

**Faculty of Arts and Science**  
**Department of Political Science, Winter 2026**  
**POL379H1S**  
**Topics in Comparative Politics III: Palestinian Politics**

**Instructor:** Dr. Mohammad Yaghi  
**Instructor email:** [m64.yaghi@gmail.com](mailto:m64.yaghi@gmail.com)  
**Lecture:** Thursday, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
**Office hours:** Thursday, 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
**TA:**  
**TA email:**

**Course Description:**

This course provides a comprehensive study of Palestinian politics, focusing on the history, evolution, and internal dynamics of the Palestinian national movement. It examines the emergence and transformation of Palestinian political identity, the formation and development of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and the competition for leadership within the Palestinian political landscape between the Palestinian major movements such as Fatah and Hamas. The course explores how Palestinian actors navigated critical historical junctures, including the British Mandate, the Nakba, the establishment of the Palestinian Authority, and internal political divisions. While the broader Palestinian-Israeli conflict provides context, the primary focus is on Palestinian decision-making, factional strategies, and the political rationale behind key positions. By engaging with scholarly analyses and historical narratives, students will gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and aspirations that have shaped Palestinian political life and their ongoing pursuit of self-determination.

**Teaching Format:**

This is a lecture-based course that combines instructor presentations with interactive discussion. Each session will begin with a structured lecture, supported by a PowerPoint presentation, that outlines the key themes, debates, and historical contexts drawn from the assigned readings. Students are encouraged to actively participate by asking questions and engaging in discussion throughout the lecture. While the lectures will focus on the assigned readings, the instructor may introduce additional material to address knowledge gaps or expand on topics not fully covered in the texts. This format is designed to promote critical engagement and deepen understanding of the subject matter.

All PowerPoint presentations will be posted on Quercus before each class for students to review. Each week's lecture will be guided by a set of key questions listed in the course syllabus, and the presentations will be structured to address those questions. Students should note that some questions in the exams may be drawn directly from lecture content, including material not covered in the assigned readings.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. **Understand the historical evolution** of the Palestinian national movement, including key events, leadership transitions, and political strategies from the late Ottoman period to the present.
2. **Analyze the internal dynamics** of Palestinian political factions, including their formation, ideological differences, and competition for leadership.
3. **Evaluate critical political junctures** such as the establishment of the PLO, the First and Second Intifadas, and the rise of Hamas, considering their impact on Palestinian politics and national identity.

4. **Interpret the rationale behind political positions** adopted by Palestinian actors in response to major events such as the 1947 UN Partition Plan, the Oslo Accords, and the War in Gaza.
5. **Identify the socio-political factors** that have shaped Palestinian political identity and decision-making, including issues of displacement, diaspora politics, and internal political divisions.

#### Evaluation:

- **Creative activity (15 %):** Online submission. Deadline March 5th, 2026.
- **Midterm exam (25%):** In-class one-hour exam. Due on Feb 26, 2026 (week 7).
- **Research paper (25%):** Online submission. No later than March 26, 2026.
- **Final exam (35%):** During Final Exam Period.

#### Details:

**Creative activity:** This assignment may take the form of a Zine, PowerPoint presentation (PPP), or a 1,000-word argumentative essay that takes a position on a controversial issue. Topics can relate to any aspect of Palestinian politics and society. Examples include: the Palestinian concept of Sumud, Land Day, Palestinian prisoners, the rivalry between Hamas and Fatah, mobility and checkpoints in the Palestinian territories, border crossings, elections under occupation, the separation wall, Palestinians in Jerusalem, UNRWA and refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza, President Trump's "Deal of the Century," Palestinian political poetry, the BDS movement, reform of Palestinian Authority (PA), PA security coordination with Israel, & other topics that interest you. The purpose of this activity is to encourage independent research and to familiarize students with key issues in Palestinian life and politics. Collaboration is encouraged. **For evaluation criteria, refer to page 9 of the syllabus.**

**Midterm Exam:** The midterm will cover material from Weeks 1 to 6. It will consist of 15 multiple-choice and true/false questions, three short-answer questions (chosen from a set of four), and one short essay (chosen from a set of two). Some questions may be drawn directly from the lecture presentations. **Note: In addition to the lecture presentations, only two readings per week will be included in the material covered on the exam.**

**Research Paper:** Students are required to submit a final research paper of 2,000–2,500 words on any topic listed in the course syllabus or approved by the instructor. Submissions must be made online no later than midnight on March 26, 2026 (week 11). Collaborative work is encouraged; students may form groups to co-author their papers. The paper must present a well-defined research question and a clear thesis statement, and provide a critical analysis of the chosen topic supported by evidence from academic sources. It should engage with scholarly debates and incorporate at least five peer-reviewed journal articles and/or book chapters. The paper must be logically structured with an introduction, body, and conclusion. Late submissions will not be accepted under any circumstances. **For evaluation criteria, refer to page 10 of the syllabus.**

**Final Exam:** A two-hour cumulative exam covering material from Weeks 7 to 12, with emphasis on key themes, assigned readings, and lecture content. The exam will include five short-answer questions (chosen from a set of seven) and two essay questions (chosen from a set of three). It may be administered either in-class or as a take-home exam. **Note: In addition to the lecture presentations, only two readings per week will be included in the material covered on the exam.**

### Policies & Services

**Readings:** All readings are available through the University of Toronto library system. Individual chapters and articles listed in the syllabus will also be posted on Quercus, with links provided for many of them in the syllabus. If you are unable to locate a specific text, please contact the instructor by email.

<p><b>Office hours and communication:</b> My office hours are listed above, but you are also encouraged to reach out by email and/or to request a zoom meeting. I will do my best to respond within 48 hours on weekdays.</p>
<p><b>Written Work:</b> Students should retain a copy of their assignment before submitting it. All essays and assignments must be kept by the student until the graded work has been returned and the final grade has been posted on ACORN.</p>
<p><b>Missed test policy:</b> If you miss the midterm or final exam, you are required to provide one of the four supporting documents listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Absence declaration via ACORN</li> <li>2. U of T Verification of Illness or Injury Form</li> <li>3. College Registrar's letter</li> <li>4. Letter of Academic Accommodation from Accessibility Services</li> </ol>
<p><b>Last day to drop the course:</b> Monday, March 16</p>
<p><b>Winter Reading Week (No Classes):</b> Monday, February 16 to Friday, February 20.</p>
<p><b>Use of Generative AI in Assignments:</b> Students may use artificial intelligence tools, including generative AI, as learning aids or to assist in producing assignments. However, they remain fully responsible for the content, accuracy, and integrity of any work submitted. If AI tools are used, students must include a clear statement explaining how they were used. A 3% deduction from the total assignment grade will be applied for each instance of incorrect data, citation, or factual information.</p>
<p><b>Academic dishonesty:</b> Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information on plagiarism please see Writing at the University of Toronto <a href="http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources">http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources</a>". A few high-level considerations:</p> <p>The most common violations are presenting some else's work as your own, copying material directly from sources without proper citation, insufficiently paraphrasing material that is cited but not quoted, using the same material for multiple assignments without prior discussion with the instructor, or falsifying sources and/or information.</p>
<p><b>Accessibility Services:</b> Students with disabilities may receive accommodation from the University and need to register with accessibility services. Instructors are notified with a request for accommodation and can give the request consideration. For best practices around accommodations, visit Accessibility Services:</p> <p><a href="https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/">https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/accessibility-services/</a>, or email <a href="mailto:accessibility.services@utoronto.ca">accessibility.services@utoronto.ca</a> or Tel: 416-978-8060.</p> <p>If you do not have official documentation but have accessibility-related concerns, you are encouraged to discuss those with me.</p>
<p><b>Technology Support for Students:</b> For Quercus and all other technology support, contact the Information Common Helps Desk: <a href="mailto:help.desk@utoronto.ca">help.desk@utoronto.ca</a></p> <p>For more details, visit Info Commons Help Desk, Robarts Library.</p>
<p><b>Health and Wellness:</b> Students can access a wide range of programs and services to support their health and wellbeing. Many of these programs are listed at:</p> <p><a href="https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/">https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/health-wellness/</a></p>

### Weekly Topics and Readings

**Week 1 (8 Jan 2026): Society, Land, and Resistance in 19th-Century Palestine**

This week examines the demographic, social, and economic structures of Ottoman Palestine, focusing on how patterns of land ownership, European encroachment, and emerging settler-colonialism transformed Palestinian society. It also explores the roots of Palestinian identity and peasant resistance in response to the early stages of Zionist settlement.

**Key questions:**

- How did shifts in land ownership laws and practices under Ottoman and European influence reshape the socio-economic structure of Palestine?
- In what ways did Palestinian peasants articulate political agency through resistance to Zionist land acquisition during the late Ottoman period?
- How do demographic trends and rural-urban transformations help us understand the emergence of a collective Palestinian identity before British rule?

**Readings:**

- Abu-Lughod, Janet L. "The Demographic Transformation of Palestine". In Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, ed, *The Transformation of Palestine*, Northwestern University Press, 1971. 139-165. <https://tinyurl.com/zj5ybm7r>
- Kark, Ruth. "Changing patterns of landownership in nineteenth-century Palestine: The European influence." *Journal of Historical Geography* 10, no. 4 (1984): 357-384. <https://tinyurl.com/4zbnfnhh>
- Khalidi, Rashid. "Elements of Identity I: Peasant Resistance to Zionist Settlement." In *Palestinian Identity*, pp. 89-118. Columbia University Press, 2019. Ch. 5, 89-119. <https://tinyurl.com/nhkwjyny>

**Suggested Readings:**

- Al-Salim, Farid. "Landed property and elite conflict in Ottoman Tulkarm." *Jerusalem Quarterly* 47 (2011). <https://tinyurl.com/3nfufjer>

**Week 2 (15 Jan 2026): Mandate, Identity, and Revolt: The Foundations of Palestinian Nationalism**

This week explores the formative impact of the British Mandate on Palestinian political life, focusing on how British colonial structures and Zionist immigration shaped emerging nationalist sentiments. It also revisits the 1936 Revolt, analyzing it as a pivotal episode of anti-colonial resistance and internal political transformation.

**Key questions:**

- How did British colonial governance and Zionist settlement policies between 1917 and 1936 shape the development of Palestinian national identity?
- In what ways did Palestinian elites and popular classes respond differently to the challenges of the Mandate period?
- How does the 1936 Revolt challenge conventional narratives of Palestinian political fragmentation and failure?

**Readings:**

- Khalidi, Rashid. "The Palestinians and the British Mandate". In *The iron cage: The story of the Palestinian struggle for statehood*. Beacon press, 2007. Ch 2, 138-202. <https://tinyurl.com/dm3mjhtd>
- Khalidi, Rashid. "The Formation of Palestinian Identity: The Critical Years, 1917-1923." In *Palestinian National Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness*. Ch.7, 145-177. <https://tinyurl.com/nhkwjyny>
- Kelly, Matthew Kraig. "The revolt of 1936: A revision." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 44, no. 2 (2015): 28-42. <https://tinyurl.com/ms7ux93f>

**Week 3 (22 Jan 2026): 1948 and the Making of the Palestinian Refugee Crisis**

This week analyzes the events of 1947–1949, focusing on the collapse of Palestinian political structures, the Nakba, and the origins of the Palestinian refugee crisis. Readings contrast Palestinian and Israeli historiographical interpretations of the causes and consequences of mass displacement.

**Key Questions:**

- How did the political failures of the Palestinian leadership contribute to the outcome of the 1948 war?
- To what extent does the evidence support competing explanations—strategic, ideological, or military—for the creation of the Palestinian refugee problem?
- In what ways did 1948 shape the political, social, and geographic landscape of the Palestinian national struggle in the decades that followed?

**Readings:**

- Khalidi, Rashid. "The Revolt, 1948, and Afterward". In *The iron cage: The story of the Palestinian struggle for statehood*. Beacon press, 2007. Ch 4. 277- 341
- Morris, Benny. "Background: A Brief History." In *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. Ch 1, 9-39, <https://tinyurl.com/2ud92aaf>

**Suggested Readings:**

- Pappé, Ilan. "An Uneasy Coexistence: Arabs and Jews in the First Decade of Statehood." In *Israel: The First Decade of Independence*, edited by S. Ilan Troen and Noah Lucas, State University of New York Press, 1995. 617–58. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/jj.18254265.34>.

**Week 4 (29 Jan 2026): The Rise of the PLO and the Reconfiguration of Palestinian Politics**

This week traces the emergence and institutional consolidation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the wake of the 1967 war. It focuses on the transformation of the PLO from an Arab League-sponsored entity into a mass-based national movement, and examines the significance of the Black September crisis as a turning point in Palestinian-Jordanian relations and internal strategy.

**Key questions:**

- How did the PLO evolve in the late 1960s and early 1970s from a symbolic body to a centralized representative of the Palestinian national movement?
- What were the political and strategic consequences of Black September (1970) for the Palestinian struggle and its regional alliances?
- In what ways did the PLO balance armed resistance with diplomatic initiatives during its early formative years?

**Readings:**

- Cobban, Helena. *The Palestinian Liberation Organisation: People, Power and Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 1984. Ch 3 & Ch 4. <https://tinyurl.com/pkrucmav>
- Singh, Subhash. "Black September: A turning point in the Palestinian national movement." *International journal of applied social science* 2, no. 5/6 (2015): 135-145.

**Week 5 (5 Feb 2026): Resilience and Governance in Exile: The PLO and the Practice of Sumud**

This week explores how the PLO operated as a government-in-exile, focusing on its institutional structures, social services, and external diplomacy. It also introduces the concept of Sumud (steadfastness) as a framework for understanding Palestinian collective resilience, linking political survival with psychosocial endurance in contexts of displacement and occupation.

**Key questions:**

- How did the PLO build and maintain its governing institutions among a dispersed Palestinian population in exile?
- In what ways does the concept of Sumud deepen our understanding of Palestinian resistance beyond armed struggle?
- How did everyday practices of survival, education, and social solidarity reinforce the legitimacy and sustainability of the Palestinian national movement?

**Readings:**

- Cobban, Helena. *The Palestinian Liberation Organisation: People, Power and Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 1984. Ch 2 & Ch 7. <https://tinyurl.com/pkrucmav>
- Marie, Mohammad, Ben Hannigan, and Aled Jones. "Social ecology of resilience and Sumud of Palestinians." *Health* 22, no. 1 (2018): 20-35. <https://tinyurl.com/kzp55tev>

### **Week 6 (12 Feb 2026): From Lebanon to Oslo: Crisis, Uprising, and Strategic Reorientation**

This week examines the critical transformations within the Palestinian national movement from the 1982 Lebanon War to the 1993 Oslo Accords. The readings analyze the military and political collapse of the PLO in Lebanon, the revitalizing impact of the First Intifada, and the strategic shift toward negotiation and state-building, culminating in the Oslo process.

#### **Key questions:**

- How did the 1982 Lebanon War reshape the PLO's military capacity, political influence, and regional alliances?
- In what ways did the First Intifada represent both a grassroots challenge and a rescue of the national movement's legitimacy?
- What internal and external factors pushed the Palestinian leadership toward the Oslo Accords, and what compromises did that process entail?

#### **Readings:**

- Sayigh, Yezid. "The Lebanon War." In *Armed Struggle and The Search for State: The Palestinian National Movement, 1949-1993*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997. Ch 22, 522-543, <https://tinyurl.com/azmykdpd>
- Sayigh, Yezid. "Intifada to the Rescue." In *Armed Struggle and the Search for State: The Palestinian National Movement, 1949-1993*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997. Ch 25, 606-637, <https://tinyurl.com/azmykdpd>
- Sayigh, Yezid. "The Road to Oslo." In *Armed Struggle and the Search for State: The Palestinian National Movement, 1949-1993*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997. Ch 26, 638- 662, <https://tinyurl.com/azmykdpd>

**Feb 19, 2026.** No Classes. Reading Week

### **Week 7 (26 Feb 2026): The First Intifada and the Rise of Islamist Mobilization**

This week focuses on the First Intifada (1987–1993) as a transformative moment in Palestinian grassroots resistance. The readings examine the emergence of Hamas as both a religious and social force, the cultural and emotional dimensions of the uprising, and the generational shifts it triggered in Palestinian society and political expression.

#### **Reminder: Midterm Exam is Today**

#### **Key questions:**

- How did the First Intifada differ from earlier forms of resistance in its organization, goals, and popular participation?
- In what ways did Hamas' rise during the Intifada reshape the Palestinian political landscape and challenge the PLO's dominance?
- How did cultural expressions—such as music and symbolism—contribute to the construction of national identity and resistance during the uprising?

#### **Readings:**

- Roy, Sara. "A brief History of Hamas and Islamic Movements in Palestine." In *Hamas and civil society in Gaza: Engaging the Islamist social sector*. Princeton University Press, 2014. Ch. 2, 19-51.
- Farraj, Khalid. "The First Intifada: Hope and the Loss of Hope." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 47, no. 1 (2017): 86-97.

- McDonald, David A. "The First Intifada and the Generation of Stones (1987–2000)." In *My voice is my weapon: Music, nationalism and the poetics of Palestinian resistance*. Duke University Press, 2013. Ch. 4, 116 - 143. <https://tinyurl.com/2rw5a58a>

#### Suggested Readings:

- Cobban, Helena. "The PLO and the "Intifada"." *Middle East Journal* 44, no. 2 (1990): 207-233.
- Sayigh, Yezid. "Struggle within, struggle without: The transformation of PLO politics since 1982." *International Affairs* (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-) 65, no. 2 (1989): 247-271.

#### **Week 8 (5 March 2026): Madrid and the Jordan Option: The Reconfiguration of Palestinian Diplomacy**

This week explores the shifting landscape of Palestinian diplomacy leading up to the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991. The readings examine the collapse of the "Jordan Option," the evolution of Palestinian negotiation strategy under U.S. and Israeli pressure, and the symbolic and political meaning of Madrid in Palestinian collective memory.

#### Key questions:

- Why did the PLO reject the "Jordan Option," and what were the long-term consequences of that decision for Palestinian statehood efforts?
- How did the Madrid Conference reshape the Palestinian approach to international diplomacy and representation?
- What internal and external constraints shaped the Palestinian delegation's bargaining power in the lead-up to and during Madrid?

#### Readings:

- Aruri, Naseer. "The PLO and the Jordan option." *Third World Quarterly* 7, no. 4 (1985): 882-906. <https://tinyurl.com/2x7dbb9h>
- Mansour, Camille. "The Palestinian-Israeli peace negotiations: an overview and assessment." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 22, no. 3 (1993): 5-31.
- Johnson Penny. "Not to Surrender or Forget: The Madrid Peace Conference Thirty Years On." *Jadaliyya*, [https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/43284?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.jadaliyya.com/Details/43284?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

#### Suggested Reading:

- Ashrawi, Hanan. *This side of peace: A personal account*. Simon and Schuster, 1996.

#### **Week 9 (12 March 2026): Oslo and Its Discontents: Peace, Power, and Fragmentation**

This week critically examines the 1993 Oslo Accords and their aftermath, including Palestinian internal divisions and the breakdown of final status negotiations. The readings explore Oslo's structural flaws, Hamas's rejectionist stance, and the failed 2000 Camp David Summit as turning points that deepened disillusionment and fractured the national movement.

#### Key questions:

- What were the key assumptions and power imbalances embedded in the Oslo framework, and how did they shape its failure?
- How did Hamas and other critics of Oslo articulate alternative visions of resistance and political legitimacy?
- What does the breakdown at Camp David in 2000 reveal about the limitations of the Oslo process and the misperceptions between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators?

#### Readings:

- Shlaim, Avi. "The Oslo Accord." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 23, no. 3 (1994): 24-40.
- Kristianasen, Wendy. "Challenge and counterchallenge: Hamas's response to Oslo." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 28, no. 3 (1999): 19-36.

- Malley, Robert, and Hussein Agha. "Camp David: The tragedy of errors." *New York Review of Books* 48, no. 13 (2001): 59-65. <https://tinyurl.com/5atn2cy8>
- Hovsepian, Nubar. "Peace and Its Discontents: Essays on Palestine in the Middle East Peace Process." *Monthly Review* 48, no. 1 (1996): 53-61.

### Suggested Readings:

- PASSIA. "Palestinian-Israeli Negotiations: The Issues at Stake." *PASSIA*, Special Bulletin, June 2011. <https://tinyurl.com/477mpzhw>
- Eid, Haidar. "Edward Said's spectre and the end of Oslo." *Aljazeera*, 6 June 2020. <https://tinyurl.com/spn2y4nv>

### **Week 10 (19 March 2026): Fragmentation and Control: Settlements, Resistance, and the Post-Oslo Landscape**

This week investigates the structural and spatial consequences of the post-Oslo era, including the intensification of Israeli settlement expansion, the eruption of the Second Intifada, the construction of the separation wall, and the Gaza disengagement. The readings analyze how geography, resistance, and policy combined to further fragment Palestinian territory and erode the promises of peace.

### Key questions:

- How have Israeli legal and institutional mechanisms of land appropriation and settlement expansion impacted Palestinian communities, access to land, and prospects for statehood in the West Bank?
- In what ways did the Second Intifada differ from the First in terms of tactics, political goals, and public sentiment?
- How have Palestinians responded—politically, socially, and emotionally—to territorial fragmentation caused by settlements, the separation wall, and the Gaza disengagement?

### Readings:

- Lein, Yehezkel. "Policy, Processes, and Institutions: Basic Concepts". In *Land grab: Israel's settlement policy in the West Bank*. B'tselem, 2002, 11-37. <https://tinyurl.com/2sn69rv9>
- Baroud, Ramzy. "The Intifada Takes off (2000-2001). In *The second Palestinian intifada: A chronicle of a people's struggle*. Pluto Books, 2006. Ch. 16 – 36.
- Amir, Merav. "On the border of indeterminacy: The separation wall in east Jerusalem." *Geopolitics* 16, no. 4 (2011): 768-792.
- Roy, Sara. "Praying with their eyes closed: Reflections on the disengagement from Gaza." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 34, no. 4 (2005): 64-74.

### Suggested Readings:

- Gisha Legal Center. "Disengaged Occupiers: The Legal Status of Gaza." Tel Aviv: Gisha, 2007. See the YouTube: <https://youtu.be/7lKHsBloEpY>.
- Metais, Ilona. "The West Bank Barrier: Origins, Implementation, and Consequences." *Flux: International Relations Review* 11, no. 1 (2021).

### **Week 11 (26 March 2026): Fragmented Authority and the Crisis of Palestinian Governance**

This week examines the internal political crisis that followed the Oslo Accords, focusing on the polarization between Fatah and Hamas, the securitization of governance, and the implications of external intervention. The readings explore how international donors, especially the EU and the U.S., shaped Palestinian political institutions and deepened the divide between the West Bank and Gaza.

### Key questions:

- How did internal factionalism and foreign interventions contribute to the political split between the West Bank and Gaza?
- In what ways has the PA's reliance on international funding and security coordination undermined Palestinian political autonomy and legitimacy?
- How do competing models of governance between Hamas and the PA reflect broader struggles over representation, resistance, and statehood?

**Readings:**

- Hilal, Jamil. "The polarization of the Palestinian political field." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 39, no. 3 (2010): 24-39.
- Tartir, Alaa. "The limits of securitized peace: The EU's sponsorship of Palestinian authoritarianism." *Middle East Critique* 27, no. 4 (2018): 365-381.
- Rose, David. "The Gaza Bombshell". *Vanity Fair*, April 2008. <https://tinyurl.com/4yt3xx2v>
- "Ending Palestinian-Israeli Coordination Is Hard to Do". *Arab Center*, Washington DC, 15 Dec 2020. <https://tinyurl.com/yz94mzww>

**Suggested Reading:**

- Sirriyeh, Hussein. "Is there a Palestinian civil war? The concept and the impact." *Israel Affairs* 17, no. 02 (2011): 247-258.
- Tartir, Alaa. "The PA's revolving door: a key policy in security coordination." *Al-Shabaka* (blog). August 27 (2023). <https://tinyurl.com/4rpd54rh>
- Hroub, Khaled. " Hamas in and out of power." *Domestic Change and Conflict in the Mediterranean: The Cases of Hamas and Hezbollah*, EuroMeSCo Paper 65 (2008). <https://tinyurl.com/2cuj3me2>

**Week 12 (2 April 2026): Debating the October 7<sup>th</sup> Events and their Aftermath**

No assigned readings. The instructor will present a PPP that revolves around the key questions stated below. Students are encouraged to find their own answers to these questions from open sources.

**Key questions:**

- What were Hamas's primary objectives behind the October 7th attack, and how did regional dynamics and internal pressures shape its calculations?
- In what ways does the humanitarian impact of the October 2023 Gaza war resemble or differ from the 1948 Nakba in terms of displacement, destruction, and political consequences?
- How are the October 7th events debated among Palestinians?
- In what ways has the war affected the daily lives, political mobilization, and unity of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel, and diaspora?
- How has the Palestinian Authority's response to the war impacted its domestic and international standing, and what reforms, if any, could address the erosion of its legitimacy?

**Suggested Readings:**

- Farhat, Theresa, Sarah Ibrahim, Zahi Abdul-Sater, and Ghassan Abu-Sittah. "Responding to the Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza: Damned if You do... Damned if You don't!" *Annals of Global Health* 89, no. 1 (2023): 53. <https://tinyurl.com/3a5ssu7w>
- Hamoud, Tarek. "Understanding October 7 through Hamas's Adaptability and Leadership Structure." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 53, no. 2 (2024): 88-94.
- Human Rights Council. "From economy of occupation to economy of genocide." *United Nation*. 16 June–11 July 2025. <https://tinyurl.com/ycymtmz8>
- Procter, Caitlin. "Coerced migration: mobility under siege in Gaza." *Journal of ethnic and migration studies* 50, no. 10 (2024): 2359-2383.

**Assignments' Evaluation Criteria****Creative Activity (15 points)**

- Clarity and coherence of argument (3 points)
- Originality and creativity (3 points)
- Depth of research and use of sources (3 points)
- Relevance to chosen topic (3 points)
- Quality of presentation/writing (3 points)

**Research Paper (25 points)**

- Research Question and Thesis Statement (5 Points): Clearly defined and focused research question that addresses a relevant topic from the syllabus. The thesis statement is concise, arguable, and directly related to the research question.
- Critical Analysis and Engagement with Scholarly Debates (8 Points): Demonstrates exceptional critical engagement with the chosen topic, providing in-depth analysis and addressing multiple perspectives within scholarly debates. Effectively critiques and synthesizes sources to support arguments.
- Use of Academic Evidence and Sources (4 Points): Skillful integration of credible academic sources (books, journal articles, reports) to support claims. Proper citations and minimal use of non-academic or general sources.
- Organization and Structure (4 Points): Paper is logically structured, with a clear introduction, body, and conclusion. Transitions between sections are smooth, and the flow of ideas is coherent.
- Writing Quality and Style (2 Points): Writing is clear, concise, and free of grammar or spelling errors. Academic tone and vocabulary are consistently maintained.
- Originality and Creativity (2 Points): Demonstrates original thinking and creative approaches to the topic, going beyond summarization to propose new insights or interpretations

**Resources****Academic Articles:**

- Journal of Palestine Studies. <https://tinyurl.com/2uedwhvv>
- Middle East Journal of International Affairs (MEJIA). <https://tinyurl.com/dn46waw2>
- Middle East Report (MERIP). <https://merip.org>
- Jadaliyya. <https://www.jadaliyya.com/>
- Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS). <https://pomeps.org>

**Think Tanks:**

- The Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR). <https://www.pcpsr.org>
- Institute for Palestine Studies (IPS). <https://www.palestine-studies.org>
- Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network. <https://al-shabaka.org>
- International Crisis Group. <https://www.crisisgroup.org>
- The Middle East Institute (MEI). <https://www.mei.edu>
- Carnegie Middle East Center. <https://carnegie-mec.org>
- Arab Center Washington DC (ACW). <https://arabcenterdc.org>
- European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR). <https://ecfr.eu>

**Documentaries:**

- "The Great Book Robbery" (2012) – A documentary about the loss of Palestinian books during the 1948 war. <https://tinyurl.com/yk5u3y3f>
- "5 Broken Cameras" (2011) – An Oscar-nominated documentary filmed from the perspective of a Palestinian farmer in the West Bank. <https://tinyurl.com/5xeauh33>
- "The War Around Us" (2012) – A firsthand account of journalists covering the 2008 Gaza War. <https://tinyurl.com/5yssyref>
- Al Jazeera Documentary Channel – Features investigative documentaries on Palestine:
  - "Palestine Divided." <https://tinyurl.com/yekpxf2a>
  - "The Price of Oslo (I)." <https://tinyurl.com/43teubz6>
  - "The Price of Oslo (II)." <https://tinyurl.com/3yfp5psb>

**News Analysis and Current Affairs:**

- Democracy Now! – YouTube Channel. Offers interviews with Palestinian scholars, activists, and journalists discussing the current situation.
- Middle East Eye – YouTube Channel. Provides independent news reports and analysis on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**Key Individual Talks and Debates:**

- Edward Said's Lectures: Lecture: "The Question of Palestine" (Available on YouTube) – Edward Said's famous lecture on the history of Palestinian dispossession and nationalism. <https://tinyurl.com/3b9wk543>
- Rashid Khalidi's Talk: "The Hundred Years' War on Palestine" (Available on YouTube) – A critical discussion on the historical and contemporary dimensions of the Palestinian struggle for statehood. <https://tinyurl.com/539sbwf5>
- Ilan Pappé's Lecture: "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine" (Available on YouTube) – An analysis of the events of 1948 and their lasting impact on Palestinian society. <https://tinyurl.com/mhcbppjd>
- Noam Chomsky's Debates: Available on YouTube – Focuses on U.S. policy in the Middle East, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and international law.
- Diana Buttu's Interviews: Available on various news platforms – Offers insights on Palestinian legal claims, peace negotiations, and the role of international actors.