History 277: Conflict over Israel/Palestine

Instructor:        Office Telephone:  
Hamilton Hall XXX:       Email Address:  
Office Hours:  

This course will introduce students to the ongoing conflict over Israel/Palestine. In addition to learning about the history of the conflict, students will actively engage in the work of historians. Our first days will be spent analyzing sources while becoming familiar with the place, the people, and the period before the state of Israel was established.

Maymester courses are different from other courses. We will be meeting the same number of hours we would be together during a regular semester, but they take place over only three weeks. That means:

- We will all become totally immersed in the course.
- Missing one day is the equivalent of missing one week during the regular semester. Missing one Maymester week would be losing one-third of the course. If you cannot attend every class, please reconsider taking this course. We will be counting on each other for many of our projects. In addition, participation is a large part of your grade, and if you cannot participate because you are not present, your grade will suffer.
- For the next three weeks, I will expect you to spend between six hours every day outside class on this course. I generally suggest that students spend two hours outside class for every hour in class. During the semester, then, five three-hour classes would mean a 45 hour work week. But this class is different. There are to be 40 hours of class time, requiring approximately 80 hours of time spent out-of-class. For these three weeks, History 277 will be the equivalent of a full-time job.
- There is not as much time to study things, but there is also not as much time to forget them.

Xxxx Xxxxx will be the TA for this course. She will be participating in some of the discussions and grading some of the papers. To contact her, send email to ------@email.unc.edu.

Expectations

**Participation:** We expect you to attend all class sessions and participate actively in discussions. Each day is the equivalent of one week during the regular semester. Participation is a large part of your grade. When assigning a score, we will ask these questions: Did it make a difference to the class that you were a member? Did you add something? Did you contribute a point of view, a set of commentaries, a disciplinary perspective, and/or an interpretive stance that was of value in our deliberations? Did you accept your share of responsibility for the success of this class? Were you merely an observer of everyone else’s endeavors? If you are uncomfortable speaking in class, please come to talk with me.

**Discussion notes:** Each day, two people will be assigned the task of taking notes on our discussion and posting them on the class web site. That gives us a record of the most important
ideas we have been talking about, and lets us continue the conversation online as the rest of us 
add to the record. You will be the assigned note-taker during one class session.

**After Class:** As a rule, you can expect to spend two hours outside class for every hour in class. 
Each day after class, you have an assignment to complete, roughly one page (double-spaced). 
During the second week, many of these assignments will be related to the research paper. Please 
post all assignments in the designated place on the Discussion Board. They will serve as our 
starting place for class conversation the next day.

**Research Paper:** Research is the thrilling process that brings many of us to our careers. 
Whether your preference is research in history, film, D and D character traits, economic 
precedents, or trends on Facebook quizzes, research allows us to get the answers to the questions 
of our daily lives. Historical research is an exciting process, and much of this course is geared 
toward sharing that process with you.

This course will introduce you to the ways that historians carry out research, and to many of the 
kinds of sources we use. At the end of the semester, you will have written a 6-8 page research 
paper examining any topic you choose that is related to this conflict. The syllabus outlines due 
dates for the various steps in research, and you will be getting and giving feedback on your work 
from us and from students in your writing group. You will be keeping a research notebook 
online. For more information on the notebook and note-taking, please see 
http://www.williamcronon.net/researching/notetaking.htm

The research paper is due on 25 May. In general, we will expect this to be your final work. If 
you are dissatisfied with your grade, you can revise and resubmit your research paper. This must 
be a significant revision and must be attached to the previous copy. Optional revised research 
papers will be due on 29 May. (If you pay careful attention to the various steps and the draft 
process, you won’t have to revise the paper due on 25 May.)

Our Graduate Research Consultant will be available to help you choose a topic and find sources. 
She can be consulted to help you hone your question, clarify your argument, and marshal your 
evidence. Please sign up for your first meeting with her, which should take place by 18 May. 
We will circulate a sign-up sheet, and she can be reached by email at rmartin8@email.unc.edu.

**Panel Presentation/Final Exam:** The last class session and the final exam period, combined, 
will serve as your final exam. These sessions will be devoted to the kind of research panels 
commonly found at scholarly history conferences. You will provide a 10-minute presentation of 
your research that summarizes your argument, the evidence, and the significance of your work. 
Outside commentators will respond to your paper. Our Graduate Research Consultant can help 
you think about ways to present your research in the most effective manner.

**Grading:**

Participation in class and online: 22% 
Homework (May 12, 13, 14, 15, 18, 22, 26): 28% 
Research Notebook: 10%
Final Exam Panel Presentation: 20%
Research Paper: 20%

In all of the writing that you complete for this class, I will evaluate you on the clarity of your arguments, the logic and organization of your reasoning, the precision of your language, and the effectiveness and accuracy of your use of evidence.

Reading: Books are available at Student Stores. Some of them, though very interesting, will not be required. We will read sections of Amos Oz, *In the Land of Israel* (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1983), and Muhammad Muslih’s *Toward Coexistence* (Washington, DC: Institute for Palestine Studies, 1990). Avi Shlaim’s book, *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2001), would be a helpful textbook for those interested in a chronological overview of political and diplomatic history. Readings for 15, 18, and 26 May will be available as pdf files on the course Web site.

**Schedule:**

12 May: Introductions

*After Class:*
- Read on research and note-taking
- Begin your research journal
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

13 May: Documents on Israel/Palestine

Meet on the fourth floor of Wilson Library at 9:00. Please bring your laptop. No food or drink are permitted, so please eat before you come.

*After Class:*
- Read and annotate one more document and add it to collection
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

14 May: Travel literature

Meet in the rare book room on the second floor of Wilson Library. Please bring your laptop. No food or drink are permitted, so please eat before you come.

*After Class:*
- Read and annotate another chapter
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

15 May: World War I and the British–end of the Ottomans

Meet in room 247 of Davis Library. Please bring your laptop.

*After Class:*
- Read descriptions of the revolt
- For Monday, write the British, Zionist, or Arab testimony to the League of Nations to explain their behavior during the revolt
- Post paper topic
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

18 May: British mandate

_After Class:_
- Read on Independence/Naqba. Chose two readings that come from two different perspectives. Summarize each in 250 words, focusing on the argument and the kind of evidence used to prove it.
- By tonight, make sure you have posted at least two sources for your research project, with a 250-word summary of each.
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

19 May: 1948

_After Class:_
- Update research notebook to include at least five source summaries
- Post your revised question (100 words) in your research notebook.
- Review others’ notebooks and think about who belongs in your writing group.
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

20 May: 1967

_After Class:_ Work on your research paper.
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

21 May: Palestinians

Please bring Muslih, _Toward Coexistence_, to class.

_After Class:_
- Send a complete draft of your research paper to your writing group before 9 pm tonight, 21 May. Make sure your argument appears in **bold type** in the introduction.
- Read drafts of the other members of your writing group. Respond to them by thinking about these questions: Is there a clear argument? Does the evidence support the argument? Is the paper organized in a way that makes sense? Bring your suggestions for changes to class.
- Comment on discussion post

22 May: Writing groups

_After Class:_
- Choose three chapters from Oz, _In the Land of Israel_. Oprah is interviewing the main character. Your job is to write her 100-word introduction and a first question for each.

25 May: No Class: Memorial Day
26 May: Israelis

*After Class:*
- Read excerpts on Camp David (pdf files) and proposed resolutions. Send your analysis to the Secretary of State explaining what went wrong at Camp David and proposing the next step. The Secretary is quite busy, so make sure your analysis is no more than two double-spaced pages.
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

27 May: Resolving the Conflict

*After Class:*
- Prepare your 10-minute presentation.
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

28 May: Panel presentations

*After Class:*
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

29 May: Panel presentations

*After Class:*
- Post news article
- Comment on discussion post or another’s news post

Revised research papers due.