REL265/JST265/IR249

T&Th 2:00-3:15

Aaron W. Hughes

RRL 430

Office Hours: Thursday 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

aaron.hughes@rochester.edu

**Description**

This course will provide a non-partisan introduction to the conflict between these two national movements. Discussion will focus on an examination of historical documents, in addition to understanding of how it plays out in literature and film.

**Textbooks**

Neil Caplan, *The Israeli-Palestine Conflict: Contested Histories*

Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin (eds.), *The Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*, 7th rev ed.

Amos Oz. *A Tale of Love and Darkness*

Raja Shehadeh, *Palestinian Walks: Forays into a Vanishing Landscape*

Selections to be posted on Blackboard

Selection of relevant films

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is a fundamental university value. Through the honest completion of academic work, students sustain the integrity of the university while facilitating the university’s imperative for the transmission of knowledge and culture based upon the generation of new and innovative ideas. For further information consult [www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/](http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/) (the two quizzes there are highly informative, and I will assume you have taken them).

**Grading**

This is a discussion-based seminar that is geared towards conversation. To facilitate discussion, final grades will be divided as follows:

Attendance and Participation 20%

Class “quotes, notes, and questions”\* 20%

Reflection Papers (x3) 60%

\* Class “quotes, notes, and questions”= For each class, you are required to bring with you (typed and to hand in): three *quotes*, three *notes* and three *questions* from and about the assigned texts.

A *quote* is a passage from a text. A quote may be as long as a paragraph and as short as a word. In selecting your quotes you should choose quotes that help you to illuminate something vital in the text. You may feel a sense of mastery over your selected passages, or they may make you feel utterly confused. (Please note your quotes’ page numbers.)

A *note* is an observation or extended meditation about a text. Notes may comment on the text’s language, style, tone or bias. They may attempt to explicate something complicated, or call into relief an unstated presupposition. Your obligation in your notes is not to be “right,” but to be thoughtful and probing.

A *question* is a *textual* question or a question about implications. That is, it is not the sort of biographical or historical question that might be adjudicated through outside research or a Wikipedia search. It is rather a question about what something in the text *means*, *does*, or *commits* to.

On those days (most) you should **not** expend all you energy on only one of the texts.

**Schedule of Meetings**

**Date Topic Readings**

***PART ONE: HISTORY***

*Week One*

01/19 Introduction n/a

*Week Two*

01/24 Thinking about the Conflict Caplan, 221-251

01/26 Definitions Caplan, 1-38

*Week Three*

01/31 Origins and Balfour Declaration Caplan, 39-55

Laqueur, 3-20

Drafts of Balfour Decl.

02/02 British Mandate and Peel Commission Caplan, 56-78

Laqueur, 21-43

Week Four

02/07 Collapse of the Mandate and Caplan, 79-100

U.N. Partition Resolution Laqueur, 43-77

02/09 Independence/Naqba Caplan, 100-130

Laqueur, 81-87

*Week Five*

02/14 Israel and the Arab States, 1949-1973 Caplan, 131-159

Laqueur, 88-152

02/16 Re-emergence of Palestinian Nationalism Caplan, 160-177

Laqueur, 152-182

*Week Six*

02/21 no class

02/23 Camp David Caplan, 178-194

Laqueur, 203-237

*Week Seven*

02/28 The Lebanon War Laqueur, 254-313

Film: *Waltz with Bashir*

03/02 *Waltz with Bashir* (cntd.)

*Week Eight*

03/07 *Intifada* Caplan, 195-201

Laqueur, 314-358

03/09 *Oslo* Caplan, 202-218

Laqueur, 403-459

*Week Nine*

03/14 *Spring Break*

03/16 *Spring Break*

*Week Ten*

03/21 The (Messy) Present Caplan, 252-267

Laqueuer, 583-584, 591-594, 622-626

03/23 The Kerry Speech and Reactions

***PART TWO: MEMOIR AND FICTION***

*Week Eleven*

03/28 no class

03/30 Amos Oz, *Tales of Love and Darkness* (long book, but good. Start early!!)

*Week Twelve*

04/04 Ghassan Kanafani, “Men In the Sun”

Savyon Liebrecht, “A Room on the Roof”

04/06 Ghasan Kanafani, “Returning to Haifa”

David Grossman, “Swiss Mountain View: A Story”

Etgar Kerrett, “Cocked and Locked”

*Week Thirteen*

04/11 Raja Shehadeh, *Palestinian Walks*, intro-129

04/13 Raja Shehadeh, *Palestinian Walks*, 130-end

***PART THREE: FILM***

*Week Fourteen*

04/18 *Wedding in Galilee*

04/20 *Paradise Now*

*Week Fifteen*

04/25 Bethlehem and *Omar*

04/27 *A Borrowed Identity*

*Week Sixteen*

05/03 *The Gatekeepers*