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## **COURSE INFORMATION:**

**Title: Isaac versus Ishmael: The Israeli–Palestinian Conflict**



[uafisraelpalestine.blogspot.com](http://uafisraelpalestine.blogspot.com)



[twitter.com/UAFisraelpales](https://twitter.com/UAFisraelpales)

- Meeting Times/Dates: Spring 2011 (Jan 26–Feb 23), Wednesdays 6:00–9:00pm
- Location: Room 216, UAF–CTC campus (604 Barnette St, Fairbanks)
- Department/Number: RELG F193 (CRN 35734)
- Credits: 1 (one)
- Prerequisites: None

## **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

Name: Dr. Paul Korchin

Office Location: none (adjunct faculty)  
Telephone: 907-374-8870 (before 10pm)

Office Hours: by appointment  
E-Mail: [pdkorchin@alaska.edu](mailto:pdkorchin@alaska.edu)

## **COURSE READINGS / MATERIALS:**

Course Textbook: *Israel / Palestine*  
(Global Political Hot Spots series)  
Author: Alan Dowty  
Publisher: Polity: Cambridge UK & Malden MA, 2008 (2nd edition)

Supplementary Readings: Primary documents, media sources, and maps will be provided via the internet and/or photocopied handouts.

Supplies Required: Personal computer with internet access.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Why is contemporary Arab–Jewish hatred so bloody and intractable? This course investigates the strife in its interlocking historical, political, religious, ethnic, and archaeological dimensions, exploring how past events and traditions are conceived—and reconceived—by opposing peoples in the light and shadow of their present situations and future aspirations. Competing claims to the land and its holy places are scrutinized through the prisms of Judaism and Islam, including their respective sacred texts (the Bible and the Qur’an). Governance of the region is examined in terms of its ancient, medieval, and modern conquests and political structures (ranging from the Davidic kingdom, to the Muslim caliphate, to Israeli statehood and the occupied territories). Ideological movements including Zionism, Fatah, Hamas, and Hizbullah are considered via their tenets and tactics (such as settlements, bulldozing, rocket attacks, and suicide bombings). Plans and prospects—both past and pending—for an enduring peace are evaluated.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES:**

By the conclusion of this course the diligent student will possess a foundational knowledge about the historical and contemporary catalysts that fuel suspicions and hostilities between (and among) Israelis and Palestinians. The attentive student will also come to appreciate the thorny complexities generated by the intersecting geographic, religious, and political dynamics of contending ethnic groups. Furthermore, the dedicated student will acquire useful analytical tools to assess and contextualize future geopolitical developments in the region.

**INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

Within the classroom, this course will be conducted in a lecture format, featuring presentations and questions by the instructor designed to engage the students in discussions about the material and topics at hand. Visual media will be incorporated (chiefly PowerPoint, photographs, maps) to provide a more vivid context for reflection and conversation. Beyond the classroom, this course will maintain social networking and micro-blogging sites in order to foster a more sustained and vibrant intellectual dialogue about the religions of the world. Postings will include relevant multimedia sources, class discussion threads, and course logistics.

**COURSE CALENDAR:**

**JAN 26:**      **CLASS 1: ZIONISM’S DAWN AND CALIPHATE’S TWILIGHT**

*The conflict’s modern origins & ancient catalysts.*

Assignment:

- Dowty, 1–80
- Handouts (maps, articles); Online postings/comments

- FEB 2:**        **CLASS 2: OTTOMAN SANJAQ TO BRITISH MANDATE**  
                   *Last Gasp of the Empires (1914–1947).*  
Assignment:
- Dowty, 80–104
  - Handouts (maps, articles); Online postings/comments
  - Final Project assignment (**DUE** 2 weeks after last class: 3/9/11)
- FEB 9:**        **CLASS 3: INDEPENDENCE AND CATASTROPHE**  
                   *The War of Partition: prelude, events, aftermath (1947–1967).*  
Assignment:
- Dowty, 105–130
  - Handouts (maps, articles); Online postings/comments
- FEB 16:**      **CLASS 4: DAVID BEGETS GOLIATH**  
                   *The June & October Wars: prelude, events, aftermath (1967–1987).*  
Assignment:
- Dowty, 130–161
  - Handouts (maps, articles); Online postings/comments
- FEB 23:**      **CLASS 5: CONVULSIONS AND STALEMATE**  
                   *First (1987) & Second (2000) Intifadas; 21st Century prospects.*  
Assignment:
- Dowty, 162–218
  - Handouts (maps, articles); Online postings/comments

### **COURSE POLICIES:**

This single credit course is an elective, designed to appeal to students who are attracted to its subject matter and/or to fulfilling core academic requirements toward UAF Associate and/or Bachelor degrees. For students who audit, the standards are ultimately self-imposed. For those who take this course for credit, consistent and prompt attendance is mandatory, as is timely completion of the assignments. The final project is also required, as well as a *bona fide* intellectual curiosity and respectfulness toward the subject matter and fellow class participants. Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty are intolerable, and will be forwarded to the appropriate college authorities for disciplinary measures.

### **EVALUATION:**

Auditing is permitted. Letter grades for credit will be determined according to the following formula:

- 20% Course **Preparation**—readings/hearings/viewings of assigned materials; students will be provided with reflection topics/questions keyed to required sources.

- 30% Course **Participation**—attendance: promptness, consistency (10%); discussion: frequency, relevance, depth of in-class questions, comments, engagement with instructor & colleagues (10%); feedback: frequency, substance of online reactions & reflections about website postings (10%).
- 50% Course **Project**—a 6–8 page paper, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, proper grammar, spelling, citations. Students will have a choice from among a limited number of relevant topics/motifs provided and/or approved by the instructor. An unexcused late paper will be penalized 10% (one full letter grade, down from the grade earned) for each week it is late—up to a period of 3 weeks—after which a paper will receive a failing grade.

According to the following scale:

A+	98–100
A	94–97
A-	91–93
B+	88–90
B	84–87
B-	81–83
C+	78–80
C	74–77
C-	71–73
D+	68–70
D	64–67
D-	61–63
F	0–60

### **SUPPORT SERVICES:**

UAF Academic Advising Center, located at 509 Gruening (main campus)  
 web: [www.uaf.edu/advising](http://www.uaf.edu/advising) | phone: 907-474-6396 | e-mail: [advising@uaf.edu](mailto:advising@uaf.edu)

### **DISABILITY SERVICES:**

UAF has a Disability Services office that operates in conjunction with the College of Rural and Community Development campuses and UAF’s Center for Distance Education (CDE). Disability Services, a part of UAF’s Center for Health and Counseling, provides academic accommodations to enrolled students who are identified as being eligible for these services. If you believe you are eligible, please visit <http://www.uaf.edu/chc/disability.html> on the web or contact a student affairs staff person at your nearest local campus. You can also contact Disability Services on the Fairbanks Campus at 907-474-7043, [fydso@uaf.edu](mailto:fydso@uaf.edu)