

Maymester 2023; Mode: IR [in-person and remotely]

## Beyond Hostilities: Israeli-Palestinian Exchanges and Collaborations in Cinema, Literature, and Music

Yaron Shemer

ASIA 425/JWST 425/PWAD 425

Monday to Friday 11:30 - 2:45 (5/17 to 6/2)

It should come as no surprise that, for most, the mention of Israel and Palestine conjointly conjures up conflict, wars, and hostility. Yet, this course focuses on various collaborations and exchanges between Israelis and Palestinians in the realm of culture. These connections involve literature and language (Israeli-Jewish authors writing in Arabic and Palestinian writers who choose Hebrew as their language of expression), music, filmmaking, and joint educational initiatives.

Numerous films and novels feature Palestinian-Israeli love stories. The dilemma “can love win?” in the face of this intractable conflict will reveal not only the patent interference of the public (i.e., politics) with the private sphere of love, but also how desire for the other is aroused by the politics of separation.

- No knowledge of Hebrew or Arabic is required.
- This course counts for the Arab Cultures major, the Arabic minor, the Hebrew minor, the interdisciplinary major and minor in Asian Studies, the major in Peace, War, and Defense, and the Jewish Studies major and minor.
- Course meets BN and GL General Education requirements. IDEAS in action: 1. Global Understanding & Engagement; 2. Power, Difference, & Inequality .

### Class activities include:

- Lectures and small group discussions
- Student presentations
- Screenings of feature and documentary films
- Watching clips from Israeli-Palestinian musical performances
- Guest speakers
- Skype sessions with Israeli and Palestinian artists and filmmakers.

