The Emergence of the Modern State of Israel (48775)

Instructor: Dr. David Mendelsson

Summer Semester: July 3rd – 25th, 2018
60 Academic Hours, 4 Academic Credits

Contact Details Instructor
dmendelsson@huc.edu
Office Hours: By appointment

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 halfway 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 and Assignments**

1. Preparation of bibliography for class discussion. Participation in field study trips.
2. 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.
3. Final exam (55% of final grade)

**Reading Materials – Key Books**

Course Outline

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 9:00-12:00 in addition to a field trip on Sundays
(* denotes required reading)

3rd July
Session 1: Introduction: Zionism in its Historical Context and the Common Denominators of the Zionist Idea.
Readings:


4th July
Session 2: Old Yishuv and New Yishuv/Herzl and the Rise of Political Zionism
Readings:

- *Shapira, Israel pp. 27-42. Overseas Library E9 S529; E-BOOK or Morris B, pp. 37-59. Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK

4th July
Session 3: Zionism as a Secular Jewish Identity
Readings:

- *Hertzberg, pp. 256-260 (Ahad Ha’am), 293-295 (Berdyczewski), 390-395, (Katznelson) 411-414 (Pines). Overseas Library 933.609 H576; ERESERVE
• Shimoni, Gideon, *The Zionist Ideology* (Hanover and London: 1995), pp. 269-305 Overseas Library 933.609 S556; E-BOOK

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

5th July
Session 4: The Second Aliyah, the Yishuv during World War I and the Balfour Declaration
Readings:
• Letter from Sir Henry McMahon to the Sharif Hussain, 24.10.1915 in Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 11-12, Sykes Picot Agreement, Laqueur and Rubin, p. 13-16, Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE
• Map of Sykes-Picot Agreement in Michael Cohen, *The origins and evolution of the Arab-Zionist conflict* (Berkley, 1987) p. 21, 43. Overseas Library E327.56 C678; ERESERVE
• Balfour Declaration in Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 16. Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE
• B. Morris, pp. 67-88. Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK
• Shapira, *Israel* pp. 42-64. Overseas Library E9 S529; E-BOOK

5th July
Session 5: The Mandate for Palestine and the Churchill Memorandum
Readings:
• The Mandate for Palestine in Hurewitz, *Diplomacy in the Near and Middle East*, vol. 2, pp. 106-111; Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE.
• Laqueur and Rubin, *The Israel-Arab Reader* pp. 30-36; Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE
• Friesel, *Selected political documents related to the history of the Zionist movement* pp. 38-46; Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE
**ERESERVE**

• Churchill Memorandum in Hurewitz, pp. 103-106; *Overseas Library* ME327(08) H963; 
**ERESERVE**

• Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 25-29; *Overseas Library* E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE

• Friesel, pp. 24-29; *Overseas Library* 933.608 F912; ERESERVE

• Kaplan II, pp. 113-118. *Overseas Library* 933.608 K17; ERESERVE


• B. Morris, pp. 88-106. *Overseas Library* E327.56 M875; E-BOOK


**Sunday, 8th July: Site Visit**

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.

**9th July**

Session 6: Developments 1929-1931 and the Arab Question in Zionism

Readings:

• Passfield White Paper in Friesel, pp. 94-115; *Overseas Library* 933.608 F912; Kaplan, *The Zionist Movement*, vol. 2, pp. 144-155. *Overseas Library* 933.608 K17 ERESERVE

• MacDonald Letter in Laqueur and Rubin, *The Israel-Arab Reader*. pp. 36-41. *Overseas Library* E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE

• Friesel, *Selected political documents related to the history of the Zionist movement*, pp. 117-124; *Overseas Library* 933.608 F912; ERESERVE

• Kaplan, *The Zionist Movement*, vol. 2, pp. 156-163. *Overseas Library* 933.608 K17; ERESERVE
• *Kaplan, The Zionist Movement, vol. 1, pp. 319-322 (Jabotinsky), 327-333 (Ben Gurion), 333-340 (Buber). Overseas Library 933.608 K17: ERESERVE

• B. Morris, pp. 111-128. Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK


9th July

Session 7: The Partition Plan and the MacDonald White Paper

Readings:

• Selection from the Peel Commission Report in Friesel, pp.125-146; Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE

• Kaplan The Zionist Movement, vol. 2, pp. 164-182, Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE

• Laqueur and Rubin, The Israel-Arab Reader pp. 41-43. Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE

• The MacDonald White Paper in Hurewitz, Diplomacy in the Near and Middle East, vol. 2 pp. 218-226; Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE

• Laqueur, The Israel-Arab Reader, pp. 44-50, Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE

• Friesel, Selected political documents related to the history of the Zionist movement, pp. 163-174; Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE

• Kaplan, The Zionist Movement, vol. 2, pp. 193-204. Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE

• Cohen, Retreat, Palestine, retreat from the Mandate pp. 10-49, 66-87. Overseas Library E97 C678; ERESERVE

• B. Morris, Righteous victims (New York, 2001), pp.138-160. Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK

Distribution of Second Assignment: Compare and contrast two Zionist thinkers and their approach towards the Arabs of Palestine. To be submitted by 18th July.
10th July
Session 8: Developments during World War II/The Struggle for the State

Readings:
• Biltmore Program in Hurewitz, pp. 234-235; Diplomacy in the Near and Middle East, vol. 2 Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE
• Laqueur, The Israel-Arab Reader pp. 77-79; Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317;
• Friesel, Selected political documents related to the history of the Zionist movement, pp. 186-187; Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE
• Kaplan, The Zionist Movement, vol. 2, pp. 55-56. Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE
• Selections from UN General Assembly Resolution 181 in Friesel, Selected political documents related to the history of the Zionist movement pp. 265-274; Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE
• Kaplan, The Zionist Movement, vol. 2, pp. 231-240. Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE
• Laqueur, The Israel-Arab Reader, 65-77, Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE
• Rabinovich and Reinharz, Israel in the Middle East, pp. 61-63. Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE
• B. Morris, Righteous victims (New York, 2001), pp.161-191. Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK

11th July
Session 9: The 1948 War and its Aftermath
Readings:

- *Ari Shavit, My Promise Land* (Spiegel and Grau NY 2013) pp. 99-134. **Overseas Library E327.56 S533; E-BOOK**
- Shapira, *Israel*, pp. 155-178. **Overseas Library E9 S529; E-BOOK**

**Sunday 15th July: Site Visit**

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).

**16th July**

**Session 10: Mass Migration**

Readings:

- Shapira, *Israel*, pp. 222-247. **Overseas Library E9 S529; E-BOOK**
16th July
Session 11: Religion and State

Readings:


**Distribution of Third Assignment: To be submitted by 23rd July**

17th July
Session 12: The *Haredim* in Israel

Readings:

Either:


Or:


Shas


- *Ari Shavit, My Promise Land* (Spiegel and Grau NY 2013) pp. 271-296. Overseas Library E327.56 S533; E-BOOK

17th July
Session 13: The Six Day War and its Aftermath

Readings:

- The Khartoum Resolutions in Rabinovich and Reinhartz, *Israel in the Middle East* p.241-2. Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE
- UN Security Council Resolution 242 in Rabinovich and Reinhartz, *Israel in the Middle East*, pp. 242-243; Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE
- Laqueur and Rubin, *The Israel-Arab Reader* pp. 365-366. Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE
- The Palestinian National Covenant in Laqueur and Rubin, *The Israel-Arab Reader*, pp.366-371; Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE
- Rabinovich and Reinhartz, *Israel in the Middle East*, pp. 243-246. Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE
- Allon Plan in Rabinovich and Reinhartz, *Israel in the Middle East* p. 257. Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE

18th July
The *Yom Kippur* War and Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty

Readings:

- Shapira, *Israel*, pp. 326-354. 357-390, 391-422. Overseas Library E9 S529; E-BOOK
23rd July
Session 14: Gush Emunim (The Faithful Ones)

Readings:

23rd July
Session 15: Palestinian Arabs in Israel

Readings:


**24th July**

**Session 16: Peace Process and Current Crisis**

**Readings:**


- *Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (“Oslo II”). Rabinovich and Reinharz, Israel in the Middle East pp. 502-505. *Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE*


- *Israel and Palestinian Authority: The Wye River Memorandum (October 23, 1998)* Rabinovich and Reinharz, Israel in the Middle East pp. 507-513. *ERESERVE*


- Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 611-675. *Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK*

- Shapira, *Israel* pp.422-467. *Overseas Library E9 S529; E-BOOK*


• Benny Morris, *One State, Two States; Resolving the Israel/Palestine Conflict* (Yale University Press, New Haven, 2009). Overseas Library E327.56 M875


**Wednesday 25th July**

**Final Exam**

**NB: The program is subject to change**