview assignment proposal due | - The First Intifada: Cause and Tactics (Hussein Ibish)  - The First Intifada: Response (Hussein Ibish)  - Accords + Agreements under Oslo I (Dennis Ross)  - Accords + Agreements under Oslo II (Dennis Ross) |
| Week 6 | *Attempts to solve the Conflict: Uprisings and Peace Negotiations: 2000s* | The Post-Oslo State of Affairs |  | - Aftermath and failure of Oslo (Ghaith al-Omari and David Makovsky)  - Camp David II and follow up (Ghaith al-Omari)  - The Second Intifada: Causes and Tactics (Ghaith al-Omari) |
| Aftermath of the Second Intifada and the failure of peace negotiations | Receive feedback on final interview assignment | - The Second Intifada: Responses (Ghaith al-Omari and David Makovsky)  - Post Camp David Peace Attempts (TBD / Daniel Kurtzer)  - Kerry Talks and the future of peace talks (David Makovsky) |
| Week 7 | *Final Status Issues* | Legal Frameworks and Geography | Individual policy brief on assigned final status issue and position due | - Legal Frameworks (Arturo Jimenez)  - Settlements (Arturo Jimenez)  - Borders (David Makovsky) |
| Population, Security and Jerusalem |  | - Refugees (Ghaith al-Omari)  - Security (David Makovsky)  - Jerusalem (Arturo Jimenez) |
| Week 8 | *Palestinian Domestic Politics* | Institutions | Students will receive feedback on policy briefs | - The PA and Fatah in the West Bank (Ghaith al-Omari)  - Hamas in Gaza (Hussein Ibish)  - The Fatah-Hamas Conflict and Reconciliation Attempts (Hussein Ibish) |
| Geography and Demographics | Students will be paired and coordinate negotiation exercise during class | - The West Bank and Gaza today – Part 1: Demographics and Rights (Hussein Ibish)  - The West Bank and Gaza today – Part 2: Geography and Religion (Hussein Ibish)  - Palestinians in the Diaspora – Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and International (Hussein Ibish) |
| Week 9 | *Israeli Domestic Politics* | Institutions | Students will be engaging in a 30-minute ‘negotiation’ exercise | Lecture videos still in production:  - The Knesset and Party Politics (Dov Waxman)  - Basic Laws (Dow Waxman)  - The Israeli Defense Force (Dov Waxman) |
| Geography and Demographics |  | Lecture videos still in production:  - Israelis and the Green Line (Dov Waxman)  - Religious and Ethnic Divisions (Dov Waxman)  - Diaspora Influence and Importance (Dov Waxman) |
| Week 10 | *Current Debates: Where to Next?* | Pressing Developments and Issues in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict | Group policy briefs from the negotiation exercise due | Most lecture videos still in production:  - Religion and Conflict (TBD / Dov Waxman)  - One vs. Two State Solution (TBD)  - The Israel Lobby & BDS Movement (TBD)  - The Diaspora Communities (TBD)  - Shifting Regional Dynamics - Post Arab Spring (Hussein Ibish) |
| Concluding Thoughts: Where to Next? | Interview Project Write-Up due by the end of finals week | No lecture videos for this week |