COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The Arab-Israeli conflict has been referred to as the most intractable bloodiest conflicts of modern times. Nevertheless there were also many attempts by the international community and the parties themselves to try and reach a lasting peace agreement. In this class we will look at the conflict and peace efforts through the prism of films. Both documentaries as well as feature movie films.

The class assumes no prior knowledge of the conflict and peace efforts. We will begin by presenting a general overview of the relevant parties in the conflict, the role of international actors, the history of the conflict and the trajectory of the efforts of peace. We then move into specific topics related to the two perspectives of the people – Israelis and Palestinians predominantly. Namely all topics will be discussed by presenting two main perspectives and narratives - a Palestinian perspective and an Israeli. The Professors of the class backgrounds are Arab and Israeli and each will be presenting their people’s perspective and narrative. The main studying materials for this section will be documentaries which were produced about the conflict and efforts for peace.

We will analyze several feature movies which were produced on both (as well as other) sides. Both professors will discuss and explain their own perspective and different views and will examine conflict and violence as well as promises of cooperation and peaceful change between Israelis and Palestinians. Effective means for diminishing the level of violence and potential for cooperative coexistence are explored.

COURSE BOOKS:
Deborah Roham Schlueter. The Olive Grove: A Palestinian Story, (SAQI, 2008)
Shaul M. Gabbay and Amin Kazak with Matheu Markman, One Land, Two Stories: Narratives of Israel and Palestine (ISIME Press, 2008).
COURSE GRADING:

The grade will be based on the following parts:
- Attendance and Participation 20%
- Midterm Exam (Feb 5) 25%
- 2 film Analysis 20%
- Final paper 35%

COURSE FILMS

- Tkuma: The First 50 years
- Jerusalem “ABC”
- Pillar of Fire I: The Jew Return and the Arabs Awakens
- Shattered Dreams
- West Bank Story
- Paradise Now “Suicide Bombings”
- To Die in Jerusalem “Suicide Bombings”
- Promises “Youth and Peace”
- Encounter Point
- COURSE SCHEDULE

**Week I: Introduction: The Arab-Israeli Conflict Through Films**
Culture, Actors, Interests, Networks, Narratives and Perspectives.

**Week II: The Narrative divide – Religion** - The Bible and the Promised Land – One father Two Sons: Abraham, Izick and Ishmael.
Readings: Gabbay and Kazak: Introduction and Chapter 1.
Movie:

**Week III: Nationalism - From people to nations** - Palestinian Nationalism versus Zionism.
Readings: Goldschmidt, Jr. Chapters 12, 13, & 16 (The Rise of Nationalism, The Roots of Arab Bitterness, The Contest for Palestine, Israel’s Rebirth)
Gabbay and Kazak – Chapter 2, 3.
Movie: Pillar of Fire 1: The Jew Return the Arabs Awakens

**Week IV: the miracle and the disaster – the creation of the State of Israel and the Palestinian Refugee.**
Readings: Schlueuter
Movie – Tkuma---The Conflict: the first 50 years

**Week V:**
**Trajectory of Wars: From 1948 to 1982**
Readings: Goldschmidt, Jr. Chapters 17, 18.
Gabbay and Kazak Chapters 3 and 4, 5.
Movie – Jerusalem

**Week VI: Trajectory of Peace:**
History and Analysis of the Peace process.
Movie: Tkuma: The peace process.
Readings: Gabbay and Kazak Chapters 8,9 10.

**Week VII: The Peace Process I:**
Issues of Conflict & Negotiation- Jerusalem, Refugees (the Right of the Return)
Movie: Shattered Dreams

**Week VIII: MIDTERM**
The Peace Process II.
Issues of Conflict & Negotiation: The Settlements, Borders and Security
Movie: West Bank Story
Readings: Gabbay and Kazak Chapters 11, 12.
Week IX: Terror or Fight for Freedom
Movie: Paradise Now, To Die in Jerusalem
Readings: Will be distributed in class.

Week X: Palestinian and Israeli Youths and the Conflict
Movie: Promises 1, 2
Readings: Debra Ellis’ Three Wishes

Week XI: The role of NGO’s in the conflict
The Road to Peace: The US Road Map and Geneva Accord
Readings: Rabbi Michael Lerner “the Geneva Accord”
Movie: Encounter Point
Reading: Gabbay Building Social Capital in the Middle East

Week XII: The economics of war and peace
Movie:
Readings: Will be distributed in class.

Week XIII: The education of war and Peace
Readings: Will be distributed in class.
Movie: Obsession

WEEK XIV: Summary Discussion and Outlook
The Path Ahead - One state or two States
Movie: Two States of Mind
Readings: Gabbay and Kazak: Forecast for the future.

Week XV: Final Paper presentations and Discussion