The Emergence of the Modern State of Israel (48775)

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June 29-July 23, 2020
Mon, Tue, Wed: 9:00 - 12:00; Sunday: Field Trip
60 Academic Hours, 4 Academic Credits

Tentative Syllabus

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

READING LIST


Rabinovich, Itamar and Reinharz, Jehuda, eds., Israel in the Middle East (Brandeis, Hanover: 2008). Overseas Library E990(029) R116 (hereafter Rabinovich and Reinharz)

Shapira, Anita, Israel: A History (Brandeis, Hanover 2012) Overseas Library E9 S529; E-BOOK

Course Outline

(* denotes required reading)

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


Session 2: Old Yishuv and New Yishuv/Herzl and the Rise of Political Zionism

*Shapira, Israel pp. 27-42. Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK or Morris B, pp. 37-59. Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK
Session 3: Zionism as a Secular Jewish Identity

*Hertzberg, pp. 256-260 *Moodle* (Ahad Ha’am), 293-295 (Berdyczevski), 390-395, (Katznelson) 411-414 (Pines). *Overseas Library 933.609 H576; E-BOOK*  

Distribution of First Assignment: Herzl, Ahad Ha'am and the Integrationists

Session 4: The Second Aliyah, the Yishuv during World War I and the Balfour Declaration

*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, *Moodle*; *Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE*  
*Map of Sykes-Picot Agreement in M. Cohen, *Origins* 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; EBOOK*

Session 5: The Mandate for Palestine and the Churchill Memorandum

*The Mandate for Palestine in Hurewitz, pp. 106-111; *ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE* Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 30-36; *E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE* Friesel, pp. 38-46; *Overseas Library 933.608 F912* Kaplan II, pp. 101-109. *Overseas Library 933.608 K17*  
*Churchill Memorandum in Hurewitz, pp. 103-106; *Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE* Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 25-29; *E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE* Friesel, pp. 24-29; *933.608 F912; ERESERVE* Kaplan II, pp. 113-118. *Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE; Moodle*  
B. Morris, pp. 88-106. *Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK*

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

*Passfield White Paper in Friesel, pp. 104-115; Overseas Library 933.608 F912 Kaplan II, pp. 144-155. Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE; Moodle*

*MacDonald Letter in Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 36-41; ERESERVE; Moodle; Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; Friesel, pp. 117-124; Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE Kaplan II, pp. 156-163. Overseas Library 933.608 K17*

*Kaplan I, pp. 319-322 (Jabotinsky), 327-333 (Ben Gurion), 333-340 (Buber). Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE (p. 318-323, 327-340); Moodle*

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


**Session 7: The Partition Plan and the MacDonald White Paper**

*Selection from the Peel Commission Report in Friesel, pp.125-146; Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE Kaplan II, pp. 164-182, Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 41-43. Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE*

*The MacDonald White Paper in Hurewitz, pp. 218-226; Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE Laqueur, pp. 44-50, Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE Friesel, 163-174; Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE Kaplan II, pp. 193-204. Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE*


B. Morris, 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.

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


Biltmore Program in Hurewitz, pp. 234-235; **Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE Laqueur, pp. 77-79; Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE Friesel, pp. 186-187; Overseas Library 933.608 F912; ERESERVE Kaplan II, pp. 55-56. Overseas Library 933.608 K17; ERESERVE***

*Selections from UN General Assembly Resolution 181 in Friesel, pp. 265-274;
Session 9: The 1948 War and its Aftermath

* UN General Assembly Resolution 194, Rabinovich and Reinharz, pp. 89-92. Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE


Israel-Egypt Armistice in Hurewitz, pp. 299-304. Overseas Library ME327(08) H963; ERESERVE


Morris, Righteous, pp. 191-249. Overseas Library E327.56 M875; E-BOOK


Shapira, pp. 155-178. Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK

Session 10: Mass Migration


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

Session 11: Religion and State


Distribution of Third Assignment

Session 12: The Haredim in Israel

Either:

Or:

Shas
ArYE Deri's Speech of April 23, 1997 Rabinovich and ReINharz pp. 459-462. Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE

*Ari Shavit, My Promise Land (Spiegel and Grau NY 2013) pp.271-296. E-BOOK


Session 13: The Six Day War and its Aftermath


Gilbert, pp. 67-69, 73-74, 77-78, 81. Overseas Library E327.56(084) G465; ERESERVE

* The Khartoum Resolutions in Rabinovich and ReINharz, p.241-2. Overseas Library E990(029) R116 ; ERESERVE

UN Security Council Resolution 242 in Rabinovich and ReINharz, pp. 242-243; Overseas Library E990(029) R116 Laqueur and Rubin, pp. 365-366. Overseas Library E327.56(08) L317; ERESERVE


* Allon Plan in Rabinovich and ReINharz, p. 257. Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE

Michael Oren, ‘Did Israel Want the Six Day War, Azure Spring 1999, no. 7, 47-86. E-JOURNAL

The Yom Kippur War and Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty

The Turning Point in the Yom Kippur, pp. 265-269, The Yom Kippur War, pp. 269-276,

Shapira, pp. 326-354. 357-390, 391-422. Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK

Session 14: Gush Emunim (The Faithful Ones)


Aviezer Ravitzky, Messianism, Zionism and Jewish Religious Radicalism (Chicago, 1997): 79-144. Overseas Library E296.124 R256; ERESERVE


* Ari Shavit, My Promise Land (Spiegel and Grau NY 2013) pp.201-226. E-BOOK

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


Session 16: Peace Process and Current Crisis


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

Shapira, Israel pp. 422-467 Overseas Library E9 S529; EBOOK


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). Overseas Library E327.56 M875


Session 17
Final Exam

Site Visits

The Urban Expression of the New Jew

Study Outing to Tel-Aviv

Depart 8:30am from North Gate of Student Village.

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.
Israel's Civil Religion: Then and Now
*Study Outing to Mount Herzl*

Depart 8:30am from North Gate of Student Village.
Return 12:30pm.

(Students are recommended to go to *Yad Vashem* following the morning visit to Har Herzl).

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