PSCI 5915-W
Winter 2019
Special Topics: The Politics of Israel/Palestine
Thursdays 2:35-5:25
Course Location: CB 3208 (Please confirm on Carleton Central)

Department of Political Science
Carleton University
Prof. Mira Sucharov
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Office Hours: Weds 2:30-3:55 or by appointment. (Please do not use my voice mail. Email is the best way to reach me. mira.sucharov@carleton.ca)

Course Description: This course examines the politics of Israel/Palestine. It would be customary in IR and political science when studying one country or region to consider it a “case” of something. But as we will see, the politics around Israel-Palestine is in large part animated by the contestation over such classification. Is it a case of protracted conflict? A case of colonial oppression? A case of human rights violations? A case of competing nationalisms? The course will examine these competing (though not necessarily mutually-exclusive) frameworks. The course proceeds both chronologically and conceptually/thematically. Those without a basic knowledge of the case might wish to purchase a textbook to read early on. (Suggestions: those by Dowty, Smith, and Caplan.) In addition, to further explore op-ed writing (and social media engagement, especially around sensitive topics), you may want to consult my book on the topic (optional), which should be out in mid-to-late January. Mira Sucharov, Public Influence: A Guide to Op-Ed Writing and Social Media Engagement (University of Toronto Press, 2019).

Books:
Sucharov, The International Self (available at the Carleton bookstore).
Tolan, Children of the Stone: The Power of Music in a Hard Land (the book is optional: I have included excerpts, below).
(You can purchase this from your favourite bookseller.)

I’m also placing these books on reserve at the library, along with Shira Robinson’s Citizen Strangers (I’ve included her article below, but you may be interested in reading the entire book which is excellent.)

Requirements:
Op-Ed 1: 25%
Op-Ed 2: 25%
Op-Ed 3: 25%
Attendance/Participation: 25%

Each student will serve as provocateur for one class session. The responsibility entails offering a short discussion opener plus some structuring questions to guide conversation in the first portion of the class meeting.

Op-Eds:
This is a hybrid assignment. The argument of the actual op-ed text needs to stand on its own. But you must also provide extended footnote citations and commentary (including additional data, context and evidence) in the footnotes. Length: 750-850 words (op-ed) plus at least 12 footnotes (at least 6 of them with extended commentary of your own). Draw on readings and films from the syllabus as well as additional readings (both scholarly and news-style sources) you uncover on your own. Each op-ed must have a clear question identified and a clear argument (which is your answer to the question). Topic: a contemporary Israeli-Palestinian issue which you will attempt to explain/assess/illuminate based on some historical event or theme we are covering in the course. You are encouraged to create a prescriptive argument: what should actor x or y do about issue z? This may refer to Canadian, American, Israeli or Palestinian Authority (or Hamas) policy or actions, or else might refer to popular practices or ideas. A prescriptive argument focuses on the “ought” (what should happen?) based on an understanding of the “is” (what’s going on right now?). Draw on at least 10 sources, at least half of which should be scholarly ones. You can focus on the readings in the syllabus, and supplement them with others, if you wish. Note: the op-ed can also be structured around a film, provided you include the necessary research and context (as indicated above, through footnotes), and provided that you make a broader argument about the issues in play.

Op-Ed Due Dates: Choose three topics on which to write. Ideally, you should draft the op-ed before the relevant class, and then polish it and edit it based on the in-class conversation, and then hand it in up to three days later. This will give you time to complete the readings for the next class.

Readings: There are a lot of readings (and films) on the syllabus. I don’t expect you to read every word. Come to class prepared to discuss the broad contours of the debates and the major fault lines within each one by getting a sense of the main argument of each author, and try a close reading on at least three articles per week (make sure to include “Return from Haifa” and most films, if you can, among these.) Plus all the op-eds and other short pieces, as they enable us to situate arguments quickly and concisely.

To inject a lively, transnational element, we will be engaging in some weekly collaboration with an Israel-Palestine topic MA seminar running concurrently at Royal
CLASS SCHEDULE

Class 1: Intro: What is the situation in Israel-Palestine all about?

Sucharov, Chapter 1

Jeremy Pressman, “A Brief History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict”
http://web.uconn.edu/polisci/people/faculty/doc/history_pressman.pdf

Nathan Alterman, “The Silver Platter” (poem):
http://www.phy6.org/outreach/poems/alterman.htm (in class)

Mahmoud Darwish, “Identity Card” (poem):
https://electronicintifada.net/content/remembering-mahmoud-darwish/7663 (in class)

For more background on Israel-Palestine, here’s a Vox explainer:
https://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine/zionism

Film: 1913: Seeds of Conflict (we may view this in class). Here’s a link, for your reference:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3e6CN9uMIU&fbclid=IwAR2JdKShZtm3B6ulyFjYV3OlInZOVImyJuKhA56PgTDcwr2IJKzXpW3RIdw

Class 2: Foundational Narratives: Settler Colonialism? National Liberation?

Sucharov, Chapter 3

http://www.kooriweb.org/foley/resources/pdfs/89.pdf


Israeli TV comedy-sketch show called Eretz Nehederet (“Kindergarten” sketch) — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M9Sdkps0Quo (in class)

Class 3: Israel’s Independence & The Nakba


Film: “The Mirror” (short film — in class)

**Class 4: The Arab-Israeli Wars, Camp David, and the First Intifada**

Sucharov, Chapters 4-6


Film: *Waltz with Bashir* (iTunes).


(The book is optional.)


Sucharov, Chapter 7


Film (documentary): *The Gatekeepers* (iTunes).

**Class 6: Hamas/Gaza and Refugees**


“A Different Kind of Memory: An Interview with Zochrot” — *Middle East Report* 244 (Fall 2007): 34-38.

“Interviews with Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon” (Zochrot) — https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dhy1N-aSGJY (in-class — 16 minutes)

**Class 7: Jerusalem, Settlements & Occupation**

B’Tselem, What is Area C? http://www.btselem.org/area_c/what_is_area_c


Class 8: Israel as a “Jewish and Democratic State“ / Palestinian Citizens of Israel & Mizrahi Jews in Israel


https://www.wordswithoutborders.org/article/cinderella


DAM song-video: “Mama, I Fell in Love with a Jew”—  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zxX_yWM2us&fbclid=IwAR2s1PJCKM8fwaKvcto5n5BczE4Gcej-1c-Pn-Hl3RHyFuJ3CVfssokLT0 (in class)

Eretz Nehederet — Israeli parody of “demographic balance” clip —  
https://vimeo.com/223715289 (in class)

**Class 9: Film Week!**  
Film: *Walk on Water* (iTunes)  
Film: *Junction 48* (on iTunes; may also be on Netflix)  
Film: *Forever Pure* (on iTunes; may also be on Netflix)


**Class 10: The Academic Boycott & The Apartheid Question**

Tyler Levitan, “Israel’s Actions in Palestine Are the Definition of Apartheid,” Huffington Post (10 December 2015) http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/tyler-levitan/israeli-apartheid-definition_b_8752738.html


Matthew Abraham, “The question of Palestine and the subversion of academic freedom: DePaul's denial of tenure to Norman G. Finkelstein,” Arab Studies Quarterly (33 (Summer-Fall 2011): 179-203.


Class 11: Transnational Perspectives & “Conflict Resolution”


Film: Disturbing the Peace (on Netflix; if it’s gone by then, it’s also on iTunes)


**Class 12: Looking Ahead: One State? Two States? Other?**


Noam Sheizaf, “One- Or Two-State Solution? The Answer is Both (Or Neither),” +972 Magazine (2 September 2014), http://972mag.com/one-or-two-state-solution-the-answer-is-both-or-neither/96263/

**Academic Accommodations**

**Requests for Academic Accommodation**
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

**Religious obligation**
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca PMC

**Survivors of Sexual Violence**
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

**Accommodation for Student Activities**
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

**Plagiarism**
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.
Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).
Submission and Return of Term Work
Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

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<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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Approval of final grades
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts
All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society
"The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook."
https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/ and our website https://carletonpss.com/, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!

**Official Course Outline**
The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.