

# History of the Israeli Palestinian Conflict through Film

## HIS082

Thinking Historically & Thinking Globally GE course

"film in Context" for the Film Studies Minor

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The Israeli Palestinian Conflict is a topic that easily arises to students of history and politics. It is a conflict between two peoples, the Israelis and the Palestinians, over land and resources. The conflict has been ongoing since the 1948 War of Independence, and has since become one of the most pressing issues in the Middle East. The conflict is rooted in historical, political, and religious factors, and has led to significant suffering and displacement for both sides. The conflict is often framed as a binary struggle between good and evil, with Israel representing the former and Palestine the latter. However, this oversimplification obscures the complexity of the issue. Both sides have legitimate claims to the land, and the conflict is not just about territory, but also about identity, culture, and history. The conflict has also had a significant impact on global politics, with the United States and other countries playing a role in supporting or opposing different sides. The conflict remains a source of tension and instability in the region, and its resolution remains a key goal for both sides.

Film is a powerful medium of communication. It can tell stories, convey emotions, and challenge conventional narratives. In the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, film has played a significant role in shaping public perception and raising awareness of the issue. It has provided a platform for diverse voices and perspectives, and has helped to humanize the conflict beyond the binary narrative of good vs. evil. By examining films from both sides, students will gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of the conflict and the challenges of finding a just solution. The course will also explore the broader context of global geopolitics and the role of media in shaping international relations.

U.S. policy towards the conflict has been a contentious issue. The U.S. has traditionally supported Israel, but has also sought to promote peace and stability in the region. The conflict has also had a significant impact on global politics, with the United States and other countries playing a role in supporting or opposing different sides. The conflict remains a source of tension and instability in the region, and its resolution remains a key goal for both sides.

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- *Assessed through "movie pitch" project*

Thinking Globally GE: “To think globally is to understand how people interact with one another across the globe and to understand the complex political, economic, and social dynamics that shape our world. The study of these interactions, from international trade to global climate change, is essential for understanding the interconnectedness of our world. This course will explore the various ways in which people interact with each other and with their environment, and will examine the impact of these interactions on both individuals and societies. By examining the global context of local issues, students will gain a deeper appreciation for the complexity of the world we live in and the importance of global citizenship.”

The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict has been one of the thorniest Conflicts of the last century. This Conflict draws in and impacts the Arab world, the Muslim world, the Christian world, the Developing world, Europe and North America. This course focuses primarily on the lived experiences and perspectives of the main actors and sufferers in the Conflict, the Israelis and the Palestinians. We will work hard to see the world and the issues at stake in the Conflict from their points of view. We will also study how the course of the Conflict has been shaped by outside actors and international power politics including European imperialism, anti-imperialist national movements, the Cold War, jihadi networks, evangelical Christian Zionism and the Holy Land tourism industry, the development “industry,” and branches of the UN addressing refugees and human rights. The use of films in the course is one way we can hear Israelis and Palestinians tell their own story. In addition, analyzing film can make us more cognizant of the international flows of capital and concern that impact the conflict. For example, when European NGO backers and Palestinian and Israeli actors make films designed primarily for North American viewers. In many cases North American Protestant Christians are the target audience of such a film because of the disproportionate influence they have on the Conflict. Consequently, students will reflect on the impact their own actions and attitudes have on the lives of Israelis and Palestinians.

Students will be able to:

*Explain how the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is rooted in the Middle East and its causes, including global economic, political, and religious factors.*

- *Assessed through participation in class discussions, quizzes & exams*

*Reflect on the historical roots of the conflict, including dispossession, displacement, and discrimination.*

- *Assessed in class discussions & "movie pitch" project*

*Reflect on the effectiveness of policies to resolve the conflict, including global and local initiatives.*

- *Assessed in class discussions & "movie pitch" project*

- *Assessed in class discussions & "movie pitch" project*

ASSIGNMENTS/RESPONSIBILITIES

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Movie: *Omar*

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