

Palestinian Politics and Society **Intensive seminar**

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Focus and goals. This course examines the evolution of Palestinian politics and society in the 20th century, with a particular emphasis on the current situation. To a large extent, we will attempt to view the topic through the eyes of the Palestinians to understand why elites and the general public make the choices they do. This analysis will require that we use insights from all the social sciences to situate political activities in time and space.

Method of instruction. The method of instruction will be directed discussion, interspersed with lectures on background material and extensive use of films to provide a diversity of Palestinian voices. The lectures and discussions will build on, rather than duplicate, the assigned readings. In particular, I will assume that you have read Gerner, *One Land, Two Peoples: The Conflict over Palestine*, Kimmerling & Migdal's *Palestinians: The Making of a People*, and Usher's *Palestine in Crisis*, as well as additional items assigned for each session.

Evaluation. Your grade in this course will be based on your participation in discussions, several short written exercises, and a final assignment.

Class discussion. I recognize that class discussion comes more easily for some people than for others. By temperament or habit, some of us are “talkers,” others are “listeners.” Learning to be *both* is an important goal of this course. In assessing your participation I will be looking for several things:

- Evidence of thorough preparation,
- Comments that are clear, concise, enthusiastic, logical, original, appropriate to the discussion, analytically sophisticated, and that use relevant evidence
- Contribution(s) that contribute to the *process* of the discussion: building on the ideas of others, asking constructive questions, or indicating a careful listening.

If you want to raise an issue that is completely different from the one the class is discussing, consider waiting until the class is ready to move on to another topic. Alternatively, if you feel that you need to interject your point – particularly if you believe the class is moving off onto a tangent – try to do so by linking your comments to those of others.

Lecture and Discussion Topics

- Session 1: Islam, politics, and the Palestinians – Friday, 17 November
- Session 2: Film: “Courage along the Divide” – Friday, 17 November
- Session 3: Politics and society during the *intifada* – Saturday, 18 November
Film: “Days of Rage: The Young Palestinians”
- Session 4a: Film: “Testimonies” – Saturday, 18 November
- Session 4b: Palestinian Women – Saturday, 18 November
- Session 5: Film: “A Wedding in Galilee” – Sunday afternoon or evening, 19 November
- Session 6: Evolution of U.S. foreign policy toward the Palestinians – Monday, 20 November
- Session 7: Madrid and the Oslo process – Monday, 20 November
Film: “The Checkpoint”
- Session 8a: Internal Palestinian politics, from the creation of the PLO to the PNA – Tuesday, 21 November
- Session 8b: (Re)Construction of Palestine – Tuesday, 21 November
- Session 8c: Film: “Jerusalem: An Occupation Set in Stone?”
- Session 9: Palestinians inside the Green Line – Tuesday, 21 November
- Session 10: Regional perspectives on Palestinian politics [guest lecture: Julia Pitner] – Wednesday, 22 November
- Session 11: The collapse of the Oslo process – Wednesday, 22 November