

Conflict Studies 2 | SOU44012

Year	Senior Sophister
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	22
Pre-requisite	
Semester	2
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr. David Landy
Contact Email	DLANDY@tcd.ie

Module Outline:

What are the roots of genocide? In January 2024, the International Court of Justice found there was a 'plausible case' that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, a ruling which came within days of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. Beyond the headlines, how can we understand how this instance of genocide and the conflict behind it has been constructed, conducted and dealt with internationally.

The focus for the module is Israel/Palestine, one of the major conflict zones of our time. Israel/Palestine is a paradigmatic example of a long running conflict, and of a modern state which aims to ensure the ongoing dominance of a particular ethnic group. This module moves beyond the current crisis in Gaza and Israel to examine the roots and routes of the conflict and the reactions of the various parties, taking a critical look at Israeli and Palestinian responses. We also examine international interventions, both what motivates the interest in Israel/Palestine and the effect of this involvement.

The class uses the particular issue of Israel/Palestine to develop an in-depth understanding of a conflict situation, which has general applicability. Key debates that this class engages in concern conflict and race, colonisation practices, resistance strategies, the representation of conflict, the use of human rights by parties in conflict situations, and critiques of the role of outside intervention.



Module Learning Objectives:

On successful completion students will:

- Understand the main issues involved in the Israel/Palestine conflict;
- Relate this specific instance of conflict to wider theoretical understandings within race and conflict studies;
- Interrogate the relationship between colonisation and genocide;
- Theorise the roles of normalisation and resistance within conflicts;
- Critically analyse the role of external involvement and the 'peace industry' within a conflict zone;
- Understand the reasons behind the globalisation of the conflict and relate this to other conflicts.

Assessment:

- 20% Student presentation and tutorial attendance
- 80% Written assignment

Recommended Reading List:

There is no set text, but the following texts will prove useful:

- Gelvin, James. 2014. *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: One Hundred Years of War*.
- Lentin, Ronit. 2018. *Traces of Racial Exception: Racializing Israeli Settler Colonialism*. Bloomsbury Academic: London
- Kotef, Hagar. 2020 *The Colonizing Self: Or, Home and Homelessness in Israel/Palestine*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Matar, Dina. 2010. *What it Means to be Palestinian: Stories of Palestinian Peoplehood*. I.B. Tauris: London, 2010;
- Zureik, Elia. 2016. *Israel's Colonial Project in Palestine*. London: Routledge