

San Francisco State University

IR 430 JS 430 PLSI 430

Israeli Democracy: History, Politics, Institutions, and Society

Spring 2009

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Humanities 517

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Office hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:00pm

Course description: This undergraduate course reviews various aspects of Israeli history, politics, society, and culture. It is made of two parts. The first describes Israel's history, starting with the origins of the Jewish people in Biblical times and ending with present-time Israel. It discusses, among others, the origins of Zionism (the Jewish national movement named after 'Zion' – a Biblical name of Jerusalem) in late 19th century Europe, the buildup of the Jewish national entity (the *Yishuv*) in Palestine during the first half of the 20th century, the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, the absorption of the massive Jewish immigration to Israel in the post-1948 period; the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1956, 1967, 1969-1970, 1973, 1982 and the first and the second Intifada, and the Arab-Israeli peace process from Sadat's peace initiative of 1977 to the present.

The second part of the course explores three specific issues: The relationship between the Arab Israeli minority and the state; the complex relationship between state and the Jewish religion, and various aspects of Israeli culture.

Grading: Mid-term exam: 40%; final exam: 40%; class active participation: 20%.

Required Text: Howard M. Sachar, *A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time* (New York: Knopf, 2007).

Course Description

Introduction: Jews, Israel, and the Israelis

Part I: History

1. Zionism: Background The rise of the Zionist movement: 1882-1914.
Reading: Howard M. Sachar, *A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time* (New York: Knopf, 2007), 3-88.
2. World War I, the Balfour Declaration, and the beginning of the British Mandate.
Reading: *Sachar*, 88-138.
3. Building the Jewish community in Palestine (the *Yishuv*): 1918-1939
Reading: *Sachar*, 138-162.
4. The Jewish-Palestinian conflict in Palestine: 1920-1939
Reading: *Sachar*, 163-188.
5. World War II, the holocaust and the Jewish *Yishuv*: 1939-1945
Reading: *Sachar*, 227-248.
6. The end of the British Mandate, the birth of Israel, and the war of 1948
Reading: *Sachar*, 249-353.
7. Israel's first years – 1949-1956: Demographical change, economic challenges, and security problems
Reading: *Sachar*, 395-514.
9. Israel's 'Golden Age': 1957-1967
Reading: *Sachar*, 515-579.
10. The rise and the decline of the Israeli Empire: 1967-1974
Reading: *Sachar*, 614-787.
11. The political change of gaurds: 1975-1977
Reading: *Sachar*, 788-842.
12. Peace with Egypt, War in Lebanon: 1977-1985
Reading: *Sachar*, 843-920
13. Political unity, political immobility, and the first *Intifada*: 1985-1992
Reading: *Sachar*, 934-976.
14. The Oslo process: Success and Failure: 1992-2000
Reading: *Sachar*, 977-1045
15. The second Intifada and the beginning of the unilateral disengagement
Process: 2000-2008
Reading: *Sachar*, 1046-1131.

Part II: Specific issues

1. Arabs in the Jewish state
Reading: *Sachar*, 382-389; 436-443; 532-538; 838-842
2. Jews in the Jewish state
Reading: *Sachar*, 376-382; 598-614; 1104-1107
3. Israeli culture
Reading: *Sachar*, 581-598; 921-922; 1089-1090.