Course Description

*History of Israel* will introduce you to the history of Israeli society beginning with the development of modern political Zionism in the nineteenth century Europe, going into discussion of the historical background leading to the establishment of the state of Israel and the history of Israel until present, culminating with the relationship of Israel with the Arab world.

The first part explores the circumstances leading to the development of modern and political Zionism. We will discuss the historical events in Europe that led to the Zionist ideological foundation of the state of Israel, Herzl's vision of the State for the Jews, the early immigration prior to the establishment of the state of Israel, and their contribution to the establishment of the Yishuv (the Jewish settlement) and its political agenda under the British Mandate.

The second discusses the history of Israel from its establishment in 1948 to the present day. It highlights the centrality of immigration in determining the characteristics of the society and the emergence of ethnicity and religiosity and its influence on the socio-cultural, economic and political center-periphery structure of the society.

The third part deals with the relationship of the state of Israel to the Arab world and in particular to its neighboring countries.

**Required books: (available for purchase in the University Bookstore).**

These books are part of the required readings for the course. These in addition to materials from books and journal will be available to you in the library, on BLACKBOARD or distributed to you class.


**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to do the reading for each class in advance and come to class prepared so they can participate and contribute to the discussion and to the understanding of the topics.
Grades will be based on the following:

1. Class attendance and participation: this in particular will be taken into account in decision on a borderline grades. (up to 10%)
2. Students are required to submit by email to the lecture on the Monday prior to each class short summary of the main arguments or issues discussed from the reading list. Each week the students will be given the material for submission for the following class (20%).
3. End-of-term exam (70%).

Bibliography (a tentative list)

**Part I: Zionism and Palestine**


**Part II: Israeli Society, Rebirth, Arab Nationalism, and the Quest for Peace**


**Immigration**


Mechanisms of Integration and ethnic identities


Yiftachel Oren and Erez Tzfadia, () "Between Periphery and 'Third Space': Identity of Mizrachim in Israel's Development Towns", in pp.

Ethnicity and the Labor force


The Arab community In Israel


Women in Israel


Judaism and Democracy


The Gulf War and the War on Terrorism


Additional books that are required for the course.
