

# PO399-15 Violence, Rights, Justice and Peace in the Middle East

**22/23**

**Department**

Politics & International Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 3

**Module leader**

Nicola Pratt

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

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## Description

### Introductory description

This module explores the reasons for violence and human rights violations and the possibilities for peace and justice in the Middle East. The module focuses on the case of the 'Israel-Palestine conflict' as the most intractable conflict in the Middle East.

Students will be briefly introduced to mainstream International Relations theories (realism, liberalism and constructivism) in addition to more marginalized approaches, such as postcolonialism and poststructuralism, in order to assess key debates in the study of the conflict, such as:

Why is the conflict so intractable?

What is the role of memory and history?

What is the role of law?

What is Zionism and what is Palestinian nationalism and are their goals reconcilable?

Is Israeli state violence against Palestinians legitimate?

Is Palestinian violence against Israelis legitimate?

Why did the Oslo peace process fail? What are some alternatives to the Oslo peace paradigm?

Can Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) bring peace and justice for Israelis and Palestinians?

The module will encourage students to critically reflect upon the limitations of mainstream International Relations theories in terms of reproducing dominant relations in the international system and the possibilities that decolonial and other marginalized approaches may challenge these hierarchies, paving the way for more peaceful and just solutions.

## **Module aims**

To provide a discussion of the reasons for violence and violations of human rights and the possibilities for peace and justice in the Middle East through the case study of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

To provide an introduction to key scholarly debates about the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

To highlight how mainstream IR theories are used to understand the Israel-Palestine conflict.

To introduce students to decolonial and other marginalized approaches to understanding the Israel-Palestine conflict.

## **Outline syllabus**

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

(Indicative topics)

1. Israel-Palestine in Transnational Perspective
2. History and Memory
3. Zionism and Palestinian Nationalism
4. Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territory
5. Violence in Israel-Palestine
6. Reading Week
7. The Oslo Accords: peace or pacification?
8. Palestinian Non-Violent Resistance
9. Beyond the Two-State Solution?
10. Revision and Essay Writing Advice

## **Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate significant empirical and theoretical knowledge of the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- Use IR theories to assess key scholarly debates about the Israel-Palestine conflict, the reasons for violence and human rights violations and the possibilities for peace making and a just solution.
- -Demonstrate an understanding of different notions of peace, justice and the legitimacy of violence in relation to the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- Critically assess the possibilities and limitations of IR theories with regard to understanding the Israel-Palestine conflict.

## **Indicative reading list**

Charles D. Smith, Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict  
James Gelvin, The Israel-Palestine Conflict  
Ilan Pappé, A History of Modern Palestine  
Colin Shindler, A History of Modern Israel  
Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, Security Theology, Surveillance and the Politics of Fear,

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## Research element

Independent research for essay writing

## International

Introduces students to an important dimension of the Middle East

## Subject specific skills

- empirical and theoretical knowledge of the Israel-Palestine conflict.  
-an understanding of how IR theories relate to the Israel-Palestine conflict
- an understanding of different notions of peace, justice and the legitimacy of violence in relation to the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- knowledge of decolonial approaches to the Israel-Palestine conflict

## Transferable skills

communication skills (written and verbal), time management, analytical skills

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## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

### Private study description

You are expected to spend 8-10 hours per week reading the core readings for this module and taking notes in preparation for seminar discussions.

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

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## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

### Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
<b>Assessment component</b>			
3000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)
<b>Reassessment component is the same</b>			

## Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on PAIS feedback form and verbal feedback in person.

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## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 4 of UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
- Year 3 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 3 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
  - Year 4 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with

Intercalated year)

- Year 3 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 4 of UPOA-M101 Undergraduate Politics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 3 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- Year 3 of UPOA-M162 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods
- Year 4 of UPOA-M167 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 4 of UPOA-M16B Undergraduate Politics and International Studies (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- Year 4 of UPOA-ML14 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
- Year 4 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 4 of UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16H Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies (3 year degree)

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)