

2010 Summer School in Comparative Conflict Studies

Dilemmas of National Minorities: The Case of the Palestinian Citizens of Israel

Dr. Abigail Jacobson

June 20-27, 2010

Course Description:

This course focuses on the Palestinian-Arab minority in Israel, and explores their status and position in Israel, as well as the main dilemmas and challenges they are facing regarding the complex and charged relations with the Jewish majority and the Jewish state. While the focus of the course is on the Palestinian citizens of Israel, it also offers some parallels and comparisons to other minority groups in deeply divided societies.

The course is divided into four parts. The first part will offer a historical introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in general, and to the history of the Palestinians within the State of Israel in particular. Throughout this part we will also explore the major turning points that affected the status of the Palestinians as a minority group in Israel. The second part will focus on social and political orientations and changes among the Palestinians in Israel, as well as their legal status. The third part is devoted to a discussion on specific issues regarding the relations between Jews and Arabs in the State of Israel. This part will focus mainly on the inherent tension between Israel's definition as a Jewish state and the position of its Palestinian citizens in it, and on its implication on the relations between Jews and Arabs in the country. In this part we will explore the implications of this tension on various issues such as land and resources. In the last part we will draw some parallels and comparisons to other conflict regions and deeply divided societies.

- Course Outline by Day -

Monday June 21 (Day 1)

Morning class:

10:00-12:30 (Very) brief introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Recommended Readings:

- Kenneth W. Stein, "A Historiographic Review of Literature on the Origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict," in: *American Historical Review*, Vol. 96 no. 5 (Dec. 1991), pp. 1450-1467.

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Turning points in the history of the Palestinian citizens of Israel, 1948-1967

Recommended Readings:

- Tom Segev, *1949: The First Israelis* (NY: The Free Press, 1986), pp. 68-91.

Additional Readings

- Ahmad H. Sa'adi, "Catastrophe, Memory and Identity: Al-Nakbah as a Component of Palestinian Identity," *Israel Studies*, 7:2 (Summer 2002), 175-98.
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v007/7.2saadi.pdf
- Elie Rekhess, "Israeli Arabs and the Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza: Political Affinity and National Solidarity," *Asian and African Studies*, Vol. 23 no. 2-3 (1989), pp. 119-154.

Tuesday June 22 (Day 2)

Morning class:

10:00-12: Ethno-religious characteristics and the demographic debate

Recommended Reading

- Onn Winckler, "Fertility Transition in the Middle East: The Case of the Israeli Arabs," in: *Israel Affairs*, Vol. 9. No. 1&2, Autumn/Winter 2003, pp. 40-67.

Additional Readings

- Arnon Soffer, "The role of Demography and Territory in Jewish-Arab Relations in Israel," in: "J.O. Maos et al., eds., *Contemporary Israeli Geography*, special issue of *Horizons of Geography* Vol. 60-61, pp. 333-343

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Political Orientations: Between secularism and Islam

Recommended Reading

- Issam Aburaiya, "The 1996 Split of the Islamic Movement in Israel: Between the Holy Text and Israeli-Palestinian Context," *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*, Vol. 17, No. 3 (Spring 2004), pp. 439-455.

Additional Readings

- "The Islamic Movement inside Israel: An Interview with Sheikh Ra'id Salah," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 36 no. 2 (Winter 2007), pp. 66-76.

Wednesday June 23 (Day 3)

Dilemmas and challenges of the Palestinians in Israel

Morning class:

10:00-12:30 Arab Israelis or Palestinian Citizens of Israel: Dilemmas of Identity

- Short film: "Targeted Citizen" (Adalah, 2010, 15 min.) <http://vimeo.com/10302596>

Recommended Reading

- Majid al-Haj, "The Status of the Palestinians in Israel: A Double Periphery in an Ethno-National State," *Critical Issues in Israeli Society*, 2004.

Additional Readings

- Amal Jamal, "The Ambiguities of Minority Patriotism: Love for Homeland versus State among Palestinian Citizens of Israel," *Nationalism & Ethnic Politics*, 2004 10(3): 433-471.
- Elie Rekhess, "The Arabs of Israel After Oslo: Localization of the National Conflict," in: *Israel Studies*, Vol. 7 No. 3 (Fall 2002).

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Jewish-Arab Relations and the character of Israel: Two models: Ethnic-Democracy and *Ethnocracy*

- Movie: (ID Blues, Haim Yavin 2008), episode 1: "My blood is red like yours"

Recommended Reading

- Sammy Smooha, "The model of ethnic democracy: Israel as a Jewish and democratic state," *Nations and Nationalism* 8 (4), 2002, pp. 475-503.
- As'ad Ghanem, Nadim Rouhana and Oren Yiftachel, "Questioning "Ethnic Democracy": A Response to Sammy Smooha," *Israel Studies* 3, 2 (1999), pp. 253-267.

Thursday June 24 (Day 4)

Morning class:

10:00-12:30 The Land Dispute

Recommended Reading

- Alexander (Sandy) Kedar and Oren Yiftachel, "Land regime and Social Relations in Israel," in: *Swiss Human Rights Book*, pp. 127-144.
- Hillel Cohen, "Land, Memory and Identity: the Palestinian Internal Refugees in Israel," *Refuge* 21, no. 2 (Feb. 2003), pp. 6-14.

Additional Readings

- Haim Sandberg, "Land Expropriations of Private Arab Land in Israel -An Empirical Analysis of the Regular Course of Business," in: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=1432425>
- Havatzelet Yahel, "Land Disputes between the Negev Bedouins and Israel," in: *Israel Studies*, Vol. 11 no. 2 (Fall 2006), pp. 1-22.

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 The Land Dispute

- Movie: (ID Blues, Haim Yavin 2008), episode 2: "Land of the Negev"

Friday June 25 (Day 5)

Morning class:

10:00-12:30 October 2000: The Events and their affects

Recommended Reading

- Shimon Shamir, *The Arabs in Israel –Two Years after the Or Commission Report*, a lecture in Tel Aviv University, September 2005.
- As'ad Ghanem and Sarah Ozacky-Lazar, "The *al-Aqsa intifada* among the Palestinian Citizens in Israel: Causes and Results."

Additional Readings

- Azmi Bishara, "Reflections on October 2000: A Landmark in Jewish-Arab Relations in Israel," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 30, no. 3 (Spring, 2001), pp. 54-67.

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Joint Panel

Saturday June 26 (Day 6)

Morning class:

10:00-12:30 Conclusion and Directions for Comparative Analysis

- Movie (ID Blues, Haim Yavin, 2008) episode 5: "Jewish and democratic

Recommended Reading

- *The Future Vision of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel* 2006.

Additional Readings

- Elie Rekhess, "The Evolvement of an Arab-Palestinian National Minority on Israel," *Israel Studies*, Vol. 12 no. 3 (Fall 2007).

Afternoon class:

14:00-16:00 Evaluation