

His 113: History of Modern Israel

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Israeli society is still struggling to define its borders and boundaries and the tensions between its commitments to a Jewish and a Democratic state. It is divided across national, religious, ideological and ethnic lines that display not only an internal dynamism but also a dynamic relation between them. This course will introduce students to the history of the Zionist movement and the state of Israel through different perspectives. The first part of the course will follow the rise of Zionism and the different interpretations of Zionism and the Jewish-Arab struggle until the formation of the Israeli state. The second part of the course will focus on the borders of the state through the different wars related to the Israeli-Arab and Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Finally, the third part of the course will engage with Israel's institutions and internal boundaries and examine whether its social and political institutions are able to sustain the various pressures and demands. This part of the course will examine the historical evolution of Israel's central schisms - Jewish-Arab, Religious-secular, Hawks and Doves, ethnicity and class – from pre and early statehood to contemporary globalization.

Office Hours and Contact Information: Th 1:30-3:00 (or by appointment) in SSH 1276
Tel: 752-1640 Email: gbenporat@ucdavis.edu. I strongly encourage you to come and speak to me in my office. I also try to be very responsive to emails and urge you to write to me.

Required Readings:

Yoav Peled and Gershon Shafir 2002 *Being Israeli* Cambridge University Press (ISBN-13: 9780521796729 | ISBN-10: 0521796725)

Howard Sachar *A History of Israel* Random House ISBN: 978-0-375-71132-9 (0-375-71132-5)

Guy Ben-Porat, Yagil Levy, Shlomo Mizrahi, Arye Naor and Eraz Tzfadia 2006 *Israel Since 1980* Cambridge University Press (ISBN-13: 9780521671859)

Assignments

1. Midterm (35%) –

The midterm will consist of two parts, short identifications (15%) and a 4-5 page take-home essay (20%). Essay will be returned in 24 hours and is based solely on required readings and class discussion.

2. **Final** (45%) –The final will have the same structure as the midterm: in-class identifications (15%) and one take-home essay (30%)

3. **Short papers** (30%) TBA

Course Calendar

Class 1 (March 31) – Introduction: State in Flux

Israel Since 1980, pp. 1-42

Israel Since 1980, pp. 69-91

Part I – Zionism and the Arab Question

Class 2 (April 2): Origins of Zionism

Sacher, pp. 3-63

Shafir and Peled, pp.37-73

Class 3 (April 7): The Land and the Arab Question

Rashid Khalidi 1998. *Palestinian Identity*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, pp. 9-34. (Smart site)

Sachar pp. 65-86

April 9 - Movie

Class 4 (April 14): The British Mandate and the Balfour Declaration

Sachar, pp.89-112, 163-190

Rashid Khalidi 2006 *The Iron Cage* pp. 1-31 (Smart site)

Class 5 (April 16): World War II and the Holocaust

Sachar, pp. 227-243

TBA

Part II – The Changing Borders of the State

Class 6 (April 21): War of Independence or Nakba?

Sachar, 315-347

Morris, Benny. "The Causes and Character of the Arab Exodus from Palestine: The Israel Defence Forces Intelligence Branch Analysis of June 1948." Middle Eastern Studies, 22 (1986). JSTOR

Paper I handout

Class 7 (April 23): Expanding Borders - 1956 and 1967

Sachar pp. 615-661

Class 8 (April 29): Questioning power and Making Peace

Sachar pp. 740-784, 843-856

Charles Liebman 1993 "The Myth of Defeat: The Memory of Yom Kippur War in Israeli Society" *Middle Eastern Studies* 29, 3 pp.399-418 (JSTOR)

Class 9 (April 30): Securing borders? Settlement and debate

Sachar pp. 861-897

Israel Since 1980, pp.42-69

Paper II Submission

Class 10 (May 5): At War Again? Lebanon and the First Intifada

Sachar, pp. 897-918

Salim Tamari 1988 "What the Uprising Means" Middle East Report, 152, pp.24-30
JSTOR

Mordechai Bar-On 1988 "Israel Reactions to the Palestinian Uprising" *Journal of Palestine Studies* 17, 4 pp.46-55 JSTOR

Class 11 (May 7): Peace Attempts

Mid-term

Ben-Porat, Guy 2005 "Same Old Middle East? The New Middle East and the *Double Movement*" *International Relations*, V.19, No.1, pp.39-62. (smart site)

Part III – Internal Boundaries and Debates

Class 12 (May 12): The Historians Debate

Uri Ram 1998 "Post-Nationalist Pasts: The Case of Israel" *Social Science History* 22, 4 pp.513-545 (JSTOR)

Sachar 1098-1111

Class 13 (May 14): Jewish and Democratic? Arab Citizens in a Jewish State

Shafir and Peled pp.110-137

Sami Smootha and Don Peretz 1982 "The Arabs in Israel" *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 26, 3. pp.451-486 JSTOR

Rouhana, Nadim 1998 "Israel and its Arab citizens: predicaments in the relationship between ethnic states and ethnonational minorities" *Third World Quarterly* Vol.19, No.2 pp. 277-296 JSTOR

Class 14 (May 19): A Jewish State? Religion and Secularity

Shafir and Peled, pp. 137-159

Charles Liebman and Eliezer Don Yehia 1983 "The Dilemma of Reconciling Traditional Culture and Political Needs: Civil Religion in Israel" *Comparative Politics* 16, 1 pp.53-66 (J-Stor)

Paper II handout

Class 15 (May 21): Immigration, Ethnicity and Gender

Shafir and Peled, pp.74-110

Sachar 395-429

Class 16 (May 26): Economy – From Welfare State to Neo-Liberalism

Shafir and Peled, pp. 231-260

Israel Since 1980, pp. 91-117

Class 17 (May 28): The Citizenship Debate

Israel Since 1980 pp.117-146

Shafir and Peled, pp. 308-349

Paper II submission

Class 18 (June 2): The Territorial Debate – Camp David and Beyond

Makovsky, David. "Middle East Peace Through Partition," Foreign Affairs, Vol. 80, No. 2 (March/April 2001), pp. 28-46. JSTOR

Shimon Shamir and Bruce Maddy-Weitzman 2005 *The Camp David Summit – What Went Wrong?* pp. 7-13, 42-51, 60-71, 74-82, 108-117 (SmartSite)

Class 19 (June 4): An Overloaded State?

TBA