Ginsburg Ingerman Overseas Students Program
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Time and Space in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

13-5-430
Fall Semester 2014
Tuesday 10:00-12:00

Dr. Ariel Handel
Email: arielhan@yahoo.com
Phone / Mobile: 03-6994134
Office hours: TBD

Course Description:
Time and space play a major role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, from the days of early Zionism to Israel's contemporary control over the West Bank. Questions of temporal precedence and continuity have served as weapons on both sides, while maps and space management tools are part of the conflict as well as of its suggested solutions. By reading literature on time and space in general, and on the conflict in particular, the course will attempt to describe and analyze the ways in which time and space are used in the conflict as a means of control and justification.

Course Objectives:
During the course, the students shall learn how to better understand the roles of time and space in national conflicts, as well as the current state of affairs in Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip.

Learning Outcomes:
On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Learn how to understand the roles of time and space in national conflicts.
- Analyze the ways in which history and archaeology influence contemporary Israel/Palestine.
- Learn to contextualize maps and spatial images, critically and politically.
- Become acquainted with major points in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Field of Education and Discipline(s):
Geography, Sociology, Politics, Israel-Palestine

Course Structure:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Lecture: 2</th>
<th>Total # of Credits: 2</th>
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<td>ECTS (European Credit Transfer System—will be calculated by the OSP): 3</td>
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Teaching Method:
The course will be conducted through a combination of formal lectures, short movies and class discussion. The lectures will be based on weekly reading assignments.

Course Requirements

Compulsory attendance: YES

Structure of Final Course Grade

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Reading reports</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Final paper</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Student presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>100%</td>
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Note:
- Work handed in late, will not be graded!
- Penalties and course policies should be clearly articulated (i.e. students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than 2 class meetings unexcused)
- Language of instruction is English.

Course Schedule Layout:

First week
What is time? What is space?
What is the role that the past and the future play in people’s lives? Can all spaces be mapped and measured? What are the connections between historical narratives and territory-making? The lecture will analyze several ways to conceive and measure time and space; each of them entail different sociological and political implications.

Readings:
David Harvey, "What is Space?"
Benedict Anderson, Imagined Communities

Second week
Different approaches to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (1880-1967)
The lecture will present different academic and historical approaches to the sources of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, since the early days of Zionism, through the establishment of the State of Israel, and up to the 1967 war.

Readings:
Anita Shapira, Israel: A History
Gershon Shafir, Land, labor, and the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, 1882-1914

Third week
Different approaches to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (1967-present)
The occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the Sinai Peninsula in 1967 radically changed Israel's geopolitical situation. The
lecture will be devoted to several approaches to Israeli control over these territories, in a comparative and contextual perspective.

Readings:
Juval Portugali, *Implicate relations: society and space in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict*
Elisha Efrat, *Disputed land: a geopolitical perspective on the Israel-Palestine conflict*

Fourth week
History, archaeology, and modern nationalism
As many scholars have already noted, the modern nation state tends to search for past justifications, drawing from history and archaeology. The Israeli-Palestinian case is no exception, as the Bible and the Quran, coupled by far and near histories, are used by religious and secular nationalists alike.

Readings:
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Fifth week
Between past and present: The 1929 massacre (*pra‘ot tarpat*) as a case study
The 1929 massacre is one of the major events involving Jews and Muslims prior to 1948, and one that still has a deep impact on the mutual images of the two populations and therefore, on contemporary politics. In the lecture, we will carefully analyze this case study in order to understand the different narratives and their implications.

Readings:
Hillel Cohen, *Tarpat*

Sixth week
Future and progress as national justifications
While the impact of the past on nationalism and politics has been widely discussed, the future and its effects are yet to be exposed. The lecture will demonstrate how images of future and progress may serve as justifications for exclusive control over a national territory.

Readings:
Liron Lavi, "Making time for national identity: theoretical concept and empirical glance on the temporal performance of national identity"

Seventh week
Territory and territorialization
There are two main approaches to the question of territory. While the first reviews it as a "power container," that is defined mainly by its borders, the other concentrates on human action and on the process of territory-making. By emphasizing human action, the lecture will show how territories are not given, but rather are made.

Readings:
Robert David Sack, *Human territoriality, its theory and history*
Amy DeRogatis, *Moral Geography: maps, missionaries and the American frontier*

Eighth week
Land struggles in Israel
In a small territory like Israel-Palestine, lands are one of the scarcest resources. This is why land struggles are an inseparable part of Zionist history. We will study and analyze the different mechanisms of land purchase and legal means of confiscations, as these were developed and used in the State of Israel within the Green Line.
Readings:
Baruch Kimmerling, *Zionism and territory: the socio-territorial dimensions of Zionist politics*
Oren Yiftachel, *Ethnocracy : land and identity politics in Israel/Palestine*

Ninth week
Land struggles in the West Bank and Gaza Strip
The land struggles in the West Bank resemble the pre-1948 historical situation. The lecture will deal with military legislation and the "outposts" movement, as well as with Palestinian popular resistance.
Readings:
Irus Braverman, "'The Tree Is the Enemy Soldier': A Sociolegal Making of War Landscapes in the Occupied West Bank"

Tenth week
Borders and separation
Israel is quite a unique state when it comes to borders. On the one hand, its borders are fortified by fences, minefields, and advanced means of surveillance, while, on the other hand it avoids deliberately defining these borders by legislation. This allows Israel to preserve a state of affairs of "constructive ambiguity." The lecture will study Israel's borders and their political implications.
Readings:
David Newman, "The Renaissance of a Border That Never Died"
Adriana Kemp, "The Frontier idiom on Borders and Territorial Politics in Post-1967 Israel"

Eleventh week
"Map wars" and the spatial imagination
Maps are not an objective spatial representation as they are usually conceived. Scale, color, graphic symbols, place names, and more – are all prone to conscious or unconscious biases. By analyzing several maps of the area, we will see how different groups create different spatial representations, which lead to different definitions of the problems and their solutions.
Readings:
Christine Leuenberger and Izhak Schnell, "The politics of maps: Constructing national territories in Israel"

Twelfth week
Time-Space and population management in the West Bank
Time and space are conjoined in movement. The lecture will deal with the differentiated movement abilities of Israelis and Palestinians in the West Bank, in light of the checkpoints, the permits, and the bypass roads.
Readings:
Ariel Handel, "Gated/Gating Communities: The Settlements complex in the West Bank"

**Thirteenth week**  
**Future solutions: a critical view**  
Many future solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have been suggested over the years. The lecture will be dedicated to a critical examination of these solutions – in light of the knowledge gained throughout the course – in order to recognize their merits and flaws.  
**Readings:**  
RAND, The Arc: a formal structure for a Palestinian state

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**Course Textbook**

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**Additional recommended Bibliography**