The course discusses the Israeli-Palestinian interactions focusing on the way collective identities are shaped by the conflict. It combines historical outlining of the conflict's development from the beginning of Zionist immigration to Palestine until the current day, with thematic analysis of its dynamics. The course juxtaposes different subjective points of view and motivations of the various actors involved and analyzes the socio-political process as products of these interrelated positions. Special emphasis is given to the significance of interdependency of culture and politics; national symbolism as both product of the conflict and an element that maintains it; and the significance of heroism, victimhood and martyrdom in shaping the conflict and the identities of the parties involved. Class meetings include lectures, movies, and discussions.

Assignments and Grading:

Attendance
The course is heavily based on class lectures, movies, and discussions. Therefore, class attendance is mandatory. Legitimate reasons for absence include only documented medical conditions or absences pre-approved by the instructor. Any other absence is considered an unexcused absence. You are allowed two unexcused absences but from the third unexcused absence you will lose one percentage point from your final grade for every meeting you miss. Six unexcused absences or more will automatically result in failing the course.

Reading

Other items on the list are available through the library’s electronic reserve system or the provided web links.
On-line commentary (20%)
Students are expected to post a short but thoughtful commentary (approximately 250 words) on ten reading items – before class. Five of these items should be submitted by 2/16 and five after 2/16. This assignment is an integral part of the learning process, and therefore late submissions will not be counted under any circumstances. The commentary should answer the question/s appearing on Canvas/Discussions under the relevant thread. If a question does not appear, the commentary should include one paragraph summarizing the main argument/s and one paragraph conveying your own perspective on the text. Grades will not be given to each report separately but twice during the semester, on 2/16 and at the end of the course.

Class participation (10%)
Consistent attendance is a necessary but not satisfactory condition for getting the maximal participation grade. You are expected to take an active part in the classroom, based on your reading. If you do not feel comfortable talking in public you can substitute it by the following options: reacting to your class-mate comments on the discussion board; submitting extra commentaries, beyond the ten required; submitting extra movie reviews.

Two movie reviews (2 x 5%)
Throughout the semester we will watch several documentary movies. You are required to submit a review of at least two of them, no later than 7 days after the screening. If you submit more than two reviews, the two highest grades will be counted toward your final grade. A review is not a summary - you are expected to write your thoughts about the movie as a student in the course ‘Israelis and Palestinians’. The length should be approximately 400 words.

Quizzes (28%)
Throughout the semester you will be required to take four quizzes. Each quiz will take 10 minutes and its weight in the final grade is 7%. If you missed a quiz because of an unexcused absence you will not be able to make up for it.

Final take home exam (32%)
During the last class meeting, students will receive specific instructions for a final take home exam. The exam will be in the form of an essay in which students are expected to implement the knowledge they acquired in the classroom and the reading materials. The grade will reflect the student’s knowledge of the course materials, the way she/he implements the theoretical concepts, and the level of organization and clarity of the arguments. Students will have three days to complete the assignment.

Grading Policy
Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade point can be found at https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Grading Scale
A     93-100
A-    90-92
Make-up policy
The course assignments are mandatory and there is no way to substitute them by other assignments or extra-credit, except under the following conditions:

1) Students who missed a quiz for a justifiable documented reason will be able to take the quiz at the instructor’s office. In this case it is your responsibility to schedule a make-up quiz with the instructor as soon as you can and no more than a week after you are back to campus.

2) Students who missed more than five meetings for a justifiable documented reason will be required to make up for this absence by submitting a paper based on the instructor’s guidelines.

Plagiarism
Using others’ ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information is considered plagiarism and is a serious violation of the honor code of the University of Florida (please see http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/honorcodes/honorcode.php for details). Submitting plagiarized work will automatically result in a failing grade in this course and will be reported to the relevant authorities in the university. In order to prevent plagiarism, papers submitted in this class, including your reading reports and movie reviews, will be checked by the Turn-it-in software.

Students with disabilities
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.
Class schedule and reading assignments

1/8 Introduction

1/10: Different ways to tell the story
Reading:
1) “The Land and its Lure”, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-13) from Gelvin

1/15: Cultures of Nationalism
Reading: "Cultures of Nationalism", Chapter 2 (pp. 14-45) from Gelvin

1/17: First encounters
Reading:
1) Excerpts from Herzl: Old New Land.
3) Ottoman voices against Zionism (translated by Michelle U. Campos), from the course website.

1/22 Arabs and Jews under British rule
World War I and the Palestine Mandate (Ch. 4:, pp. 76-91 from Gelvin)

1/24 Arabs and Jews under British rule - II

1/29: Emerging Nationalisms and Revolt
From Nationalism in Palestine to Palestinian Nationalism (Ch. 5, pp. 92-117 from Gelvin)

Movie – The Diaries of Yossef Nachmani

Quiz 1

1/31: Emerging Nationalisms and Revolt - II

2/5 – 2/7: The 1948 War - Nakba and Independence
2/12-2/14: Historiographic controversy on 1948


2/19: Statehood and homelessness

2/21: Statehood and homelessness-2

2/26: The Arab Israeli Wars
“The Arab Israeli Conflict” (Ch. 8, pp 166-197 from Gelvin).

- Quiz 2

2/28: Re-emergence of Palestinian nationalism
1) Pp. 198-214 from Gelvin

3/12: The occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

3/14: The occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip - II
Land Grab (Summary): http://www.btselem.org/English/Publications/Summaries/200205_Land_Grab.asp

pp. 214-230 from Gelvin

3/21: First Intifada --II

3/26: The Oslo Process

- Quiz 3
3/28: Second Intifada
1) Pp. 231-254 from Gelvin


4/2: Arabs in a Jewish State

4/4: Arabs in a Jewish State-II
The Future Vision of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel, The National Committee for the Heads of the Arab Local Authorities in Israel, December 2006:
http://www.adalah.org/newsletter/eng/dec06/tasawor-mostaqbali.pdf (pp. 9-18)

4/9: Arabs in a Jewish State-III

4/11: Religion and conflict - I

4/16: Religion and conflict – II
http://www.mideastweb.org/hamas.htm


4/18: The siege on the Gaza strip

2) Report of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1 (p. 3-21)

4/23: Solutions?
Reading:
1) Gush Shalom Forum, “Two States or One State”, A debate between former Knesset Member Uri Avnery and Dr. Ilan Pappe, May 8, 2007 http://gush-shalom.org.toibillboard.info/Transcript_eng_improved.mht


Quiz 4