

# History of Zionism

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(*History*, 510:386, *Middle Eastern Studies*, 685:343)  
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## Course Description

No movement in modern Jewish history has had a greater impact on Jewish life than Zionism. Bringing millions of Jews together in a new state, the movement has radically altered the way Jews view themselves and the nature of their internal relations as well as their interaction with the surrounding society. This course will examine the origins of Zionism, the ideological alternatives to the movement, the influence of other ideologies and cultural settings on Zionist ideology, and its critiques.

## Course Requirements

1. Full attendance in class, current preparation of class readings and participation in class discussion (10% of the final grade)
2. Midterm Paper -- designed to draw on the readings and class discussions – (30% of final grade).
3. A Take-Home Final Exam: The final will be in the form of an essay question that will encompass all the readings done during the term and will integrate issues raised in class discussions (60% of the final grade)

## Key Books Used in the Syllabus

Arthur Hertzberg, ed., *The Zionist Idea* (Philadelphia, 1959)  
Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism* (New York, 1972)  
Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism* (London, 1981)  
Gideon Shimoni, *The Zionist Ideology* (Hanover, 1995)

## Course Outline

1. *Introduction: Zionism in the Context of Modern European Jewish History*

Readings:

Laqueur, pp. 3-39.

David Vital, *The Origins of Zionism* (Oxford, 1975), pp. 3-48.

Suggested:

Hertzberg, pp.14-100.

Avineri, pp. 3-13; 217-227.

2. *The Forerunners of Zionism: Alkalai, Kalischer, Hess*

Readings:

Shimoni, pp. 52-82

Hertzberg, pp. 103-139 (Alkalai, Kalischer, Hess)

Suggested:

Avineri, 36-55.

3. *The East European Crisis of Enlightenment; Pinsker and Hibat Zion; Moshe Lilienblum and Peretz Smolenskin.*

Readings:

Hertzberg, pp. 143-198 (Smolenskin, Ben-Yehoudah, Lilienblum, Pinsker)

Laqueur, pp. 56-83.

Suggested:

Avineri, pp. 56-87

4. *Herzl, Nordau, and the Rise of Political Zionism*

Readings:

Shimoni, pp. 85-103

Hertzberg, pp. 204-245 (Herzl, Nordau)

Suggested:

Laqueur, pp. 84-135.

Amos Elon, *Herzl* (New York, 1975)

Avineri, 88-111.

5. *Ahad Ha-Am and the Cultural Question*

Readings:

Avineri, 112-124.

Hertzberg, pp. 249-277 (Ahad Ha-Am)

Suggested:

Shimoni, pp. 104-112, 269-278.

Laqueur, pp. 136-269.

Steve Zipperstein, Elusive Prophet: Ahad Ha'am and the Origins of Zionism (Berkeley, 1993).

6. *The Religious Critique and The Evolution of Religious Zionism*

Readings:

Shimoni, pp. 127-165

Hertzberg, pp. 417-431 (Kook)

Ehud Luz, *Parallels Meet: Religion and Nationalism in the Early Zionist Movement 1882-1904* (New York, 1988) pp. 211-226.

Suggested:

Aviezer Ravitzky, *Messianism, Zionism, and Jewish Religious Radicalism* (Chicago, 1996), 10-78.

7. *Socialism and Zionism: The Socialist Critique and the Labor Movement*

Readings:

Shimoni, pp. 166-235.

Hertzberg, pp. 353-366 (Borochov), 372-374, 379-383 (Gordon)

Suggested:

Laqueur, pp. 270-288; 416-437

Shlomo Avineri, *Moses Hess: Prophet of Communism and Zionism* (New York, 1985).

8. *Revisionist Zionism and its Clash with Labor*

Readings:

Shimoni, pp. 236-266.

Hertzberg, 556-570 (Jabotinsky)

Laqueur, pp. 338-383.

Suggested:

Avineri 159-186

Levi Brenner, *The Iron Wall: Zionist Revisionism from Jabotinsky to Shamir* (London, 1984).

9. *Weizman and the British Mandate:*

Readings:

Hertzberg, pp. 573-588 (Weizmann).

Laqueur, pp. 441-504.

Suggested:

Jehuda Reinharz, *Chaim Weizmann: The Making of a Zionist Leader* (New York, 1985)

10. *American Zionism*

Readings:

Evyatar Friesel, "American Zionism and American Jewry: An Ideological and Communal Encounter," *American Jewish Archives* 40 (April 1988), pp. 5-23.

Hertzberg, pp. 503-523 (Schechter and Brandeis).

Suggested:

Melvin Urofsky, *Louis D. Brandeis and the Progressive Tradition* (Boston, 1981)

Mark Raider, *The Emergence of American Zionism* (NYU Press, 1998), pp. 24-43.

11. *Brit Shalom and Bi-nationalism*

Readings:

Yfaat Weiss, "Central European Ethnonationalism and Zionist Binationalism," *Jewish Social Studies* 11, no. 1 (Fall 2004), pp. 93-117.

Daniel P. Kotzin. "An Attempt to Americanize the Yishuv: Judah L. Magnes in Mandatory Palestine", *Israeli Studies* 5(1), pp. 1-23.

Herzberg, pp. 440-465 (Magnes and Buber)

12. *The "New Hebrews" and the "Canaanite" alternative to Zionism*

Readings:

David Ohana, "Zarathustra in Jerusalem: Nitzche and the 'New Hebrews'", *Israel Affairs* 1(3), pages 38-60.

James S. Diamond, *Homeland or Holy Land?: The "Canaanite" Critique of Israel* (university Press, 1986), pp. 65-67. Boas Evron, *Jewish State or Israeli Nation?* (Indiana university Press, 1995), ch. 11.

Suggested:

Yaacov Shavit, *The New Hebrew Nation: A Study in Heresy and Fantasy* (London, 1987)

*13. Post Zionism and the Mizrahi Critique of Zionism*

Ilan Pappé, "Post-Zionist Critique on Israel and the Palestinians: Part I: The Academic Debate", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, pp. 29-41

Uri Ram, "The State of the Nation: Contemporary Challenges to Zionism in Israel", *Constellations*, 6 (3), pp. 325-338(14)

Ella Shohat, "Mizrahim in Israel: Zionism from the Standpoint of Its Jewish Victims," *Social Text*, Fall 1988, pp. 1-35.

Suggested:

Shlomo Aronson, "The Post-Zionist Discourse and Critique of Israel: A Traditional Zionist Perspective", *Israel Studies* 8(1), pp. 105-129

Meyrav Wurmser, "Post-Zionism and the Sephardi Question", *Middle East Quarterly* 12(2), <http://www.meforum.org/article/707>

*14. Palestinian Critique of Zionism*

Edward Said, "Zionism from the Standpoint of Its Victims," in Moustafa Bayoumi and Andrew Rubin, eds., *The Edward Said Reader* (New York: Random House Inc., 2000), pp. 114-68.