

Rutgers University
Departments of Sociology and Jewish Studies

920:394 & 563:396; Israeli Society
Spring 2003

Prof. Chaim I. Waxman
Course Syllabus

Course content: The objective of this course is to provide a scholarly, in-depth sociological analysis of Israeli society and culture. The topics covered in the course will be:

Background: The Development of Zionism and the Establishment of the State of Israel;

[Balfour Declaration](#)

Map of the [British Mandate after 1922](#)

Map of [Israel \(1988\)](#)

Israel's [Declaration of Independence](#)

Immigration and Social Change;

Film: "Sallah"

See the following tables from *Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2002*:

[CBS-Immigrants by Period & Last Country of Residence.pdf](#)

Ethnicity; Read paper by Smooha, "Jewish Ethnicity in Israel: Symbolic or Real?"

Then read, Moshe Shokeid, "On the Sin We Did Not Commit in the Research of Oriental Jews"

Israel Studies 6.1, Spring, 2001

Article-"Critical Sociology and the End of Ideology in Israel"

Social Stratification;

Politics;

Public Opinion;

Religion;

See the following tables from *Statistical Abstract of Israel, 2002*:

[CBS-Popul by Religion and Popul Group.pdf](#)

Films - "Time of Favor" ("*Hahasder*") and "*Payot yerukot*"

Read "Portrait of Israeli Jewry"

Gender Relations;

Arabs in Israel;

Israeli-Palestinian relations - Conflict and the "Peace Process"

Required reading:

Eliezer Ben-Rafael, *Crisis and Transformation: The Kibbutz at Century's End* (SUNY Press)

Eva Etzioni-Halevy, *The Divided People: Can Israel's Breakup Be Stopped?*
(Lexington Books)

Calvin Goldscheider, *Israel's Changing Society*, 2nd ed.(Westview Press)

Robert. E. Litan and Yaakov. Kop, *Sticking Together: The Israeli Experiment in Pluralism* (Brookings Institution Press)

Zvi Zameret, *The Melting Pot in Israel* (SUNY Press)

There will also be articles from journals which will be assigned during the course of the semester. These will be announced in class.

Exams: There will be two examinations, each covering one-half of the semester's work. Each of the exams will be an essay exam, in which the student will be asked to answer approximately four out of six or seven questions presented. The questions will be based upon both the reading assignments and the class lectures and discussions.

Paper: There will also be a term paper, in which the student will select a topic germane to the course subject for analysis. Each student should prepare a suggested topic outline and a suggested bibliography which is due at the end of the third week of class. I will review them and return them with comments and suggestions, if any. The paper should be approximately 10 typed, double-spaced pages in length, and should also have proper documentation. The paper will be due two weeks before the last day of class.

Grading: This course is a Special Topics course and will be given as a seminar. Each class session will be devoted to the discussion of an assigned topic. Students are expected to participate in class, and participation will count toward 20 percent of the final grade. Therefore, attendance is required, and poor attendance will affect the final grade, which will be lowered one letter grade for each absence above three.

Exams = 30% each=60%

Paper = 30%

Participation = 10%

TOTAL = 100%

This semester, my office is in the Center for the Study of Jewish Life, 12 College Ave. and my official office hours are on Mondays and Thursdays, 11:30 am -1:00 pm. However, I will try and make myself available to any student at a mutually convenient time and place. My e-mail address is: waxmanci@rci.rutgers.edu

Newspaper, magazines, and journals which are good starting points for articles on Israel society:

Israel Studies

Israel Studies Forum

Haaretz www.haaretz.com (Hebrew edition: www.haaretz.co.il)

Jerusalem Post www.jpost.com

Jerusalem Report www.jrep.com

Midstream

Commentary

Tikkun

Judaism

Modern Judaism

Information on the Association for Israel Studies is at www.aisraelstudies.org