

Fall 2009

JWSS 3447  
***Jewish-Arab Relations in the State of Israel***  
 Professor Daphne Tsimhoni

Mondays and Wednesdays 2:50-4:30  
 Class: 203 Behrakis Health sciences center  
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Course Description and Aims:

Established as the nation-state of the Jewish people, Israel is a country of enormous ethno-religious and socio-cultural diversity. It has many breaches the most obvious being between the Jewish majority and the Arab minority within the state. We will explore the historical origins and circumstances of the establishment of the State of Israel and their impact on the state's complex boundaries and population. We will learn about the socio-cultural and ethnic groups among the Jewish majority in between western European (Ashkenazim) and Middle Eastern (Mizrahim) as well as within the Palestinian Arab minority including Muslims, Christians and Druze. We'll discuss the development of Jewish-Arab relations within the state as influenced by the collective memories and self images of its various groups.

Based on socio-historical researches and documentaries, we will discuss these major issues: Is there a 'demographic issue' in Israel? And if so, what is its impact on Israeli politics? What is the impact of the Arab-Israeli conflict on Jewish-Arab relations within the State of Israel? Is the breach between Jews and Arabs within Israel bridgeable? Who are the 'Arab Jews'? Can they form a bridge between Jews and Arabs in Israel and the Middle East? Is there an Israeli nationhood or identity? If so, what are its components?

Course Requirements:

Attendance at 80 per cent at least of classes. Come to class in time!  
 Map quiz (in class Sept. 21): 10 per cent of the final grade  
 Two midterm papers: (due Oct.14&Nov. 9) 20 per cent each of the final grade  
 Final essay: (due Dec. 9) 40 per cent of the final grade  
 Active participation in class: 10 per cent of the final grade.

Required Books:

Rosenthal, Donna, *The Israelis, Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land*, New York: Free Press, 2003  
 Shafir, Gershon and Peled, Yoav, *Being Israeli, The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005

Wasserstein, Bernard, *Israelis and Palestinians: Why Do They Fight? Can They Stop?*  
 New Haven: Yale University Press, 2004  
 Other readings will be placed on the course's balckboard.

Course outline and reading:

Note: Topics may overlap for more than one week due to video screening and discussion.

**I. Introduction: The Origins of the State of Israel and Israeli Society**

W Sept. 9: Israel in the Middle East: its boundaries and population.

Who are the Israelis? The Zionist revolution and Jewish immigration into Palestine during the British mandate; Zionist ideology, ethnicity and social stratification.

Required Reading: Wasserstein, pp. 5-39; Shafir-Peled pp.37-48

M Sept. 14: Continued

**II. Israel during the First Decades: State building and Jewish- Arab relations**

W Sept. 16: The establishment of the State of Israel; the 1948 war and its aftermath. The mass immigration to the state of Israel during the 1950s and 1960s; The 'melting pot' ideology; Building the state's democracy and political institutions; European Ashkenazi hegemony and the marginalization of the Arabs.

Required Reading: Dowty, pp. 61-84, 148-158; Rosenthal, Chap. 5, pp. 103-118 (97-112); Shafir-Peled, pp. 66-73

M Sept. 21: Continued. Map quiz in class

W Sept. 23: Continued

**III. Middle Eastern 'Mizrahi' Jews and their attitudes toward the Arabs**

M Sept. 28 – Day of Atonement no class

W Sept. 30: Ethnicity and social stratification: who are the 'Arab Jews'? The rise of 'Mizrahi' identity: Collective memories and the shaping of attitudes toward the Arab minority.

Required Reading: Rosenthal, pp. 113-129; Shafir-Peled, pp. 74-95

Smooha, Ethnic stratification

Video clips: Pier Rehov, the silent exodus; Samir, Forget Baghdad

M Oct. 5: Continued

**IV. The Palestinian Arabs in Israel**

W Oct. 7: The origins of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel; minority rights, the quest for equality by law and in practice

Required Reading: Dowty, pp. 184-215; Rosenthal, pp. 247-277; Optional: Rosenthal op.cit, pp. 278-291

Video clips: David Shipler, Arab and Jew; Qashu'a, Arab Labor

M Oct. 12: Continued

- V. *Minorities within Minority: the Christian Arabs and the Druze***  
 \* W Oct. 14: Presentation of first midterm paper  
 The Christian Arabs in Israel  
 Required Reading: Tsimhoni, Christians, pp. 124-152; Rosenthal, pp. 305-323  
 M Oct. 19:  
 The Druze in Israel  
 Required Reading: Ben Dor, The Druze; Atashi, Druze in army; Rosenthal, pp. 292-304  
 Video: The Syrian Bride  
 W Oct. 21: Continued
- VI. *The 1967 War, the Deepening Israeli-Arab Conflict and their Impact on Jewish-Arab Relations in Israel***  
 M Oct. 26: The rise of messianism among the Jews and their search for biblical origins; The settlements in the occupied territories and their impact on the Israeli society; the 'Palestinization' of the Arabs in Israel  
 Required Reading: Dowty, pp. 226-243; Shafir-Peled, pp. 159-183  
 Video: Assi Dayan, Life according to Agfa  
 W Oct. 28: Continued
- VII. *The Expansion of Religious Ethnicity and its Impact on Israeli Politics***  
 M Nov. 2:  
 The turn of Middle Eastern Mizrahi Jews to the political right wing; the rise of the Mizrahi Shas party, the expansion of Ultra-Orthodox parties and their impact on Jewish-Arab relations  
 Required Reading: Rosenthal, Chaps. 9-10 pp. 183-201 (173-220); Shafir-Peled, pp. 137-155  
 W Nov. 4: Continued
- VIII. *The Mass Immigration of the 1990s and the Arabs in Israel***  
 \*M Nov. 9: Presentation of second mid term paper  
 The Russian immigration and absorption in Israel; Russian immigrants and their encounter with the Arabs  
 Required Reading: Ben Rafael, pp. 55-77; Shafir-Peled, pp. 308-323; Rosenthal, chap.7 pp 138-156 (130-147)  
 Video: Trumpet in the Wadi  
 W Nov. 11: Veterans' Day – no class  
 M Nov. 16: Continued
- IX. *The second Intifada and Jewish-Arab relations in Israel***  
 W Nov. 18  
 Required Reading:
- M Nov. 23:  
 W Nov. 25 – First day of Thanksgiving recess, no class

Rekhes, Orr Commission

**X. *The Discourse on Religion, Demography and Nationalism and the Struggle for Constitutional Democracy***

M Nov. 30: Will Israel retain its Jewish majority? The discourse in Israel on Demography, Jewish/Israeli nationalism and Jewish-Arab relations  
 Required Reading: Wasserstein, pp. 25-30, 167-171  
 The Israel Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) data and estimates  
 Shafir-Peled, pp.260-307

**XI. *Jewish-Arab Peace Education***

W Dec. 2

Required Reading: Bekerman, Childhood education

Video: A bridge over the Wadi

Arab labor

M Dec. 7: Continued

***Summary:***

\*W Dec. 9: Presentation of final essay

Is there an Israeli identity? Israeli nationalism? Will Israel remain a Jewish democratic state? Jewish-Arab relations in Israel: Possible scenarios

Required Reading: Dowty, pp. 249- 255

**Bibliography:**

Atashi, Zeidan, The Druze in Israel and the Question of Compulsory Army Service

Ben Rafael, Eliezer et.al, *Building a Diaspora, Russian Jews in Israel, Germany and the USA*, Leiden: Brill, 2006.

Bekerman, Zvi and Adam, Nir, Opportunities and Challenges of Integrated Education in Conflict –Ridden Societies, *Childhood Education*; 2006; 82, 6

Ben Dor, Gabriel, The Druze in Israel in the Mid 1990s

Future Vision of of the Palestinian Arabs in Israel, 2006

Rekhes, Elie, The Evolvment of an Arab–Palestinian National Minority in Israel, *Israel Studies*, volume 12, number 3

Shafir, Gershon and Peled, Yoav, *Being Israeli, the Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005

Smooha, Sammy, **ETHNIC STRATIFICATION AND ALLEGIANCE**

**IN ISRAEL: WHERE DO ORIENTAL JEWS BELONG?** *Politico* 41, 4 (1976): 635-650

Tsimhoni, Daphne, "The Christians in Israel: Aspects of Integration and the Search for Identity of a Minority within Minority," in *Middle Eastern Minorities and Diasporas*, Edited by Ma'oz Moshe and Sheffer, Gabriel, Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 2002, pp. 124-152

Videos to be screened and discussed from the following:

Assi Dayan, Life according to Agfa – the Israeli internal ethnic strife  
Qashua'a, Sayyid, Arab Labor  
The Druze Bride – the national dilemma of the Golan Heights Druze  
Trumpet in the Wadi – Tragic love story reflecting relations between an FSU  
Immigrant and his Arab neighborhood in Haifa

Documentaries:

David Shipler – Arab and Jew - Wounded Spirits in a Promised Land  
Pier Rehov – The Silent Exodus  
A Bridge over the Wadi (documentary on the Jewish-Arab school in Wadi Ara)

A link to download bridge over the wadi and others

<http://themoviedownloads.com/1/>