



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Gaza in History - 39491

Last update 15-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Lee Mordechai

Coordinator Email: lee.mordechai@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Lee Mordechai

Course/Module description:

This course offers a historical survey of Gaza from premodernity and until the present. Gaza, located on the crossroads between Africa, Asia and Europe, was an origin and destination for trade, a cultural center and also a place around which many conflicts took place over thousands of years. The first part of the course will examine the role of Gaza under the different empires that ruled over it from the ancient Egyptians and until the Ottoman Turks, exploring how the city developed under these diverse rulers. We will analyze key historical episodes, such as the Christianization of the city and the changes it experienced under Islamic rule, to understand their importance within the city's long history.

The second part of the course will examine the last 100 years. We will examine Gaza during the first world war and under the British Mandate, focusing on the drastic change it experienced after the 1948 war. We will also examine contemporary issues such as the rise of Hamas, the siege of Gaza, the cycles of violence and humanitarian crises. In parallel, the course will investigate how broader trends such as the rise of Palestinian nationalism and events such as the Israeli disengagement plan shaped Gaza's political, demographic and social reality. By using primary and secondary sources we will try to understand Gaza's past and its meanings for the present and future.

This course requires no preliminary knowledge about Gaza. Introductory-level knowledge about the history of the Middle East will be helpful for understanding the broader context of the course but is not required.

Course/Module aims:

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

See Hebrew version.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Discussion of readings

Course/Module Content:

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1. Introduction – a broad historical survey of Gaza, its importance and its history
 2. Gaza in the prehistoric period
 3. Gaza in antiquity
 4. Gaza in the early Muslim period
 5. Crusaders and Mamluks
 6. Ottoman Gaza
 7. World War I and the British Mandate
 8. The War of 1948
 9. The Egyptian rule in Gaza
 10. The Israeli rule in Gaza and the first intifada
 11. The peace process, autonomy, and the second intifada
 12. Hamas in Gaza: cycles of violence and humanitarian crises
 13. Gaza and its future after Oct. 7

Required Reading:

A detailed reading list will be given Filiu, Jean-Pierre. 2014. *Gaza: A History*. Hurst Publishers.

Meyer, Martin Abraham. 1907. *History of the City of Gaza: From the Earliest Times to the Present Day*. Columbia University Press.

Khalidi, Rashid. 2020. *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917–2017*. Metropolitan Books.

Said, Edward W. 1992. *The Question of Palestine*. Reissue edition. New York: Vintage.

אלדר, שלומי. 2005. עזה כמוות. ידיעות אחרונות.

בן יהודה, עמרי ודודן הלוי. 2023. עזה: מקום ודימוי במרחב הישראלי. גמא.

גיל, משה. 1983. ארץ-ישראל בתקופה המוסלמית הראשונה (634-1099). אוניברסיטת תל-אביב ומשרד הבטחון.

מוריס, בני. 2003. קורבנות: תולדות הסכסוך הציוני-הערבי 1881-2001. עם עובד.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 65 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 20 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 10 %

Other 5 %

Additional information:

