

Public Affairs 5890 – Human Rights in Israel and Palestine

October 24-December 13, 2017

Tuesdays, 6:00-8:20 PM

Wilkins Room 215 – Humphrey School

Prof. [James Ron](#)

Humphrey School of Public Affairs & Department of Political Science

University of Minnesota

(draft syllabus dated May 17, 2017)

Overview

This 1-credit graduate seminar provides background preparation for the [winter study tour](#) to Palestine and Israel, scheduled for December 27, 2017 through January 13, 2018. It provides a basic overview of the history and politics of Israel, Palestine and their human rights communities.

Registration for this class is by instructor permission. Please contact jamesr@umn.edu for details.

Requirements

Attendance in all class sessions is mandatory. Students living outside the Twin Cities area can participate via Webex. Each week prior to class, students will post a 200-word summary of the week's reading; then, within 48 hours of that class, students will follow up with another 200 words of post-class reflections.

Successful completion of this course (offered on a pass/fail basis) is a pre-requisite for participating in the winter field study course.

Course Plan

October 30, 2017: Overview of Zionism & Israel

- Daniel Gordis, 2016, *Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn*
- Online discussion with [Itay Milner](#), Deputy Israeli Consul General to the Midwest

November 6, 2017: Overview of Palestinian Nationalism & Palestine

- Rashid Khalidi, 2007. *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*.
- Online discussion with [Dr. Husam Zamlot](#), Palestinian ambassador to the US

November 13, 2017: The Jewish-Israeli Religious Right

- Gershon Gorenberg, 2012. *The Unmaking of Israel*
- In-person discussion with [Roger Cohen](#), international affairs columnist and former foreign editor for the *New York Times*.

November 20, 2017: Palestinian Islamists

- Beverly Milton-Edwards and Stephen Farrell (2010). *Hamas: The Islamic Resistance Movement*.

November 27, 2017: The Secular Palestinian Struggle

- Ali Abunimah, 2015. *The Battle for Justice in Palestine*.
- Online discussion with [Joyce Ajlouny](#), Executive Director, American Friends Service Committee.

December 4, 2017: The Palestinian Human Rights Community

- Lori Allen, 2013. *The Rise and Fall of Human Rights: Cynicism & Politics in Occupied Palestine*.
- Online discussion with [Fateh Azzam](#), Senior Policy Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights, Harvard University.

December 11, 2017: The Israeli Human Rights Community

- Daphna Golan and Zvika Orr (2012). “Translating Human Rights of the ‘Enemy’: The Case of Israeli NGOs Defending Palestinian Rights,” *Law & Society Review* 46:4, 781-814.

- Neve Gordon (2008). Human Rights, Social Space and Power: Why do Some NGOs Exert More Influence than Others? *The International Journal of Human Rights*. 12/1: 22-39.
- Jessica Montell (2016). "Learning From What Works: Strategic Analysis of the Achievements of the Israel-Palestine Human Rights Community." *Human Rights Quarterly*, 38/ 4: 928-968