

IAS/JNE 3273  
Fall 2006  
Professor David Nachmias  
MWF 12-1; Psychology Building 249

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Office Hours: Thursday 11:30-1:30 in Bakery

**Content:** Students will engage in an exploration of Israel in the Jewish experience from antiquity to modernity, with incorporated perspectives of relevant religious and national groups. A more in-depth look will be taken at the modern state of Israel and current issues in its society, politics, geography, and foreign policy. Topics range from political structure and parties to current state and local politics, divisions in Israeli society, religion and politics, Arabs in Israel, the Arab/Israeli conflict, army life, and more.

In order to gain multiple perspectives, students will read scholarly materials but will also regularly read electronic Israeli press in English and will submit written responses to two articles weekly. Classes will be devoted to specific topics, however, current issues will be dealt with regularly.

**Texts** (Chapters and parts from):

- Asher Arian, *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*.
- Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-2001*.
- Dan Horowitz and Moshe Lissak, *Trouble in Utopia: The Overburdened Polity of Israel*.
- Walter Laqueur, *The History of Zionism: From the French Revolution to the Establishment of the State of Israel*.

**Suggested Sources for articles:**

- *HaAretz*, English Edition at [www.haaretzdaily.com](http://www.haaretzdaily.com) or in Hebrew at [www.haaretz.co.il](http://www.haaretz.co.il)
- *The Jerusalem Post* at [www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)
- *The Jerusalem Report*
- *Israel-related selections from The New York Times*
- **Jewish Virtual Library**

**Course Requirements:**

- All students are expected to **attend** class regularly and **participate** in class discussions and activities.
- Students will submit two **responses** each week to articles concerning current events in Israel. There will be a **midterm** and a **final** exam testing absorption and understanding of concepts taught in class, as well as a 12-15 page **research paper** developing a topic of interest related to the course.
- Students will be required to screen 3 films and submit a one-page review of each film. These will be due at the end of the semester. Films will be on reserve in the Olin Library.

Composition of Final Grade:

class attendance/participation	10%
responses	20%
mid-term exam	20%
final exam	20%

research paper	25%
Film screening	5%

### **Week 1: Introduction**

*Wed. August 30<sup>th</sup> - Class # 1: Welcome to Introduction to Israel Studies (Professor Nachmias)*

- Brief “What do you know about Israel” quiz
- Discuss class’ answers
- Review syllabus

*Fri. September 1<sup>st</sup> - Class # 2: Discussion Section*

- Discussion of current situation in Lebanon
- If we have time:
  - Overview of the timeline of ancient history, focus on population shifts, impacts of different religions and groups that came through
  - Crash course on the different religions that have ties to Israel - holiest sites for each religion and why Israel is important to them

#### **Course Packet:**

- Taheri, A. "Hezbollah Didn't Win" *The Wall Street Journal* 25 August 2006

### **Week 2: Ancient History of Israel**

*Mon. September 4: Labor Day – no class*

*Wed. September 6<sup>th</sup> - Class # 3: Lecture (Professor Barmash)*

- Touch on Pre-Israelite Canaan/Palestine/Syria
- Biblical Israel through Roman times and Jewish Exile
  1. Settlement period
  2. Relationship to land of Israel during Babylonian Exile and Second Temple Period

#### **Course Packet:**

1. Peter Machinist: “Outsiders or Insiders” in *The Other in Jewish Thought*
2. *Ancient Israel* Chapters 3 and 8

*Fri. September 8<sup>th</sup> - Class # 4: Discussion Section*

- Discuss reading and material covered in class
- Hold a discussion on exile – meaning and consequences for Jewish people and land of Palestine

### **Week 3: Ancient History of Israel (continued)**

*Mon. September 11<sup>th</sup> - Class # 5: Continuation of Ancient History Lecture (Professor Victor LeVine)*

- Pharonic Times to Modern Times: The Shifting of the Center of Political Gravity in the Middle East

#### **Course Packet:**

- *Reading selected by Professor Le Vine*

*Wed. September 13<sup>th</sup> - Class # 6: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- Review and discuss ideas and history presented by Professor Le Vine

*Fri. September 15<sup>th</sup> - Class # 7: Discussion Section*

- Discuss readings
- Correlate events to timeline and discuss the progression, fill in/relate to other important events of the time period
- Discuss emergence and significance of Diaspora, life in Diaspora (changes that occurred in religious practice, how exile changed Jewish life)
- Wrap up ancient history, answer any questions
- Start the transition to “modern history” by over-viewing the timeline

#### **Week 4: Modern History of Israel**

*Mon. September 18<sup>th</sup> - Class # 8: Speaker - expert on the history of Zionism (Professor Kieval)*

- Different movements
- Herzl and the origins of Zionism
- What does the word Zionism really represent and what has it come to represent in modern times
- Alternatives to Zionism (ex: dissents made by certain communities, matters of debate regarding Zionist movements)

#### **Course Packet:**

1. Leon Pinsker: Auto-Emancipation (1882)\*\*
2. The Bilu: Manifesto (1882)\*\*
3. Theodor Herzl, A Solution of the Jewish Question (1896)\*\*
4. Rabbi Zadok HaCohen Rabinowitz: The Zionists are not our Saviors (1900)\*\*
5. The Mizrahi: Manifesto (1902)\*\*
6. Max Nordau: Jewry of Muscle (1903)\*\*
7. Agudat Israel: Founding Program (1912)\*\*
8. Ha-Shomer Ha-Zair: Our World View (1917)\*\*
9. Nathan Birnbaum: Contra Zionism (1919)\*\*
10. Ze'ev Jabotinsky: What the Zionist-Revisionists Want (1926)\*\*
11. Mosse, George, “Can Nationalism be Saved? About Zionism, Rightful and Unjust Nationalism,” *Israel Studies* (2.1, Spring 1997)\*\*

*Wed. September 20<sup>th</sup> - Class # 9: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- WWI and British Mandate (and different plans to reconcile Jewish immigration), basics of Zionism, Zionist Congresses, Uganda, different waves of Aliyah, organization of Yishuv. Major events that set Israel’s statehood into motion
- Discuss the ideas and tenets upon which Israel was conceived and founded
- Discuss the beginnings of Jewish acquisition of land in Israel and obstacles encountered
- Discuss beginnings of conflict with Palestine’s Arabs

**Reading:** *Laqueur, A History of Zionism, Chaps.3-5*

#### **Course Packet:**

*Jewish National Fund, Wikipedia*

*www.kkl.org.il*

1. The First Zionist Congress: The Basle Program (1897)\*\*

2. Seventh Zionism Congress: Anti-Uganda Resolution (1905)\*\*
3. The Balfour Declaration (Nov. 2, 1917)\*\*
4. The Churchill White Paper (1922)\*\*
5. The Council of the League of Nations: Mandate for Palestine (1922)\*\*

*Fri. September 22<sup>nd</sup> - Class # 10: Discussion Section*

- Discuss Palestine as far as population numbers and demographics: affect of Jewish immigration and the process of acquiring land and building infrastructure on the land and the people occupying it at the time
- Discuss diaspora Jewry leading up to WWII – Dreyfus trial, pogroms, the literature written about the creation of a Jewish state

**Course Packet:**

*Burns, Michael, France and the Dreyfus Affair, New York: St. Martin's, 2000*

**Week 5: Modern History of Israel (continued)**

*Mon. September 25<sup>th</sup> - Class # 11: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- Steps towards statehood – UN partition plan
- Introduction to the “War of Independence”<sup>1</sup>
- Reactions of the world
- Start discussion of Israel as a state, what kind of infrastructure, government, etc. was put into place, law of return..

**Course Packet:**

Laqueur, A History of Zionism, Chaps. 6-11

1. The Peel (Royal Commission) Report: Conclusions (1937)\*\*
2. David Ben Gurion: On the Arab Question (1937)\*\*
3. Malcolm MacDonald: White Paper (1939)\*\*
4. Towards a Jewish State: The Biltmore Program (1942)\*\*
5. Ha-Shomer Ha-Zair: The Case for a Bi-National Palestine (1945)\*\*
6. Pact of the Arab League (1945)\*\*
7. The Arab Office: The Arab Case for Palestine (March 1946)\*\*
8. Moshe Shertok (Sharett): Bi-Nationalism is Unworkable (1947)\*\*
9. United Nations General Assembly: Resolution 181 on Palestine (1947)\*\*
10. Proclamation of the State of Israel (May 14, 1948)\*\*
11. UN General Assembly Resolution 194: Return of Refugees (1948)\*\*
12. First Knesset: Law of Return (1951)\*\*
13. Benny Morris, "The Causes and Character of the Arab Exodus from Palestine," in Ilan Pappé, ed., *The Israel/Palestine Question: Rewriting Histories* (London, 1999), pp. 193-210.
14. Efraim Karsh, "*Were the Palestinians Expelled?*" *Commentary*, (July/Aug 2000), 29-34.

*Wed. September 27<sup>th</sup> - Class # 12: Discussion Section*

- Israel and the Holocaust: affect on Israeli identity, reactions to Holocaust among Israelis (second and third generation) ;David Grossman
- Discuss formation of the state of Israel and review material

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<sup>1</sup> Will be discussed more in depth during week 11

*Fri. September 29<sup>th</sup> - Class # 13: Israel and the Holocaust (Professor Brown)*

- Discuss influence of Holocaust on Jewish, world thought (and action) about creation of “Jewish homeland”

**Course Packet:**

Laqueur, A History of Zionism, Chap.10

1. David Grossman’s *See Under Love* (excerpts)\*\*
2. Yablonka, Hanna. “The Development of Holocaust Consciousness in Israel: The Nuremberg, Kapos, Kastner, and Eichmann Trials” (8:1, Fall 2003)\*\*

**Week 6: Israeli Geography**

*Mon. October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Yom Kippur, no class*

*Wed. October 4<sup>th</sup> - Class # 14: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

Overview of Israel’s geography, geo-politics  
Natural resources

- Regions, economy, social groups, cultural variations

**Course Packet:**

*Asher Arian, Politics in Israel, Chaps 1-3*

*Horowitz and Lissak, Trouble in Utopia, Chaps. 1-2*

*Fri. October 6<sup>th</sup> - Class # 15: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- Discuss policies for population of Negev, Galil
- Settlements: creation, purposes and outcomes
- Meaning of “annexed” lands
- Discuss how geography affects relations between Israel and neighboring countries

**Course Packet:**

*Israeli Settlement, Wikipedia.*

David Kretzmer, *The Occupation of Justice*, SUNY Press, 2002

**Week 7: Arab Nations and Israel**

*Mon. October 9<sup>th</sup> - Class # 16: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- Israel and its neighbors in the Arab world (Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, etc.) – discuss interactions and those nations (and their governments’) attitudes and actions towards Israel
- Palestinians and connections to, origins in surrounding lands

**Course Packet:**

Bernard Lewis, *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror*, Random House, 2004

*Wed. October 11<sup>th</sup> - Class # 17: Speaker – expert on terrorist groups of the Middle East (Professor Bueno De Mesquita)*

- Go through and discuss the various terrorist groups that target Israel
- What are their aims, who are their sponsors, what role do they play in the countries in which they operate, etc.
- The security fence

**Course Packet:**

*The Anti-Terrorist Fence*, [www1.idf.il/dover/site/mainpage](http://www1.idf.il/dover/site/mainpage)

*Fri. October 13<sup>th</sup> - Class # 18: Discussion Section*

- Why are the Middle East countries so concerned with Israel?
- Discuss a little more about the security fence
- Discuss Israel's relations with other countries outside the Middle East – the U.S, Russia, Europe.
- Arabs in Israel

**Course Packet:**

1. Calvin Goldscheider, *Israel's Changing Society*. Boulder: Westview. 2002. (Chapter 4)\*\*
2. Jacob M. Landau, *The Arab Minority in Israel, 1967-1991: Political Aspects*. (pp 1-11)\*\*
3. Neuberger, Binyamin, "The Arab Minority In Israeli Politics, 1948-1992: From Marginality to Influence," *Asian and African Studies*, 27, 1-2, March-July 1993, pp. 149-170.\*\*

**Week 8: Discussion of Israeli Historiography/Social-economic-ethnic cleavages**

*Mon. October 16<sup>th</sup> - Class # 19: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- Discuss different sources of Israeli history...issues encountered in recording Israeli history
- Mention historical revisionism, new historians

**Course Packet:**

1. Shapira, A. "Politics and Collective Memory: The Debate over the 'New Historians' in Israel" *History and Memory* 7 (Spring/Summer 1995). Pp. 9-40.\*\*

Horowitz and Lissak, *Trouble in Utopia*, Chaps. 3 and 6

Arian, Chap.12

*Wed. October 18<sup>th</sup> - Class # 20: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- Social cleavages
- Cleavages, politics, and public policies

**Reading:**

1. Arian, Chaps, 4,5 and 8

*Fri. October 20<sup>th</sup> – fall break, no class*

**Week 9: Religions of Israel**

*Mon. October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Class # 21: Speaker – Scholar on Muslims and Israel*

- Discuss the religion's ties specifically and offer more insight, answer questions

**Course Packet:** reading selected by lecturer

*Wed. October 25<sup>th</sup> – Class # 22: Speaker – Scholar on Jews and Israel (Dr. Shveka)*

- Discuss the religion's ties specifically and offer more insight, answer questions

**Course Packet:** reading selected by Dr. Shveka

*Fri. October 27<sup>th</sup> - Class # 23: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- Islam, Judaism, and Christianity in modern Israel, what are the influences that keep the people tied to the land

**Course Packet:**

*Samuel P. Huntington, The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order, Toughstone, 1997*

### **Week 10: Peoples of Israel**

*Mon. October 30<sup>th</sup> - Class # 24: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- Who are modern Israelis – Russians, Ethiopians, the religious population segment, etc.
- Who are Palestinians
- Talk about other demographic groups in Israel (Druze, Bedouins, etc.)

**Reading: Arian, Chap. 2)\*\***

#### **Course Packet:**

1. Ben-Rafael, Eliezer. "Multiculturalism and Multilingualism in Israel." In *Corpus Linguistics and Modern Hebrew*. B. Hary [ed.]. Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv University Press. 2003. Pp. 39-59.\*\*
2. Chetrit, S. S. "Mizrahi Politics in Israel: Between Integration and Alternative." *Journal of Palestine Studies*. Vol. XXIX, No. 4, Summer 2000, Issue 116. Pp. 51-65.\*\*
3. Sabella, B. "Russian Jewish Immigration and the Future of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict." *Middle East Report* 182 (May-June 1993). Pp. 36-40.\*\*

*Wed. November 1<sup>st</sup> - Class # 25: Speaker – Israeli Culture and interaction within the diversity (Professor Berg)*

**Course Packet:** reading selected by Professor Berg

*Fri. November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Class # 26: Speaker – expert on the Palestinian people*

- Who exactly are Palestinians, when did they settle in Israel, Palestinian refugees

#### **Course Packet:**

1. reading selected by lecturer
2. Arian, Politics in Israel, pp.42-47
3. Benny Morris, Righteous Victims.

### **Week 11: Israeli Politics and Governance**

*Mon. November 6<sup>th</sup> - Class # 27: Speaker (Professor Itai Sened)*

**Reading: Arian, Politics in Israel.**

*Wed. November 8<sup>th</sup> - Class # 28: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- Political elites,
- Elections and coalitions
- Different political parties

**Reading: Arian, Politics in Israel, Chapters 4-7 and 9**

*Fri. November 10<sup>th</sup> - Class # 29: Discussion*

- Political trends in Israel in recent years  
Current events and political trends and leaders

**Reading: Horowitz and Lissak, Trouble in Utopia, Chap.6)**

## **Week 12: Jerusalem**

*Mon. November 13<sup>th</sup> - Class # 30: Lecture (Professor Barmash)*

- Jerusalem as capital city and contested metropolis
- Review holy sites in Jerusalem and their history
- Discuss different claims to the city, city's role in peace negotiations

**Course Packet:** *reading selected by lecturer*

*Wed. November 15<sup>th</sup> - Class # 31: National Security Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- IDF
- Military, politics and decision-making

### **Course Packet:**

Horowitz and Lissak, Chap. 5

Arian, Politics in Israel, pp.324-336.

Yoram Peri, Generals in the Cabinet Room: How the Military Shapes Israeli Policy,

Washington, D.C.: U.S Institute of Peace, 2006.

Lomsky-Feder, E. and Ben-Ari, E. *The military and Militarism in Israeli Society*. Albany: State University of New York Press. 1999. (Introduction, Chapters 1 and 8)\*\*

Gal, Reuven. *Portrait of an Israeli Soldier*.\*\*

*Fri. November 17<sup>th</sup> - Class # 32: Speaker – expert on the IDF*

- Touch briefly on different wars.
- Discuss recent military conflicts and interactions (Jenin, Gaza Withdrawal, Bulldozing of homes, weapon smuggling tunnels, etc.) and give insight into how these operations are planned, executed, why, and their success

**Course Packet:** *reading selected by lecturer*

## **Week 13: Israeli Defense Forces (continued)**

*Mon. November 20<sup>th</sup> - Class # 33: Discussion*

- Go in depth about each war with maps, statistics, etc.
- Discuss the wars – who, where, when, why, how, outcomes, repercussions, consequences
- Lead into topic of peace negotiations

### **Course Packet:**

1. *Benny Morris, Righteous Victims.*

*Thanksgiving Break*

## **Week 14: Continuation of discussion of Israeli Wars/Discussion of Peace Negotiations**

*Mon. November 27<sup>th</sup> - Class # 34: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

- Discuss the different wars, how they changed the dynamics of Israel's relationship with Arab countries, of its position of the world, and of the country in general
- Examine the intended and the unintended consequences of each war

**Course Packet:**



1. Bar-On, Mordechai, "Small Wars, Big Wars: Security Debates during Israel's First Decade," *Israel Studies* (5.2, Summer 2000)\*\*
2. Bialer, Uri, "Top Hat, Tuxedo and Cannons: Israeli Foreign Policy: 1948-56 as a Field of Study," *Israel Studies* (7.1, Spring 2002)\*\*
3. Michael Oren, "The Revelations of 1967: New Research on the Six Day War and Its Lessons for the Contemporary Middle East," *Israel Studies*, 10:2 (Summer 2005)\*\*
4. Hanoch Bartov: The Eve of the October 1973 War\*\*
5. Motti Ashkenazi: Protest Movements in the Aftermath of the October 1973 War\*\*

*Wed. November 29<sup>th</sup> - Class # 35: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*

1. Peace Agreements –
2. Discuss what was on the table each time – concessions, risks, etc.

**Course Packet:**

1. Avraham Sela, "Politics, Identity and Peacemaking: the Arab Discourse on Peace with Israel in the 1990s," *Israel Studies*, 10:2 (Summer, 2005), 15 – 71.
2. The Peace Process, Jewish Virtual Library

*Fri. December 1<sup>st</sup> - Class # 36: Speaker – expert on peace negotiations (Professor Victor Le Vine)*

- In-depth analysis of each agreement: what worked, what didn't
- Discuss "hot topics" like "right of return"

**Week 15: Current Events/Wrap Up**

*Mon. December 4<sup>th</sup> - Class # 37: Lecture*

- Israel's interaction with the world, media, life in Israel today

*Wed. December 6<sup>th</sup> - Class # 38: Speakers – What it's like to be a Palestinian, What it's like to be an Israeli*

- Talk about every day life, their take on their country, how they feel about what's going on, what are the greatest threats to their people/country in their eyes.
- Personal perspectives

*Fri. December 8<sup>th</sup> - Class # 39: Wrap Up*

- Review overarching themes

Final Exam: Thursday, December 21, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM