

Carnegie Mellon University
Dept. of History
BH 231B
Spring 2004

Prof. Laurie Zittrain Eisenberg
M, W, F 12:30 - 1:20 pm
Office hours by appointment
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79-200: Historical Evidence and Interpretation: Israel and the 1967 June War

Overview: This course considers how historians practice their craft in interpreting great events. The Arab-Israeli war of 1967 serves as the case study. We will read the most recent account of the war and then check it against a variety of primary source materials such as memoirs, documents, speeches, newspapers, maps, eye-witnesses and UN resolutions. We will constantly be asking if the sources support the new text or if there are other interpretations that might lead to different conclusions. We will be examining the text for tangents left unexplored and possibly worthy of further research. We will consider how politics, the availability of new archival sources, and the passage of time can also bring about a rethinking of events past. And what to make of competing or contradictory secondary interpretations? Our focus will be on Israel, the evolution of Israeli scholarship about the war, and the impact of the war on Israeli policy, society, culture and the national psyche. As such, we will also use poetry, music, film, satire, political cartoons and our own interviews with guest speakers who are veterans of the war as relevant source material. Finally, we will consider how the 1967 war shaped the contemporary positions and issues at stake in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Readings: Readings come from the required textbooks (below) or from articles and other materials available on the Internet or marked "posted" on the syllabus. "Posted" items have been scanned and are accessible at www.library.cmu.edu. Click on "cameo," "course reserves," type in "Eisenberg" and select the reserve readings for 79-200. Links for further research and reading on the 1967 war are on the course website: <http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/sc24/1967war.html>. We will also be reading from the 1967 *Jerusalem Post*, on microfilm in Hunt library. The reading load is unevenly distributed across the semester; students are expected to keep up entirely with the reading during the heavy weeks and enjoy the respite during the lighter ones. REMEMBER: THIS IS A 12 UNIT COURSE!

Requirements Students must attend every class session fully versant in the readings assigned for that day and prepared to participate in class discussion. Instructor intends to lecture minimally and instead facilitate discussion, debate and the comparison of research results and interpretations among students. *Preparation, class attendance and participation are therefore of the utmost importance.* **Rigorous requirements are appropriate per a 12 unit course.**

Films: There will be 3 Israeli feature films screened on 3 weekday evenings. If you cannot attend the screenings on the scheduled nights, you may view those films and additional documentaries at your convenience (but in time for the scheduled class discussions) in the video library in the basement of Hunt library. You will also write a paper comparing two documentaries (view at your convenience in the Hunt video library) with the textbook.

Grades: Final grades are based upon attendance, classroom participation, a series of research exercises, a mid-term project, short homework assignments and a take-home final paper. There will be many opportunities to earn extra credit by attending relevant local events (speakers, films, etc) **The assignment schedule appears on the final page of this syllabus.**

Required Texts

Bickerton, Ian J. and Carla L. Klausner, *A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 4th edition (NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002)

Hellstern, Mark and Gregory M. Scott, Stephen M. Garrison, *The History Students Writer's Manual* (New Jersey, Prentice Hall, 1998)

Oren, Michael B., *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East* (New York: Ballentine, 2002)

TA-DA! If you successfully complete this course, you will come away with two things: one, a very thorough understanding of the events and forces at play in the 1967 War and two, a newly acquired skill set which you can apply to your work in other courses, in graduate school, or in the "real world." (!) Among those skills are:

- Reading and evaluating a piece of written scholarship
- Identifying a topic and organizing a research project
- Finding source material for your topic
- Working with primary source documents
- Conducting interviews; working with human resources
- Using video materials as sources
- Working with maps
- Working with secondary sources
- Comparing conflicting accounts of an event
- Using fiction, poetry, music, cartoon and film as sources
- Organizing your notes and materials
- Critiquing and creating a bibliography
- Critiquing and creating endnotes
- Writing a grammatically correct paper in interesting prose
- Submitting material for publication, knowing the publication process

- Reading and writing book reviews

Introduction and Historical Overview

14 Jan Instructor's Introduction;

Mark Hellstern, Gregory M. Scott, and Stephen M. Garrison,
The History Students Writer's Manual (New Jersey, Prentice Hall, 1998)
[hereafter Writer's Manual] Chapter 1, pp. 1-10.

16 Jan Michael B. Oren, *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East* (Oxford and NY: Oxford University Press, 2002)
[hereafter Oren]: *Dust jacket, Acknowledgments, Sources and Spelling, Foreword, Bibliography and Sources.*

19 Jan **Martin Luther King Day – NO CLASS**

21 Jan Instructor's historical overview, pre-1948

23 Jan

Oren, *The Context Arabs, Israelis and the Great Powers, 1948-1966.*

Bickerton, Ian J. and Carla L. Klausner, *A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 4th edition (NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002) [hereafter Bickerton and Klausner], pp. 1-144

The Road to War

26 Jan Oren, *The Catalysts*

Isabella Ginor, "The Cold War's Longest Cover-Up: How and Why the USSR Instigated the 1967 War," *MERIA*, 7:3 (September 2003) **on-line**:
<http://meria.idc.ac.il/journal/2003/issue3/jvol7no3in.html>

28 Jan Oren, *The Crisis*

30 Jan

Eban meets Johnson, Israel Studies, posted

Footnoting: Writer's Manual, Chapter 5, pp. 72-74, 93-111. 118-122

30 Jan **ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE – identifying topics for further research**

2 Feb Oren, *Countdown*

4 Feb

Ben-Gurion Diaries, 18 May-4 June, Israel Studies, posted.

The 1967 War

6 Feb Oren, *Day 1*

9 Feb

11 Feb Oren, *Day 2*

13 Feb Oren, *Day 3*

16 Feb **Presidents' Day – NO CLASS, but read:**
Bickerton and Klausner, Chapter 6, pp. 144-157

18 Feb Oren, *Day 4*

20 Feb Oren, *Days 5 and 6*

23 Feb Taking Oral History: Writer's Manual, Chapter 11, pp. 177-184

23 Feb Assignment #2 DUE – documentaries as source material

25 Feb Guest Speaker – IDF veteran

25 Feb Assignment #3 DUE – preparing research questions

27 Feb Guest Speaker – young woman on the homefront

Aftershocks

1 Mar Oren, *Aftershocks*

Bickerton and Klausner, Chapter 6, documents, pp. 155-159 and Chapter 7, pp. 160-168.

Golda Meir, *My Life* (NY: Putnam's, 1975) pp. 367-373 **posted**

UN Resolution 242 **on-line:** <http://www.mideastweb.org/242.htm>

Khartoum Resolution **on-line:** <http://www.mideastweb.org/khartoum.htm>

1 March -- MONDAY NIGHT MOVIE: *Siege*

<http://www.isratim2003.com/english/longs-siege.php>

3 Mar discussion about the speakers and about *Siege*

3 Mar Assignment # 4 Due – using oral history in an essay

5 Mar **Mid Semester Break – NO CLASS**

8-12 Mar **Spring Break – NO CLASS**

The War of Attrition

15 Mar Ahron Bregman, *Israel's Wars: A History since 1947* (London and NY: Routledge, 2000), "The Forgotten War of Attrition, 1968-70," pp. 93-101, **posted**.

Bickerton and Klausner, Chapter 7, pp. 168-182

Ahmed S. Khalidi, "The War of Attrition," *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 3:1 (Autumn 1973), pp.60-87 (on-line through JSTOR at www.jstor.org)

15 Mar Assignment # 5 DUE – Research Project Proposal Exercise

15 March -- MONDAY NIGHT MOVIE: *Late Summer Blues*

http://www.jhvc.org/video_library/index.html (search alphabetized list of videos)

17 Mar Guest Speaker – War of Attrition veteran

19 Mar **NO CLASS**

22 Mar Discussion about Wednesday's speaker and *Late Summer Blues*

22 Mar Assignment #6 DUE – quoting from an oral history source

Israeli Revisionism

24 Mar Ethan Bronner, "Israel: The Revised Edition – Two Historians offer re-examinations of the Zionist-Arab Conflict," *New York Times*, book reviews, 14 November 1999, on-line at <http://traubman.igc.org/history.htm>

Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall* (NY: Norton, 2000), "The Road to War" pp. 236-264 **posted**

Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims* (NY: Knopf, 1999), "The Six Day War," pp. 302-346 **posted**

24 Mar Assignment #7 Due – Notetaking: Comparing different versions of an event

Book Reviews

26 Mar Writer's Manual, chapter 9, pp. 154-164

Multiple book reviews posted by Oren at
<http://www.shalem.org.il/oren/reviews.htm>

Benny Morris, "Six Days and More," Jerusalem Report
<http://www.jrep.com/Books/Article-32.html>

Avi Shlaim, "The albatross of Victory" The Guardian International June 8, 2002 at
<http://books.guardian.co.uk/reviews/history/0,6121,729102,00.html>

29 Mar Norman. G. Finkelstein, "Abba Eban with Footnotes," Journal for Palestine Studies, XXXII, no. 3 (Spring 2003) pp. 74-89 **posted**

Oren, "*A Conversation with Michael B. Oren*"

Conspiracy Theories and other interpretations of the War

31 Mar Richard B. Parker, "USAF in the Sinai in the 1967 War: Fact or Fiction?" Journal of Palestine Studies 27:1 (Autumn 1997) pp. 67-75 [on-line via JSTOR]

Hisham Sharabi, "Prelude to War: The Crisis of May-June 1967" in Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, The Arab-Israeli Confrontation of June 1967: An Arab Perspective" (Evanston: Northwestern, 1970) pp. 49-65 **posted**

How political scientists do history

2 Apr Ben D. Mor, "Nasser's Decisionmaking in the 1967 Middle East Crisis: A Rational-Choice Explanation" Journal of Peace Research 28:4 (Nov 1991), pp. 359-375 [on-line via JSTOR]

Mapwork

5 Apr

Frederic Hof, "The Line of June 4, 1967," Middle East Insight (September-October 1999) Vol. XIV, no. 5, reprinted on-line:
<http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Peace/67line.html>

Israel – 1967 War maps

<http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/History/67warmaptoc.html>

Martin Gilbert, Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (NY: Oxford, 1993) maps as **posted**

Relevant maps from *Arab Gateway* and *UN*, on course webpage:
<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/sc24/1967war.html>

Literature

7 Apr

Short story: A.B.Yehoshua, "Early in the Summer of 1970" in *The Continuing Silence of a Poet: The Collected Stories of A.B.Yehoshua* (London: Peter Halban Publishers, 1988), pp. 255-293. **posted**

About A.B. Yehoshua:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/yehoshua.html>

Poetry

9 Apr

Esther Raizen, ed. and trans., *No Rattling of Sabers: An Anthology of Israeli War Poetry* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1995), preface, pp. xi-xxv, and Nathan Alterman, "The Silver Platter"
Haim Hefer, "Parade of the Fallen" and "The Paratroopers are Weeping"
Eli Alon, "If There is a God"
Zelda, "How Much a Word Could Help"
Yonathan Gefen, "Setting Up Camp"
Meir Wieseltier, "Military Call-Up" **all posted**

12 Apr

Yehuda Amichai, "Jerusalem 1967," poems # 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12 and "Jerusalem Ecology" and "Tourists" from *Yehuda Amichai: A Life of Poetry, 1948-1994* selected and trans. By Benjamin and Barbara Harshav (NY: Harper Collins, 1994) **posted**

About Yehuda Amichai:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/amichai.html>

12 Apr Assignment #8 Due - poetry

Music
14 Apr

Jerusalem of Gold [Yerushalayim shel zahav]

Read all about Jerusalem of Gold (Yerushalayim Shel Zahav), especially “Career of a Song” and the translated lyrics at <http://www.jerusalemofgold.co.il/>

To hear the first stanza and refrain of the song, click on the earphones at <http://www.hebrewsongs.com/y.htm>

An interview with Naomi Shemer:

<http://www.jewishsf.com/bk000609/etgold.shtml>

About Naomi Shemer:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/shemer.html>

Tomorrow [Machar]

Lyrics at <http://www.hebrewsongs.com/song-machar.htm> (English title should be “Tomorrow”)

Clip at

[http://campuscgi.princeton.edu/~klez/zemerl/show.pl?title=Machar+\(Tomorrow\)](http://campuscgi.princeton.edu/~klez/zemerl/show.pl?title=Machar+(Tomorrow))

The [Wailing] Wall [Hakotel]

Lyrics at: <http://www.hebrewsongs.com/song-hakotel.htm>

To hear the refrain, click on the earphones at

<http://www.hebrewsongs.com/h.htm> or listen to a clip at

<http://www.mostlymusic.com/albumdetails.asp?albumid=4001>

(live picture of the Wall from the “Wallcam” at

<http://www.aish.com/wallcam/>)

Nasser waits for Rabin posted

16 Apr **Spring Carnival – NO CLASS**

Satire and Political Cartoons

19 Apr E. Kishon and DOSH, *So Sorry We Won* (Tel Aviv: Ma'ariv, 1967)
21 Apr (trans. Yohanan Goldman) inside back jacket flap, "Our man at the UN"
and "WAR! May-June 1967. **posted**

Continued/

Noah Bee, *In Spite of Everything! History of the State of Israel in Political Cartoons* (NY: Bloch, 1973), book jacket, forward and pp.81-88, 90-95, 113, 120. **posted**

21 April WEDNESDAY NIGHT MOVIE: *Avanti Popolo*

http://www.sfjff.org/cgi-bin/sfjff_resource.pl?titleID=846

23 Apr Discussion of *Avanti Popolo* as satire

After the 1967 War

26 Apr Oren, *Afterward*

Shlomo Avineri, "Political Ideologies: From Consensus to Confrontation" in *The Impact of the Six Day War*, Stephen J. Roth, ed. (NY: St. Martin's, 1988), pp. 197-208 **posted**

[FYI - Bickerton and Klausner, Chapters 8-12]

28 Apr Organizing source material and writing for publication

30 Apr Conclusion: contemporary implications of the 1967 War for Arabs and Israelis and the joys of being an historian with a great topic

Bickerton and Klausner, Conclusion, pp. 352-360.

TBA FINAL PAPER DUE

79-200 Assignment Schedule

	DUE	Subject
Assignment #1	30 January	Identifying topics and sources for further research
Assignment #2	23 February	Documentaries as source material
Assignment #3	25 February	Preparing Research Questions
Assignment #4	3 March	Using oral history in an essay
Assignment #5	15 March	Research Project Proposal exercise
Assignment #6	22 March	Quoting in an oral history essay
Assignment #7	24 March	Notetaking: comparing different versions
Assignment #8	12 April	Poetry
Assignment #9	TBA	Final research paper