

RELI 329/2
POLI 398A/2 A

Israel: Religion and State

Wednesday and Friday 10:15-11:30

Location : FG B050 SGW

Professor: Ira Robinson

Office: Annex R (2050 McKay St.), room 303

Office Hours: Thursdays, 13:00-14:00 or by appointment.

Telephone (Voice Mail): 514-848-2424, x2074

Fax: 514-848-4541

Email: ira.robinson@concordia.ca

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Minghui Pan

TA Email: mingxiaohui@gmail.com

TA Office Hours: TBA

Course Website: Moodle: accessed through your “My Concordia”

Course Description:

This course will examine issues relating to religions in Israel. It will include an analysis of historical and contemporary attempts to define Israel as a “Jewish State”. It will include as well the position of religions, especially Judaism but inclusive as well of Islam and Christianity, with respect to the Israeli state and its laws. It will explore various Judaic visions of the State of Israel and its religio-political destiny as well as the societal tensions engendered by the variety of Israeli-Jewish interpretations of Judaism and the Judaic lifestyle. It will also deal with the de facto presence of several religious traditions within Israeli society and their influence on Israel’s societal discourse.

Course Requirements:

1. Students will write a take-home mid-term assignment and a final take-home assignment. The mid-term will be worth 20% of the final grade and the final take-home assignment will be worth 40% of the final grade.
2. Along with each reading assignment there will be a question assigned. Students are required to submit a 1 page (typewritten) response to any ten assignments during the course of the term. Responses for any question will be accepted for full credit only on the day it is due at the end of class unless accompanied by a reasonable excuse. Responses received after the due date, or non-hard copy responses (e.g. email attachments) without a reasonable excuse will be penalized one point if the response is up to one week late, and two points if it is more than a week late. If you choose to submit more than ten responses, your grade will be determined on the basis of your best ten responses. Each response will be worth 4% of the final grade for a maximum of 40%.

Grading Standards:

- A Superior grasp of the material; explanations clear and well-written; presentation of original insights going beyond class discussion.
- B Good grasp of the material; clear and orderly presentation; demonstration of ability to utilise concepts learned.
- C Adequate grasp of the material; reasonably clear presentation.
- D Clearly inadequate grasp of the material; unclear presentation.
- F Assignments not presented.

Learning Objectives:

The learning objectives of this course include competency in the areas of Israel and Judaism, improved ability to synthesize information, and improved writing ability.

Plagiarism:

The most common offence under the Academic Code of Conduct is plagiarism that the Code defines as "the presentation of the work of another person as one's own or without proper acknowledgement."

This could be material copied word for word from books, journals, internet sites, professor's course notes, etc. It could be material that is paraphrased but closely resembles the original source. It could be the work of a fellow student, for example, an answer on a quiz, data for a lab report, a paper or assignment completed by another student. It might be a paper purchased through one of the many available sources. Plagiarism does not refer to words alone - it can also refer to copying images, graphs, tables, and ideas. "Presentation" is not limited to written work. It also includes oral presentations, computer assignments and artistic works. Finally, if you translate the work of another person into French or English and do not cite the source, this is also plagiarism.

In Simple Words:

DO NOT COPY, PARAPHRASE OR TRANSLATE ANYTHING FROM ANYWHERE WITHOUT SAYING FROM WHERE YOU OBTAINED IT!

LIST OF SERVICES:

- **Department of Religion Academic Advisors:** Dr. Naftali Cohn and Dr. Marc Lalonde. To schedule an appointment, call 514-848-2424, x2065.
- **Concordia Counselling and Development** offers career services, psychological services, student learning services, etc. <http://cdev.concordia.ca/>

- **The Concordia Library Citation and Style Guides:**
<http://library.concordia.ca/help/howto/citations.html>
- **Advocacy and Support Services**
<http://supportservices.concordia.ca/>
- **Student Transition Centre**
<http://stc.concordia.ca/>
- **New Student Program**
<http://newstudent.concordia.ca/>
- **Access Centre for Students with Disabilities**
<http://supportservices.concordia.ca/disabilities/>
- **Student Success Centre**
<http://studentsuccess.concordia.ca/>
- **The Academic Integrity Website**
<http://provost.concordia.ca/academicintegrity/>
- **Financial Aid & Awards**
<http://web2.concordia.ca/financialaid/>
- **Health Services**
<http://www-health.concordia.ca/>

Texts:

Anita Shapira, *Israel: a History* (Hanover, University Press of New England, 2012).
All other required readings, other than items freely available on internet sites, will be available in a coursepack. These will be available for purchase at the Concordia University book store.

Syllabus:

1. September 9:
Introduction to Course: What is a Jewish State?
No assigned reading
2. September 11:
Who was a Jew? What was Judaism in the minds of Jews, Christians and Muslims?
Reading:
David Ruderman, *Early Modern Jewry: a New Cultural History* (Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2010), pp. 23-55.
3. September 16:
The Eighteenth Century and the Jews: Revolution and Its Consequences
Reading:
David Sorkin, *The Transformation of German Jewry 1780-1840* (Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1999), pp. 13-40.

4. September 18:
The Nineteenth Century and the Jews: Antisemitism and its Consequences
Reading:
David Vital, *A People Apart: the Jews of Europe, 1789-1939* (Oxford University Press, 1999), pp. 166-198.

No Class September 23--Yom Kippur
5. September 25:
Jews and the Land of Israel: Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries
Reading:
Shapira, pp. 3-26.
S. Zalman Abramov, *Perpetual Dilemma: Jewish Religion in the Jewish State* (Rutherford, Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 1976), pp. 23-54.
6. September 30:
Political Zionism: 1897-1917
Reading:
Shapira, pp. 27-64.
Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea* (New York, 1959), pp. 102-114
Ben Halpern, *The Idea of the Jewish State* (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1969), pp.20-51.
7. October 2:
Religious and Cultural Zionism
Reading:
Hertzberg, *Zionist Idea*, pp. 398-405, 546-555.
Ahad Ha-'Am, *Selected Essays* (Philadelphia, Jewish Publication Society, 1912), pp. 253-305.
Steven Zipperstein, *Elusive Prophet: Ahad Ha'am and the Origins of Zionism* (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1993), pp. 67-104.
Dov Schwartz, *Faith at the Crossroads: a Theological Profile of Religious Zionism* (Leiden, Brill, 2002), pp. 156-192.
8. October 7:
The British Mandate: the development of the "Jewish National Home", 1922-1948
Reading:
Shapira, pp. 67-152

9. October 9:

The British Mandate: Religious Issues

Reading:

Susan Hattis Rolef, ed., *The Dilemma of Religion and Politics: Attitudes and Positions Within the Israeli Labor Movement on Religious Pluralism* (Semana Publishing Company), pp. 109-111, 149-154.

Dov Schwartz, *Religious-Zionism: History and Ideology* (Boston, Academic Studies Press, 2009), pp. 27-41.

10. October 14:

Israel: Religion in the Public Sphere

Reading:

Shapira, pp. 155-291.

Charles Liebman and Eliezer Don Yehiya, *Religion and Politics in Israel* (Bloomington, Indiana University Press), pp. 31-40.

Charles Liebman and Eliezer Don-Yehiya, "The Dilemma of Reconciling Traditional Culture and Political Needs: Civil Religion in Israel", in Ernest Krausz, ed., *Politics and Society in Israel: Studies of Israeli Society* volume 3 (New Brunswick, Transaction Books, 1985), pp. 196-209.

Eliezer Schweid, "Jewish Religion and Israeli Democracy", in Yakov Malkin, ed., *Free Judaism and Religion in Israel* pp. 7-29.

S. Clement Leslie, *The Rift in Israel: Religious Authority and Secular Democracy* (New York, Schocken Books, 1971) 101-114.

11. October 16:

Israel: Religion in the Political System

Reading:

Giora Goldberg, "Religious Zionism and the Framing of a Constitution for Israel", *Israel Studies* 3 (1998), pp. 211-229.

Efraim Inbar, "Jews, Jewishness, and Israel's Foreign Policy", *Jewish Political Studies Review* 2 (1990), pp. 165-183

<http://jcpa.org/article/jews-jewishness-and-israels-foreign-policy/>

Ira Sharkansky, *Ambiguity, Coping and Governance: Israeli Experiences in Politics, Religion, and Policymaking* (Westport, Praeger, 1999), pp. 53-70.

12. October 21:

Israel: Education and the Army

Reading:

Rina Hevlin, "The Jewish Holidays as a Platform for a Multicultural Discourse of Identity", in Avi Sagi and Ohad Nachtomi, eds., *The Multicultural Challenge in Israel* (Boston, Academic Studies Press, 2009), pp. 243-267.

Danny Kaplan, *Brothers in Arms: The Making of Love and War in Israeli Combat Units* (New York, Haworth Press, 2003), pp. 35-51.

Steven V. Mazie, *Israel's Higher Law: Religion and Liberal Democracy in the Jewish State* (Lanham, Rowman and Littlefield, 2006), pp. 189-209.

13. October 23:

Non-Jewish Religions in Israel

Reading:

Elie Rekhess, "Resurgent Islam in Israel", *African and Asian Studies* 27 (1993), pp. 189-206.

Meir Litvak, "The Islamization of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict", *Middle Eastern Studies* 34, 1 (1998), pp. 148-163.

14. October 28:

Six Day War and Its Consequences: Messianism; Gush Emunim

Reading:

Shapira, pp. 295-354.

Ehud Spinzak, "The Politics, Institutions and Culture of Gush Emunim", in Lawrence Silberstein, ed., *Jewish Fundamentalism in Comparative Perspective: Religion, Ideology and the Crisis of Modernity* (New York University Press), pp. 117-147.

Aviezer Ravitzky, *Messianism, Zionism, and Jewish Religious Radicalism* (Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1996), pp. 79-144.

15. October 30:

Six Day War and Its Consequences: Greater Israel; Settling Beyond the "Green Line"; Peace Process

Reading:

Charles Liebman, *Religion, Democracy, and Israeli Society* (Harwood Academic Publishers), pp. 95-109.

David Hartman, *A Heart of Many Rooms: Celebrating the Many Voices Within Judaism* (Woodstock, Jewish Lights), pp. 267-296.

Motti Inbari, *Messianic Religious Zionism Confronts Israeli Territorial Compromises* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2012), pp. 37-58.

16. November 4:

Contemporary Israel: Sephardim/Mizrachim in Israeli Politics and Religion

Reading:

Shapira, pp. 357-475.

Moshe Shokeid, "The Religiosity of Middle Eastern Jews" in Shlomo Deshen, Charles Liebman, and Moshe Shokeid, *Israeli Judaism: the Sociology of Judaism in Israel* (New Brunswick, Transaction Publishers,), pp. 213-237.

Zvi Zohar, "On European Jewish Orthodoxy, Sephardic Tradition and the Shas Movement", in Eliezer Ben-Raphael, Thomas Gergely, and Yosef Gorny, eds., *Jewry Between Tradition and Secularism: Europe and Israel Compared* (Leiden, Brill, 2006), pp. 133-150.

17. November 6:

Contemporary Israel: The Haredim (Zionist, non-Zionist, anti-Zionist)

Reading:

Nurit Stadler, *Yeshiva Fundamentalism: Piety, Gender and Resistance in the Ultra Orthodox World* (New York, New York University Press), pp. 35-51

Tamar El-Or, *Educated and Ignorant: Ultra-Orthodox Women and Their World* (Boulder, Lynne Rienner Publishers), pp. 11-49.

Noah Efron, *Real Jews: Secular versus Ultra-Orthodox and the Struggle for Jewish Identity in Israel* (New York, Basic Books), pp. 57-96.

Nachman Ben-Yehuda, *Theocratic Democracy: the Social Construction of Religious and Secular Extremism* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 13-30.

18. November 11:

Contemporary Israel: "National Religious" Jews

reading:

Zerah Warhaftig, "The Religious Party Moulds a Pattern of Life", in *Religion and State in Israel: the Religious Zionist Standpoint* (Mercaz Olami Publication), pp. 3-8.

Aryei Fishman, *Judaism and Modernization in the Religious Kibbutz* (Cambridge University Press) pp. 115-140.

19. November 13:

Contemporary Israel: Non-Orthodox Judaism

Reading:

Ephraim Tabory, "The Identity Dilemma of Non-Orthodox Religious Movements: Reform and Conservative Judaism in Israel", in Zvi Sobel and Benjamin Beit Halahmi, eds., *Tradition, Innovation, Conflict: Jewishness and Judaism in Contemporary Israel* (State University of New York Press), pp. 135-152.

Rachel Werczberger, "Memory, Land, and Identity: Visions of the Past and the Land in the Jewish Spiritual Renewal in Israel", *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 26 (2011), pp. 269-289.

Joanna Steinhardt, "American Neo-Hasids in the Land of Israel", *Nova Religio: the Journal of Alternative and Emergent Religions* 13 (2010), pp. 22-42.

20. November 18:

"Secular" Jews and Religion

Reading:

Guy Ben Porat, *Between State and Synagogue: the Secularization of Contemporary Israel* (Cambridge University Press), pp.60-101.

Aviezer Ravitzky, *Religious and Secular Jews in Israel: a Kulturkampf?* (Jerusalem, Israel Democracy Institute, 2001), pp. 15-23.

Charles Liebman and Yaakov Yadgar, "Secular Jewish Identity and the Condition of Secular Judaism in Israel", in Zvi Gitelman, ed., *Religion and Ethnicity: Jewish Identities in Evolution* (New Brunswick, Rutgers University Press, 2009), pp. 147-170.

21. November 20:

Who Is a Jew?: the Ethiopians

Reading:

Linda Begley Soroff, *The Maintenance and Transmission of Ethnic Identity: a Study of Four Ethnic Groups of Religious Jews in Israel* (Lanham, University Press of America), pp. 177-216.

Steven Kaplan and Chaim Rosen, "Ethiopian Immigrants in Israel: Between Preservation of Culture and Invention of Tradition", in Elazar Leshem and Judith T. Shuval, *Immigration to Israel: Sociological Perspectives* (New Brunswick, Transaction Publishers, 1998), pp. 407-421.

22. November 25:

Religion and the Peace Process

Reading:

Jonathan Rynhold, "Religion, Postmodernization, and Israeli Approaches to the Conflict With the Palestinians", *Terrorism and Political Violence* 17 (2005), PP. 371-389.

Motti Inbari, "When Prophecy Fails?: the Theology of the Oslo Process—Rabbinical Responses to a Crisis of Faith", 303-325.

Asher Cohen and Bernard Susser, "From Accommodation to Decision: Transformation in Israel's Religio-Political Life, *Journal of Church and State* 38 (1996), pp. 817-839.

23. November 27

Israel: Jewish State or State of All Its Citizens?

Reading:

Rachel Elijor, "Judaism and Democracy—the Private Domain and Public Responsibility", in Naftali Rothenberg and Eliezer Schweid, eds., *Jewish Identity in Modern Israel: Proceedings on Secular Judaism and Democracy* (Jerusalem, Urim Publications), pp. 123-139.

Asa Kasher, "A Jewish and Democratic State: Present Navigation in the Map of Interpretations, in Raphael Cohen-Almagor, ed., *Israeli Democracy at the Crossroads* (London, Routledge, 2005), pp. 165-182.

Jonathan Fox and Jonathan Rynhold, "A Jewish and Democratic State?: Comparing Government Involvement in Religion in Israel With Other Democracies", *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions* 9 (2008), pp. 507-531.

24. December 2:

Israel and Jews in the Diaspora

Reading:

Calvin Goldscheider, *Israel's Changing Society: Population, Ethnicity, and Development* (Westview, 2002), 241-250.

Aharon Lichtenstein "Diaspora Religious Zionism: Some Reflections" in Chaim Waxman, ed., *Religious Zionism Post Engagement: Future Directions* (New York, Yeshiva University Press, 2008), PP. 3-30.

Asher Cohen and Jonathan Rynhold, "Social Covenants: the Solution to the Crisis of Religion and State in Israel?", *Journal of Church and State* 47 (2005), pp. 725-745.

Eliezer Don-Yehiya, "Orthodox and Other American Jews and Their Attitude Toward the State of Israel", *Israel Studies* 17, 2 (2012), pp. 120-128.

Steven Bayme, "American Jewry and the State of Israel: How Intense the Bonds of Peoplehood?", *Jewish Political Science Review* 20 (2008), pp. 7-21

<http://jcpa.org/article/american-jewry-and-the-state-of-israel-how-intense-the-bonds-of-peoplehood/>

25. December 4:

Toward a Conclusion

Reading:

Charles Liebman, "Religion and Modernity: the Special Case of Israel", in Charles Liebman and Elihu Katz, *The Religion of Israelis: Responses to the Guttman Report* (Albany, State University of New York Press, 1997), pp. 85-102.

Asher Cohen and Bernard Susser, *Israel and the Politics of Jewish Identity: the Secular-Religious Impasse* (Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), pp. 1-16.

26. December 8 (make-up day)

Review and Consultation for Final Take-Home Assignment

No assigned reading.