Syllabus

THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT FROM 1948 - 56049

Last update 22-02-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Political Science

Academic year: 2

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Maya Rosenfeld

Coordinator Email: maya.rosenfeld@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Sundays 13-14:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Maya Rosenfeld
Course/Module description:
The course traces the development of the Palestinian National Movement from the 1948 war until the present. It accords centrality to the social factors that fed Palestinian national political action and motivated it as well as to the system(s) of power relations which confined and restricted it. The course material leans on a large corpus of research literature from varied academic disciplines including history, political science, sociology and anthropology.

The course is divided into three parts, which overlap three major sub-periods in the history of the movement.

The first part is entitled "A multiplicity of streams: trends in Palestinian nationalism between the two wars - from the nakba (disaster) of 1948 to the naksa (defeat) of 1967". It reviews the impact of the consequences of the 1948 war on national-political mobilization among the Palestinians. Uprooting, refugeeess, dispersal in several Arab states, the spread of higher education among widening social strata, subjection to various modes of political oppression on the one hand, and exposure to radical political ideologies, on the other hand, are all background elements that enable us to explain the Palestinians' heightened tendency to politicization. As will be shown in detail, many joined the ranks of the diverse opposition movements and parties that were active at the time in the Arab host countries, e.g. the Jordanian Communist Party, which rebelled against the Jordanian monarchical regime. Special attention will be given to Palestinian activism in the ranks of the Movement of Arab Nationalists, a pan-Arab movement that was highly influenced by the political and social outlook of Egypt's Gamal Abd al-Nasser. Subsequently we will examine the emergence in the late 1950s and early 1960s of particular Palestinian Nationalism, as represented by al-Fatah movement, which would eventually point the way for the entire National Movement.

The second part of the course is entitled "The struggle for self-determination under the hegemony of the PLO: from the rise of the independent Palestinian guerilla organizations (in the aftermath of the 1967 War), to the popular uprising against the Israeli military occupation (the first Intifada 1987-92)". This part focuses on the transformation of the Palestinian national movement into a mass movement (the expansion of the social and institutional bases of the movement), on the rise and consolidation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian cause, and on the changing components in the Palestinian struggle for self-determination. These processes are examined against the backdrop of various factors: the Arab defeat in the 1967 war and the demise of pan-Arab nationalism, the prolonged Israeli military occupation over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and its impacts on social transformation in these territories, Israel's absolute military superiority and its refusal to recognize the PLO, the inter-relationship between the PLO (and each of the major organizations that comprise it) and the Arab regimes, and the role of the super-powers (USA and USSR) in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
The third part of the course is entitled: "The establishment of a Palestinian National Authority (PNA) with highly restricted authorities, the resumption of violent conflict with Israel, and the deepening intra-Palestinian political rift: from the Oslo Accords (Sept. 1993) to the aftermath of the Hamas takeover in Gaza (2007)". This part seeks to provide a window to current problems that engage the Palestinian national movement in the past two decades, first and foremost the lack of progress towards Palestinian independence and sovereignty, and the divide within the Palestinian political system. The problems are closely intertwined: the signing of the Oslo accords between the PLO leadership and the government of Israel (the Declaration of Principles signed in September 1993) stirred strong opposition in the ranks of the Hamas-led Islamic movement and highlighted the absence of national consensus with respect to this move. The meager achievements that the Palestinians gained through the "Oslo track" during the years 1994-2000 became ground for ongoing attempts by the Islamic opposition to undermine the rule of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). In the wake of the disruption of the Oslo track (since October 2000) and the Israeli measures to prevent the establishment of an independent Palestinian state rivalry further escalated into full scale confrontation (culminating with the Hamas takeover in Gaza) and subsequent crisis. Most of the issues that are dealt with in this part relate to processes that are yet to be concluded or determined and will therefore be treated as open research questions.

Course/Module aims:
The aim of the course is to provide the student with comprehensive knowledge and challenging analysis of the development of the Palestinian national movement since 1948.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To point at the major differences between the characteristics of the Palestinian national movement before and after the 1948 war

To discern the major stages of development in the history of the Palestinian national movement since 1948 and to note the major turning points in this history

To assess the major impacts of dispersal exile and refugeehood on political and national mobilization among the Palestinians (from a perspective of six and a half decades)

To assess the cumulative impact of the decades-long Israeli military occupation on political and national mobilization among the Palestinians of the West Bank and
Gaza Strip.

To provide an historical evaluation of the strength and weaknesses of the PLO as the political representative of the Palestinian people and cause

To assess the impact of the intervention of international players (UN, United States, the EU, the (late) Soviet Union) on prospects of the Palestinian struggle for independence.

Attendance requirements(%):
  attendance is required

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: lectures

Course/Module Content:
  Introduction: a brief overview on the Palestinian national movement under the British Mandate

Palestinians in the opposition to the Jordanian monarchy during the 1950s: the case of the Jordanian Communist Party

Arab Nationalism under the leadership of Nasser and its impact on the development of Palestinian nationalism: the case of the Movement of Arab Nationalists

Swimming against the stream: The emergence of Fatah in the era of Arab nationalism
The Arab defeat in the 1967 War and the emergence of the independent Palestinian organizations.

The adoption of guerrilla warfare as means of armed struggle: examining similarities and differences between anti-colonial liberation struggles of the 1950s and 1960s and the Palestinian national movement

The reorganization of the PLO in the aftermath of the 1967 War and its rise to hegemonic power

The strategic shift in the PLO's political program

The unique course of development of the Palestinian national movement in the occupied Palestinian Territories: a socio-economic and political analysis
The first Intifada: the unarmed, popular Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip

The PLO and the Oslo Accords: an assessment of the considerations and constraints that led the PLO's leadership to accept the Oslo framework

Hamas and its opposition to the Oslo plan: assessing the impacts

The establishment of the PNA: analyzing the consequences for Palestinian society in the WB and GS and for the Palestinian political system

The second Intifada, the Israeli reaction and the aftermath

The reemergence of Hamas in light of the political and socio-economic crisis that followed the (military defeat of the )second Intifada.

The Hamas takeover in Gaza and the further polarization of the Palestinian political system

Required Reading:

Bibliography
This list includes required and additional reading


Dakak, I. (1983) "Back to Square One," In Scholch Alexander, ed. Palestinians over
the Green Line (London: Ithaca Press)


Hasso, Frances (2005) Resistance, Repression, and Gender Politics in Occupied Palestine and Jordan (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press).


Robinson, Glenn (1997) Building a Palestinian State (Bloomington: Indiana


פריטים בעברית:


אדלר, שלומי (2005) בעזה כמוות (תל אביב: ידיעות אחרונות, ספרי חמד)


טוויל, רימונדה (1980) מפלגות בגדה המערבית בתקופה הירדנית (תל אביב: ורג'ל)


כש, אמנון ויעקב בושם (תל אביב: מפרץ)


Studies Palestine of Journal:

Additional Reading Material:
Required reading for each session will be specified in the course site on a weekly basis

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 80 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
Students are expected to follow the weekly updates (posted on the course site)