The Emergence of the Modern State of Israel

(SPIS201)

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July 4–26, 2017
Mon, Tue, Wed: 9:00 - 12:00; Sunday: Field Trip

60 Academic Hours, 4 Academic Credits

Course Description

This course will begin with an examination of the Zionist idea; its common denominators and variegated factions. Due consideration will be given to the late-nineteenth century European context in order to appreciate the socio-economic, political and cultural factors that impacted upon the Zionist movement. The course will explore how competing visions for the Jewish state responded to the realities of Palestine; its local Arab population, Ottoman rulers and existing Jewish population. Following the First World War a new set of circumstances emerged for the Arab and Jewish populations particularly as European powers discussed their respective desiderata for the area. The class will examine the various British attempts to restore law and order and placate the ambitions of the Arab national movement whilst simultaneously not giving the appearance of abandoning its commitments to the Zionist movement. Why in 1939 did Britain withdraw from partition and recommend serious limitations on Jewish immigration and land purchase as well as the establishment of a single Palestine state? Students will learn of the first Arab-Israeli war, the refugee crisis and the Rhodes armistice agreements. Students will be introduced to the writings of the New Historians and their critics.
At this half way point the course will turn its attention to internal and external dilemmas that faced and indeed continue to face the Israeli state. It will ask whether existing tensions can be accommodated by a reaffirmation of the Jewish-democratic characterization of the state or whether alternative paradigms might be considered.

The various expressions of the Israel-Arab conflict will be given due consideration as well as the efforts at peace making, particularly those with Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians. Classes take the form of lectures, discussion based on the assigned readings and three on-site visits.

Course Requirements
1. Preparation of bibliography for class discussion.
2. Participation in field study trips.
3. Three short essay assignments (45 % of final grade). Each assignment should be three pages in length double spaced. For description and submission dates see below.
4. Final exam (55 % of final grade)

List of Key Books


Course Outline

(* denotes required reading)

4th July

Session 1: Introduction: Zionism in its Historical Context and the Common Denominators of the Zionist Idea.

5th July

Session 2: Old Yishuv and New Yishuv/Herzl and the Rise of Political Zionism
*Shapira, *Israel* pp. 27-42. Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK 001917877 or
Morris B, pp. 37-59. E327.56 M875
* Hertzberg, pp. 204-226 (Herzl) 933.609 I576 Moodle

5th July

Session 3: Zionism as a Secular Jewish Identity
*Hertzberg, pp. 256-260 Moodle (Ahad Ha’am), 293-295 (Berdyczewski), 390-395, (Katznelson) 411-414 (Pines). 933.609 I576

Distribution of First Assignment: Herzl, Ahad Ha'am and the Integrationists to be submitted by 11th July.

6th July

Session 4: The Second Aliyah, the Yishuv during World War I and the Balfour Declaration
6th July
Session 5: The Mandate for Palestine and the Churchill Memorandum
* The Mandate for Palestine in Hurewitz, pp. 106-111; ME327(08) H963 Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 30-36; E327.56(08) L317 Friesel, pp. 38-46; 933.608 F912 Kaplan II, pp. 101-109. 933.608 K17
* Churchill Memorandum in Hurewitz, pp. 103-106; ME327(08) H963 Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 25-29; E327.56(08) L317 Friesel, pp. 24-29; 933.608 F912 Kaplan II, pp. 113-118. 933.608 K17 Moodle
B. Morris, pp. 88-106. E327.56 M875

10th July
Session 6: Developments 1929-1931 and the Arab Question in Zionism
* Passfield White Paper in Friesel, pp. 104-115; 933.608 F912 Kaplan II, pp. 144-155. 933.608 K17 Moodle
* MacDonald Letter in Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 36-41 Moodle
E327.56(08) L317 Friesel, pp. 117-124; 933.608 F912 Kaplan II, pp. 156-163. 933.608 K17
* Kaplan I, pp. 319-322 (Jabotinsky), 327-333 (Ben Gurion), 333-340 (Buber). 933.608 K17 Moodle
B. Morris, pp. 111-128. E327.56 M875

10th July
Session 7: The Partition Plan and the MacDonald White Paper
Cohen, Retreat, pp. 10-49, 66-87. E97 C678
B. Morris, pp.138-160 E327.56 M875
Distribution of Second Assignment: Compare and contrast two Zionist thinkers and their approach towards the Arabs of Palestine. To be submitted by 18th July.

11th July

Session 8: Developments during World War II/The Struggle for the State

Biltmore Program in Hurewitz, pp. 234-235; ME327(08) H963 Laqueur, pp. 77-79; E327.56(08) L317 Friesel, pp. 186-187; 933.608 F912 Kaplan II, pp. 55-56. 933.608 K17
* Selections from UN General Assembly Resolution 181 in Friesel, pp. 265-274; 933.608 F912 Kaplan, pp. 231-240. 933.608 K17 Laqueur, 65-77, E327.56(08) L317 Rabinovich and Reinharz, pp. 61-63. E990(029) R116
B. Morris, pp.161-191. E327.56 M875

12th July

Session 9: The 1948 War and its Aftermath

* UN General Assembly Resolution 194, Rabinovich and Reinharz, pp. 89-92. E990(029) R116 Highlearn
*Ari Shavit, My Promise Land (Spiegel and Grau NY 2013) pp. 99-134. Israel-Egypt Armistice in Hurewitz, pp. 299-304. ME327(08) H963
Morris, Righteous, pp. 191-249. E327.56 M875
Shapira, pp. 155-178. Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK 001917877

17th July

Session 10: Mass Migration

Shapira, pp. 222-247. Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK 001917877

17th July
Session 11: Religion and State


Distribution of Third Assignment: To be submitted by 24th July

18th July
Session 12: The Haredim in Israel

Either:
Or:

Shas


18th July
Session 13: The Six Day War and its Aftermath

Gilbert, pp. 67-69, 73-74, 77-78, 81. E327.56(084) G465
* The Khartoum Resolutions in Rabinovich and Reinharz, p.241-2. E990(029) R116
* Allon Plan in Rabinovich and Reinharz, p. 257. E990(029) R116
Michael Oren, ‘Did Israel Want the Six Day War, Azure Spring 1999, no. 7, 47-86. E-JOURNAL

19th July
The Yom Kippur War and Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty

24th July
Session 14: Gush Emunim (The Faithful Ones)
Aviezer Ravitzky, Messianism, Zionism and Jewish Religious Radicalism (Chicago, 1997): 79-144 E296.124 R256
Shlomo Fischer, "Fundamentalist or Romantic Nationalist? Israeli Modern Orthodoxy,” in Harvey Goldberg, Steven M. Cohen & Ezra Kopelowitz, Dynamic Belonging: Contemporary Jewish Collective Identities (Berghahn: NY 2012) Overseas Library 933.015 G618; ERESERVE 001957191

24th July
Session 15: Palestinian Arabs in Israel
Elie Rekhes, 'The Arabs of Israel after Oslo: Localization of the National Struggle,' Israel Studies vol. 7, 3 fall 2002, 1-44. E-JOURNAL

25th July
Session 16: Peace Process and Current Crisis
*Laqueur and Rubin, 6th ed., pp. 404-409 (Camp David Frameworks for Peace), 413-425 (Israel-PLO Declaration of Principles) 443-455, (Israel-PLO: Cairo Agreement -
"Oslo I"). 502-522 E327.56(08) L317 Moodle
*Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip ("Oslo II"). Rabinovich and Reinharz, pp. 502-505. E990(029) R116
Morris, Righteous Victims, pp. 611-675. E327.56 M875
Shapira, Israel pp.422-467 Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK 001917877
E-JOURNAL
Camp David and After—Continued, Benny Morris, Ehud Barak, Reply by Hussein Agha, Robert Malley, New York Review of Books E-JOURNAL
Benny Morris, One State, Two States: Resolving the Israel/Palestine Conflict (Yale University Press, New Haven, 2009). E327.56 M875

Wednesday 26th July
Final Exam

Site Visits

Sunday 9th July:
The Urban Expression of the New Jew
Study Outing to Tel-Aviv
Depart 8:30am. Return by 6:00pm.
Walk along First Station through Neveh Tsedek to Rothschild Street for discussion on early Tel-Aviv, Visit Independence Hall, Lunch on Sheinkin Street, Visit Rabin Square, Reading poetry on the Tel-Aviv beach front.

Sunday 16th July:
Israel's Civil Religion: Then and Now
Study Outing to Mount Herzl
Depart 8:30am. Return 12:30pm.
(Students are recommended to go to Yad Vashem following the morning visit to Har Herzl).
Sunday 23rd July:
Orthodoxy: Complexities and Variations
Walking tour of Haredi Neighbourhoods in Jerusalem
Visit Ma'aleh Film School and view student films

NB: The program is subject to change