

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

**23/24**

**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 region.

Students will be briefly introduced to mainstream International Relations theories (realism, liberalism and constructivism) in addition to more marginalized approaches, such as postcolonial/decolonial theory, feminism 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 international 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 discuss 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 conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

To provide an introduction to key scholarly debates about the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

To highlight how IR theories may be used to analyse the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

To introduce students to decolonial and other marginalized approaches to analysing the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

## **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. Introduction- the challenges of discussing the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians
2. Competing approaches to studying the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians
3. History and Memory
4. Israeli Occupation of Palestinian Territory
5. Violence and its Legitimacy
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 knowledge of the historical and contemporary events related to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and the relevant actors involved
- Use IR theories to assess key scholarly debates about the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, 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 conflict between Israel and the Palestinians
- Use IR theories to develop independent positions and arguments in relation to key scholarly

debates about the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians

## **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 and completing other assessments

## **International**

Introduces students to an important dimension of the Middle East

## **Subject specific skills**

- significant knowledge of the historical and contemporary events related to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and the relevant actors involved  
-an awareness of different IR theories and how they can be used to analyse the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians
- applying IR theories to analyse the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and to develop critical assessments of key academic debates
- an understanding of different notions of peace, justice and the legitimacy of violence in relation to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians
- knowledge of decolonial approaches to studying the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians

## **Transferable skills**

communication skills (written and verbal), time management, analytical skills, critical 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. You are expected to spend around 80 hours on independent research for the purpose of completing assessments.

## 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 A2

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
3000 word essay	100%		Yes (extension)
essay titles to be released in week 5			

Reassessment component is the same

## Feedback on assessment

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

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## Availability

## Courses

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-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)
- 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 C for:

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