In this course, we will focus on the historical power of words, rhetorics, and rhetorical traditions to create barriers between people, communities, and nations. By using Kenneth Burke’s famous definition of rhetoric in his *A Rhetoric of Motives* (“Put identification and division together and you have the characteristic call to rhetoric”), we will study how the very conditions of possibility for persuasion arise out of both “identification” and “division.” We will examine Burke’s concept of “congregation through segregation” by exploring specific the Israel-Palestine conflict in relation to a larger historical survey of rhetorical traditions.

In addition, we will also engage fictional works around the Israel-Palestine conflict by reading some recently published novels by both Jewish and Palestinian authors.