BOSTON COLLEGE        Building a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine                    Fall, 2012
Schedule of Readings & Assignments
(Sc367.01)

Summer Pre-Reading:
Joe Sacco, Palestine, Seattle: Pantagraphic Books, 2001

September 5 -12, 2012: The Human Rights Framework

September 5: The Basic Human Rights Framework


Mahmoud Mamdani “Responsibility to Protect or Right to Punish? Humanitarian Intervention and its Critics,” PDG - please google the author and title.


Assignment Due: Wednesday, September 12, 2012

Briefly formulate your own conclusions (using the assigned readings) on the following issues:

a) Does the basic human rights framework, as represented in the 2 U.N. documents, do a good job in establishing the social contract that should prevail among nations and between nations and their citizens? Is the framework too ambitious? And, if so, what rights would you omit? Is the framework lacking – and, if so, what kinds of provisions would you add?
b) Using Leontieff, Glendon and Mamdani, would you defend the human rights framework as truly universal? Might it be merely “neo-colonialism in a tux?”

c) Using Sachedina, Biletzki and Suskin, would you argue that human rights doctrine requires religious grounding? Would secular humanism be sufficient to ground human rights doctrine?

September 12, 2012: Applying the HR framework to Palestine

*Convention (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War* (Geneva Convention IV), Geneva, 12 August 1949

Susan Akram, “Palestinian Refugees and their Legal Status,” in *Journal of Palestine Studies* (special issue on refugees, Summer, 2011), at: [http://palestine-studies.org/focus.aspx](http://palestine-studies.org/focus.aspx)

At: [http://law.huji.ac.il/eng/pirsumim.asp?cat=2275&in=735](http://law.huji.ac.il/eng/pirsumim.asp?cat=2275&in=735) (you will need to scroll down and click on the summary to see the whole article)


Jeff Halper, The Second Battle of Gaza: Israel’s Undermining of International Law,” *Pulse, (political weblog)*


Assignment: due September 19

The Congressional Research Service provides briefing papers for serious but uninformed U.S. representatives and senators. Jim Zanotti’s work represents the most recent summary of the U.S. position on Palestine that a freshman congressperson might receive. It is accurate as far as it goes, but very incomplete. Using the readings for last week (plus information on the B’Tselem and ICAHD websites), write a 3-5 page addendum that would balance the work.
**September 19 – October 10: Historical Narratives**

**September 19:** The Concept of Nationalism in Modern Jewish and Palestinian


**September 26: Israeli Self Defense**


**Assignment Due: October 3**

We are studying four major frameworks for understanding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict: Israeli self-defense, apartheid, genocide, and ethnic cleansing/sociocide. We will evaluate each in turn. For this week’s paper, please evaluate the adequacy
of the Israeli self-defense framework, in light to the historical material you have read. What facts does this framework emphasize? What facts does it obscure? Is it based mostly on analysis or on metaphor? How adequate is it to organize a master narrative?

October 3: Apartheid? Genocide?
For a definition of apartheid see: “International Convention for the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid,” at:

Video of talk at:
http://www.thejerusalemfund.org/ht/display/ContentDetails/i/5191/pid/3584.
Transcript of talk at:
http://www.thejerusalemfund.org/ht/display/ContentDetails/i/5240/pid/897

Karine MacAllister, “Applicability of the Crime of Apartheid to Israel,” at:

Ronnie Kasrils “Who Said 50 years ago that Israel was an Apartheid State?” Address on March 17, 2009 at: http://world.mediamonitors.net/content/view/full/60684/

For a definition of genocide, see:
http://www.preventgenocide.org/genocide/officialtext.htm

Richard Falk (U.N. Rapporteur for Palestine), “Slouching toward a Palestinian Holocaust,” Countercurrents, 7 July, 2007 at:
http://www.countercurrents.org/falk070707.htm


Assignment Due: October 10

We are studying four major frameworks for understanding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict: Israeli self-defense, apartheid, genocide, and ethnic cleansing/sociocide. We will evaluate each in turn. For this week’s paper, please evaluate the adequacy of the genocide and apartheid frameworks, in light to the historical material you have read. What facts does each framework emphasize? What facts does it obscure? Are they based mostly on analysis or on metaphor? How adequate are
they to organize a master narrative?

October 10: Ethnic Cleansing, Sociocide
Ilan Pappe “The 1948 Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine,” in *Journal of Palestine Studies* (special issue on refugees, Summer, 2011) at:
http://palestine-studies.org/focus.aspx


http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/fisk/fighting-talk-the-new-propaganda-2006001.html

Hassan Khader “The Nakba Narrative,” *Al Hayat*, May 24, 209 at:
http://www.americantaskforce.org/daily_news_article/2009/06/01/1243828800_2

Assignment Due: October 17
We are studying four major frameworks for understanding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict: Israeli self-defense, apartheid, genocide, and ethnic cleansing/sociocide. We will evaluate each in turn. For this week’s paper, please evaluate the adequacy of the ethnic cleansing/sociocide framework, in light to the historical material you have read. What facts does this framework emphasize? What facts does it obscure? Is it based mostly on analysis or on metaphor? How adequate is it to organize a master narrative?

In light of this and the preceding two papers, which framework would you chose to explain the conflict to your roommates. Bear in mind that you can chose elements from all of these narratives.

October 17 – 24: Points Drive
October 31 – November 7: Conflict Management or State Formation?

**October 31: Models of Conflict Resolution**


**Guest Lecture: Sarah Woodside**

**Assignment due: November 7**

How could Rouhana’s call for awareness of history, justice, and power be reconciled with Lederach’s complex alignment among grass roots, civil society, and state actors? For example, who would be most likely to keep track of history? Would grass roots involvement make it more likely that power and justice were yoked together? Does the conflict management perspective contribute much understanding the Israeli/Palestinian situation?

**November 7: The One State/Two State Debate**


Jeff Halper, “You Can’t Get There from Here: The Need for ‘Collapse with Agency’” ICAHD at: http://www.icahd.org/node/270

**Assignment Due: November 14**

It is unlikely that the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians will be resolved in the absence of a political solution – either one (perhaps bi-national) or two states. If we were to adopt the position of the poet Yitzak La’or, that any of these solutions is acceptable and that the most desirable is “whichever one comes first,” which solution would you advocate? Using course readings succinctly summarize the case for and against the one state solution; the case for and against the two state solution. Which is more consistent with the human rights framework you developed in the first paper?
**November 14 – 28: The Economic Future**

**November 14: The Palestinian Economy: Historical Perspectives, Future Prospects**


The Rand Palestinian Study Team, *Building a Successful Palestinian State* (Rand Corporation, 2005), Chapter 1 (Introduction), Chapter 5 (Economics), Chapter 6 (Water), Chapter 7 (Health), Chapter 8 (Education), Chapter 9 (Conclusion).

“Tell me again: Who made the desert bloom?”


Leila Farsakh, Palestinian Labor Migration, at: http://video.csupomona.edu/HotTalk/LeilaFarsakh-035.asx and also


**Assignment Due: November 28**

If you were a consultant for the European Union or the Quartet, what advice would you give them about healthy economic development in Israel/Palestine? Please be sure to draw on the reading materials in constructing your answer. Is it possible, as Netanyahu proclaims (and Fayyad hints), for Israelis to offer Palestinians a purely “economic peace” (and, implicitly, prosperity) without resolving the political issues of statelessness?

**November 28: The Israeli Economy and the Occupation**

Thomas Friedman, “Israel Discovers Oil,” *NYTimes* op. ed. June 10, 2007 at:
http://cmsprod.bgu.ac.il/Eng/engn/Projects/TomFriedman.htm


Assignment Due: December 6:

Succinctly summarize the arguments for and against a boycott of Israeli products. Do the same rules apply to the boycott of Israeli cultural products, artists and intellectuals? Where do you stand on the call for boycott, sanctions and divestment?
December 6 - December 13: Religious Ethics in the Holy Land

Sara Roy, “A Jewish Plea,” Counterpunch, April 7/8, 2007 at:
http://www.counterpunch.org/roy04072007.html

Avraham Burg, “Holocaust’s Unholy Hold,”
Los Angeles Times, November 16, 2008 at:

(If you want to compare Burg’s view to more conventional Israeli views, see the article “Jewish and Democratic,” in The Economist
http://www.economist.com/books/displaystory.cfm?story_id=12459713)

Rabbi Bruce Warshal, “Shame on America, Jews & the ADL,” Florida Jewish Journal,
on-line reserves.

Marc Ellis “The On-going Nakba and the Jewish Conscience,” Address to the Palestine Center, May 27,2010 at:
http://www.thejerusalemfund.org/ht/d/ContentDetails/i/12975/pid/897

Bassam Aramin “A Palestinian Bar Mitvah,” at:
http://karmalised.com/?p=3318#more-3318

Nurit Peled-Elhanan “Let our Children Live,” Counterpunch


Extra Credit Assignment: Due December 13:

As manifested in the readings, how do the Abrahamic faiths of the Middle East understand concepts like right living, care of the world, obligations to self and others? Do you think these narratives share a large common ground? Can they produce compatible religious and ethical directives for their respective communities? Please be sure to use the material above in constructing your answers.
**Final Project Prospectus – during the finals period for this course**

Please complete your prospectus for the project you would like to accomplish after returning from our field trip.

Describe the project – what do you plan to do?

What are the intellectual foundations of your project – i.e. what questions are you trying to answer?

Who is the audience for your project – i.e. with whom are you dialoguing?

Who is the intended beneficiary of your project?

How will you know if the project is successful – what are your measures of success?

In what ways might this project be a prototype for your further engagement in “making history” (as distinct from simply making a living)?

What is the place of your project in the world – i.e. if we consider legislation and regulation (law), market incentives (economics), people-to-people initiatives (grass roots action), ngo development (civil society), and faith based initiatives (religion) as the principle instruments for constructing just societies, where does your project fit on this map and how could it link to other projects that share your values?