

## **Zionist Settler Colonialism and the Decolonization of Palestine**

Location: HH205 - Thursdays: 5-7pm

Spring 2020

Course Facilitator: Or Ases Pansky (he/him/his)

Contact Information:

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Office Hours: Saturdays 9-10am in the Cage

### **Course Description**

This course aims to provide students with a critical analysis of the Zionist political movement that arose in the late 18th century in Europe, and its colonization and settling of Palestine. Through course readings and other creative mediums, students will critically analyze the aspirations and the forms by which Zionist leadership carried out its colonization of Palestine, and the resistance that is waged by Palestinians. We will engage in an analysis of the ideological underpinnings of settler colonialism and its manifestations through Zionism by engagement with existing scholarship. Therefrom we will highlight the Zionist appropriation of Judaism, and the holocaust to invent the Jewish people and the 'land' of 'Israel.' Finally, we will explore the different facets by which resistance has been waged toward decolonizing Palestine, and achieving justice for the Palestinian people.

### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of this course students will:

- Provide a critical analysis on the formations of Zionist political thought and action, in support of developing a thorough critique of the settler colonial manifestations of Zionism and the ethnic cleansing and genocide of Palestine
- Critically examine discourse on nationalism and focus on the forms by which Zionism appropriated Judaism, and the holocaust to contextualize the invention of the Jewish 'people' and the land of 'Israel' in the shaping of Zionist political identity.
- Have an introductory understanding to Palestinian history and political formation from the 1800's
- Critique European liberalism in its portrayal of Zionism and its colonial project in the West
- Engage with an understanding of how hierarchies of power/knowledge function to structure discourse around the colonization of Palestine

- Learn about the various forms in which resistance has been waged by Palestinians and Jews in opposition to the ongoing colonial encroachment of land.
- Apply their knowledge, by understanding the need to act in pursuing the project of justice for Palestine, and around the world

### Required Texts

All texts that we will read in this group will be provided in PDF form for students, for a list of additional readings please ask.

### Appointments, and Office Hours

I welcome all questions and inquiries with regards to our group, please send me an email if you would like to meet outside of group time. Office hours will be held over the weekend, and students will be notified with regards to a time and place.

### Absences

Because of the limited meeting times of our group, students are advised against missing group meetings. However, we live exploited lives in the age of late capitalism and so when absences occur, please try your best to use the technological mode of communication to notify the instructor.

### A Note on Group Participation and Grading

All students in this group are required to prepare one-two questions (depending on length) for each text that we read for our weekly meeting. The questions can speak to points of clarification with regards to a reading, develop the point of the reading, or criticise the reading, amongst other uses. After each group meeting, students will be asked to submit a paragraph that answers one of the questions they had about the text. All submissions should be within 72 hours of the meeting.

Make sure to use your peers' names and pronouns.

When engaging in group discussions be mindful of the space you occupy, and how your positionality is influencing your entry point into conversations we will be taking up.

### Pursuing an Independent Study Credit

Through participation in this group, students are able to pursue an independent study credit with either Professor Ibtesam Al-Atiyat or Professor Jennifer Kwon Dobbs. Please see handout for more information.

### **Final Exam**

For the final exam, students will be asked to engage in a creative critique. The creative critique is meant to be in conversation with the different texts that we covered over the course of the semester. By developing this critique, students are encouraged to think of enacting the

information they have learned over the semester beyond the confines of the group, and as active praxis on the subject. The critique could take shape in different forms, from poems, videos, short stories, paintings etc... If students would like to present their work in a location that is outside of the group meeting that is also welcome.

\*Please try your best to refrain from thinking about this project in positivistic ways, the creative critique is meant for us to think about how we express justice and futures that we have yet to imagine.

Topic	Readings	Assignments
<u>February 6: Course overview and resources</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expectations for group meetings</li> <li>• Introducing all students</li> <li>• Benedict Anderson "Imagined Communities"</li> </ul>	
<u>February 13: Nationalism and Palestinian National Formation</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partha Chatterjee "Whose Imagined Community?"</li> <li>• Rashid Khalidi <i>Palestinian Identity: The Construction of National Consciousness</i> chapters 5,7</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>
<u>February 20: Elimination of the Native. Making of the Settler Colony</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patrick Wolfe: "Settler Colonialism and the Elimination of the Native"</li> <li>• Maya Mikdashi: "What is Settler Colonialism?"</li> <li>• Watch Maryse Gargour - the Land Speaks Arabic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>
<u>February 27: Zionist Settler Colonial Statemaking</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stuart Hall: Foucault: Power, Knowledge, and Discourse</li> <li>• Edward Said: <i>The Question of Palestine</i> chapter 2</li> <li>• Watch: Edward Said: In the Shadow of the West</li> <li>• Ghasan Kanafani: A Letter from Gaza</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>
<u>March 5: Nationalism and the Invention of the Jewish People.</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shlomo Sand <i>The Invention of the Jewish People</i> chapter 2</li> <li>• Ilan Pappé: "Zionism as Colonialism: A Comparative View of Diluted Colonialism in Asia and Africa"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>
<u>March 12: Nakba at Present</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ilan Pappé: <i>The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2</li> </ul>

	<p>chapter 4,5,6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nur Masalha: <i>The Palestine Nakba: Decolonising History, Narrating the Subaltern, Reclaiming Memory</i> chapter 2</li> <li>• Watch: Elia Suleiman: <i>The Time that Remains</i></li> <li>• Watch: <i>The Great Book Robbery</i></li> </ul>	<p>questions</p>
<p><u>March 19: Archaeology and the Fashioning of Occupation</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nadia Abu El Haj: <i>Facts on the Ground: Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society</i> chapter 4</li> <li>• Nur Masalha: <i>The Palestine Nakba: Decolonising History, Narrating the Subaltern, Reclaiming Memory</i> chapter 3</li> <li>• Edward Said “Invention, Memory, and Place”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>
<p><u>March 26:</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring Break</li> </ul>	
<p><u>April 2: Law and The Question of Palestine</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noura Erakat: <i>Justice for Some: Law and the Question of Palestine</i>, introduction, chapters 1,2</li> <li>• Mahmoud Darwish: <i>State of Siege</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>
<p><u>April 9: The Culture Industry: Representing the Settler Colony and Resistance</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theodor Adorno: <i>Opinion, Delusion, Society</i></li> <li>• Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer: <i>The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception</i></li> <li>• Watch: <i>Peace, Propaganda, and the Promised Land</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal for Creative Critique</li> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>
<p><u>April 16: Manipulating Holocaust Memory: Zionist State Making through Memory</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norman Finkelstein: <i>The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering</i> introduction, chapter 1</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-the-holocaust-as-a-pretext-for-annexation-1.8472451?fbclid=IwAR16oAWseDPv_9pWq7WMujPzvuieVBcbt-MSbYRrfKlp15uxDrFiRu0VIsI">https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-the-holocaust-as-a-pretext-for-annexation-1.8472451?fbclid=IwAR16oAWseDPv_9pWq7WMujPzvuieVBcbt-MSbYRrfKlp15uxDrFiRu0VIsI</a></li> <li>• Aimé Césaire: <i>Discourse on Colonialism</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>
<p><u>April 23: The Architecture of Occupation and Resistance</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frantz Fanon: <i>On Violence</i></li> <li>• Achille Mbembe: <i>Necropolitics</i></li> <li>• Selections from Eyal Weizman: <i>Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>
<p><u>April 30: Palestinian resistance and Literature</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sahar Khalifeh: <i>Wild Thorns</i></li> <li>• Mahmoud Darwish: <i>In The Presence of Absence</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch: Elia Suleiman - Divine Intervention</li> </ul>	
<p><u>May 7: Palestine, the Academy, and “Anti-Semitism” vs antisemitism</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunaina Maira: Boycott!: The Academy and Justice for Palestine - Introduction, chapter 1,3</li> <li>• Steven Saliata: An Honest Living -- <a href="https://stevesalaita.com/an-honest-living/">https://stevesalaita.com/an-honest-living/</a>; Excerpts from <i>Uncivil Rites: Palestine and the Limits of Academic Freedom</i>: “Tweet, Tweet”; “The Evolution of “Anti-Semitism””</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/rep-ilhan-omar-criticized-again-what-critics-call-anti-semitism-n978521">https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/rep-ilhan-omar-criticized-again-what-critics-call-anti-semitism-n978521</a></li> <li>• Jewish Voice for Peace: “Stifling Dissent: How Israel’s Defenders Use False Charges of Anti-Semitism to Limit the Debate over Israel on Campus”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare 1-2 questions</li> </ul>
<p><u>May 14: Transnational Alliances, and the Politics of Affinity.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marc Lamont Hill and Noura Erakat: Black-Palestinian Transnational Solidarity: Renewals, Returns , and Practice</li> <li>• Selections from “Black Power and Palestine: Transnational Countries of Color” by Michael R. Fischbach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative Critique due</li> </ul>