

# History of Zionism and the State of Israel

Dr. Avi Picard

Israel is the outcome of an ideological movement that creates a community, which became a state. The movement, the community and the state will be the aims of this course.

## Course description

The course will offer a historical introduction accompanied by a sociological analysis of the Zionist movement, the early settlement or 'Yishuv' and the first 50 years of the State of Israel. The first part of the course will be devoted to the emergence of Zionism, the ideologies of its early leaders, and the relationship of the Yishuv to internal Zionist debates and external powers. In the second part of the course, we will discuss The creation of the State; the Arab-Israeli conflict; the political system; the mass immigration and the ethnic gap; and relations with the Arab minority and the question of Identity.

## Requirements:

Attendance: Students must attend all classes. Class attendance is recorded. Student with more than four unexcused absences will have their final grade lowered.

Participation: Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings as well as current events concerning Israel. Questions, discussion and debate during class are strongly encouraged.

Midterm Exam: The in-class, mid-term exam will consist of short-answer questions (multiple choice, true/false, explain the terms, etc.) based upon the topic we have covered up to that point.

Final quiz: Like the midterm exam, based upon all the semester's topics.

The purpose of those exams is to check student's reading, knowledge and understanding of the course materials.

Research Paper: Student will choose a subject to research and write about. The subject and the research question must be approved by me. The paper should be based upon at least 5 scholarly sources and should be approximately 10 pages, written according to proper academic rules. The purpose of this paper is to practice your writing skills and to specialize in one subject.

## Grading:

Attendance – 10%

Participation – 10%

Midterm Exam 20%

Final Exam – 30%

Research paper – 30%

**Required Bibliography**

Alan Dowty, The Jewish State – A century later, California UP, Berkeley, 2001

Martin Gilbert, Israel – A History, Morrow, New York 1998.

Walter Laqueur, A History of Zionism, Schocken Books, New York, 2003.

Howard Sachar, A History of Israel, Knopf, New York 1981.

## **Topics and reading**

### **Part 1 - Zionism**

#### **1. Why did the National Jewish movement emerge?**

The state of the Jews by the 1800's: Emancipation, Enlightenment and Anti-Semitism

Laquer, Pp. 3-39; Pp. 56-70.

#### **2. Non-national solutions and first attempts for Nationalism**

Assimilation, Integration, Immigration, Revolutionism, Nationalism; The movement of Lover of Zion (Hibat Zion) and the first Aliyah.

Sachar, Pp. 13-35

#### **3. "At Basel I founded the Jewish state"**

Hertzel and his opponents; Socialist Zionism and the Second Aliah

Sachar, Pp.36-64; Laqueur, Pp. 270-295.

Background: Shlomo Avineri, The making of modern Zionism, Ch. 9 Pp. 88-100;

#### **4. the land which was promised three times.**

World War 1 and the Balfur Declaration and other agreements.

Sachar, Pp. 89-115

#### **5. The triangle**

British – Arabs – Jews between the world wars.

Sachar, Pp. 163-178; Pp. 193-226.

#### **6. Hyper political society**

The national home and its internal developments.

Laqueur, Pp.295-383.

Background: Dan Horowitz and Moshe Lissak, Origins of the Israeli polity: Palestine under the mandate, : University of Chicago Press, Chicago 1978.

#### **7. The seventh Million**

The Zionist movement and the Yeshuv during War World II and the Holocaust. The struggle for independence: 1945-1948.

Laqueur, Pp.564-586; Sachar, Pp.225-248.

## **Part 2 – Israel**

### **8. The war of independence.**

Sachar, Pp. 315-347.

### **9. A nation in uniform**

Israeli security problems: 1949-1977.

Gilbert, Pp. 306-328; 384-461

### **10. From dominant party to a two system party**

:Israeli political arena: 1949-2006

Dan Horowitz and Moshe Lissak, Trouble in Utopia, State university of New York press, Albany, New York 1988, Ch. 5.

Background: Arian Asher, The Second Republic: Politics in Israel, Chatman, New Jersey, 1998.

### **11. War and peace**

Israel and it's neighbors: 1977-2006. The Palestinian problem.

Gilbert, Pp. 496-619.

### **12. A Jewish state or a state of all its citizen**

Israel and it's Arab minority; Post Zionism and Israel identity.

Dowty, Pp. 184-215.

### **13. A tribal society**

Immigration and ethnicity; Israel and the Jewish diaspora

Sachar, Pp. 395-428; Pp. 714-739

### **14. Religion versus secularity**

Church and State in Israel

Dowty, Pp. 159-183.