

Fall Semester – JUS 377 – Professor Shlomo Aronson

Course Description

This course will describe and analyze Zionism as secular and as religious off springs of Jewish Civilization, as related to Jewish values, norms and historical contents in the praxis of Israel's road to independence and Israeli realities since, related as they were to other inputs such as Social-Democracy, European Right wing ideologies, the impact of the Holocaust, changes in the fabric and institutions of the Israeli society, and the role of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Course objectives

1. To describe and analyze Zionism as a renaissance, rather than a fully revolutionary, movement, including the revival of the Hebrew language and the search for Jewish independence in Jewish homeland.
2. To describe and analyze the actual implementation of various manifestations of the Zionist ideology on the way to independence, and the differences between them, within the givens of the British mandatory rule and Arab behavior.
3. To describe and analyze the impact of the Holocaust upon the Jewish community in Palestine and upon the newly born nation, in connection with Palestinian-Nazi collaboration, and in connection with Arab rejection of the UN Partition Plan for Palestine and the ensuing Israeli War of Independence.
4. To describe and analyze the transformation of the voluntary Jewish national liberation movement to an independent state and its institutions under Labor Zionist leadership.
5. To describe and analyze the various waves of immigration into Israel from survivors of the Holocaust all the way to former Soviet and Ethiopian Jews.
6. To describe and analyze the sources and the ramifications of Israel's wars from the Sinai Campaign of 1956 to the Second Lebanon War of 2006.
7. To describe and analyze the changes in the Israeli society and in its institutions since the early 60s to the elections of 2006 until today.

8. To describe and analyze the attitude toward and the legal status of Israeli Arabs and of Palestinians in the occupied territories since the military rule over the former and since the “benevolent occupation” in 1967 until the disengagement from Gaza in 2005 as related to changes in Israeli behavior and to Arab behavior and outside inputs.
9. To describe and analyze the criticism of Zionism and of Israel in anti-Zionist and in Anti-Semitic terms.

This course is to an extent an Israeli view of Israeli history and realities, but it is based upon extensive archival research, and related primary sources. As such the course will examine current events and current polemics from broader historical points of scholarly research, including the use of Marxist, Neo-Marxist, Neo-Nazi, Iranian and Palestinian terminology describing Israel as “colonial,” “imperialist,” or “racist” phenomenon.

Class Format

This course uses a lecture format. You are expected to complete the required reading ahead of the class, and talking points to be circulated ahead of the class, to be downloaded from the course website. Under circumstances, addenda to each class will be circulated following classes among you, and the instructor will be available for further questions in class or during office hours, to be announced.

Examinations:

A mid-term exam based on a questionnaire related to the course readings is to be submitted as a take home paper on October 12 – 30% of the final grade.

Final, take home paper based on the readings specified below, the lectures and the circulated downloads, about 5-10 pages long - 70% of the final grade is to be submitted on December 14, 2007.

Topics will be announced toward last week of term. Grading expectations: knowledge of readings and combination thereof with the lectures as related to the chosen topic. The use of clear-cut style. Use of sources as to be instructed. Proper citations and proper use of notes and bibliography.

Final paper due: 5-5-07.

Grading

90.0 – 100.% A and A+

80.0-89.99 % - B and B+

70.0-79.99% - C and C+

60.0-69.99% – D and D+

59.99 and below - E

Lecture topics and reading assignments

Week between August 20 to August 27 2007

Introduction, course methodology, terminology, requirements

Required readings ahead of the classes and during the week:

Sachar, Howard, A History of Israel: from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time, Knopf, New York, second edition in paperback, 2003, pp. 3-88.

Roshweald, Aviel, The Endurance of Nationalism, Cambridge University Press, New York, paper, 2006, pp. 8-22. Both books will be available in the bookstore.

Week between August 27 to September 6

"So precious little time..." from the Balfour Declaration to Hitler's rise to power to the Arab-Revolt of 1937-1939, the British "White Paper" on Palestine of May 1939 and the Holocaust.

Readings:

Sachar: 89-162.

Shlomo Aronson: Hitler, the Allies and the Jews, Cambridge University Press, New York, paperback edition June 2006, pp. 3-50.

Roshwald, 58-63.

Week between September 6 to September 10

The Road to independence and the ensuing results - the Israeli Social-Democracy in David Ben-Gurion's Era: Israel quadruples its population, and goes to war in 1956.

Readings:

Sachar: 279-394. 472-514.

Shlomo Aronson: "David Ben-Gurion and the British Constitutional Model," in Israel Studies, Vol. 3, No. 2, fall 1998, pp. 193-214.

September 13 – Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year, no classes

Week between September 10 to September 17

Years of growth and change, the crisis of the political system in the early 60s', the belated impact of the Holocaust, and the road to the Six Day War.

Readings:

Sachar: 395-471, 543-580.

Ephraim Yuchtman-Yaar, Continuity and Change in Israeli Society: The

Test of the Melting Pot, Israel Studies, Vol. 10, No. 2, summer, 2005.

Week between September 17 to September 24

The Six Day War and its immediate results: the paradoxes of an "enlightened occupation" and the birth of the settlement movement. Failure of initial peace efforts.

Readings:

Sachar: 580-666.

Roshwald, pp. 97-104.

Week between September 24 to October 1

Ditto

Readings:

Sachar: 667-740.

Roshwald 134-150.

Week between October 1 to October 8

From the Yom Kippur War of 1973 to peace with Egypt in 1979 – the first Begin government and its domestic significance:

Readings:

Sachar: 740-845.

Recommended: Shlomo Aronson: Conflict and Bargaining in the Middle East, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London, 1978, pp. 82-134 (to be handed out).

October 12 – Midterm Exam.

Week between October 8 to October 15

The Second Begin administration: Iraq's nuclear reactor, enhanced settlement effort, the war in Lebanon and its ramifications. The first Intifada.

Readings:

Sachar: 861-933.

Recommended: Aronson, Politics and Strategy of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East, SUNY Press, Albany and London 1994, 167-230 (to be handed out).

Week between October 15 to October 22

The twisted road to the Israeli-PLO accord of Oslo 1993 and its ensuing failure.

Readings:

Sachar: 934-1018.

Yair Hirschfeld: "The Failure of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, 1993-2000," in Journal of Peace Research, Vol. 42 2005, pp. 719-736.

Week between October 22 to October 29

Ditto and discussion of Edward Said's Orientalism, paper edition, New York, 2000.

Week between October 29 to November 5

The rise of Islamic fundamentalism and its ramifications, the First Iraq War and Ariel Sharon's Likud government.

Readings:

Lewis, Bernard, Semites and Anti-Semites, 236-259.

---- What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response, Phoenix paperback, New York, 2002.

Week between November 5 to November 15

The realignment of the Israeli political map: the disengagement from Gaza in 2005 and its domestic ramifications to the 2006 general elections.

Readings:

Michael Galchinsky, the Jewish Settlements in the West Bank, International

Law and Israeli Jurisprudence, Israel Studies, Vol. 9, No. 3, Fall 2004.

Neuman, David, From Hitnachalut (settlement) to Hitnatkut (disengagement):

Impact of Gush Emunim and the Settlement Movement on Israeli Politics and Society, Israel Studies, Vol. 10, No. 3, Fall 2005.

Week between November 15 to November 26

The "Post-Zionist," the anti-Zionist, and the anti-Semitic discourse of Israel:

Readings:

Aronson, Shlomo, "The Post-Zionist Discourse and Critique of Israel: A Traditional Zionist Perspective," in: Israel Studies 8 (2003), pp 105-129.
Roshwald, 296-301.

Week between November 26 to December 3

The Rise of Hamas. The Second Lebanon War and its regional and domestic ramifications. Readings will be announced.

Week between December 3 to December 10

Conclusions, instructions for writing final papers.

Dr. Shlomo Aronson

Schusterman Visiting Professor of Judaic Studies

On sabbatical, Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

