

HISTORY OF ISRAEL : POLITCS, SOCIETY, FOREIGN RELATIONS

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SPRING 2010, TTH, 2:00-3:30 pm UTC 3.134

Professor Joseph Nevo

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Office hours TH 11am-1:00 pm

The course outlines the history of the Jewish community in Palestine since the beginning of the 20th century and of the state of Israel since its foundation in 1948.

It focuses of the circumstances that led to the birth of Israel; the experience of a state-building; the internal and external challenges its leaders and citizens have faced. The course also discusses political and parliamentary life in Israel, the Israeli society and its characteristics till the beginning of the 21st century.

Course Textbook

Howard M. Sachar, *A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2007), paper back edition.

Course Requirements and grading

1. Attendance of classes and participation in discussions; reading assignments as indicated in syllabus (25%).
2. A 8-10 pages final paper (a list of topics is in the "Course Assignments" on Blackboard) to be submitted through Tuesday, April 20th (40%)
3. Final Exam: (35%)

19 January; Introduction: The Land of Israel, the People of Israel, Judaism: A Historic background.

Reading

1. Howard M. Sachar, *A History of Israel..*(Course Textbook), pp. 3-35.
2. Mark Tessler, *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis, 1994, pp. 24-36.

21 January; The crystallization of the Zionist idea; reasons of its emergence, and its organizational frameworks.

Reading

1. Tessler, pp. 36-68
2. Sachar, pp. 36-64.

26 January; The practical Zionism; Jewish settlement in Palestine; Attitude towards the Arabs

Reading

1. Sachar, pp. 65-88.
2. Henry Near, *The Kibbutz Movement, A History*, Vol I, Oxford, 1992, pp. 7-37.

28 January; WWI and its impact on Palestine, and on the Zionist movement.

Reading

1. Sachar, pp. 89-115.

2 February; Palestine in the 1920s and the 1930s: I. A state building and a society building.

Reading

1. Sachar, pp. 138-162, 188-194.

2. Tessler, pp. 185-210.

OR

Aviva Halamish, "The Yishuv: The Jewish Community in Mandatory Palestine", in: *Jewish Virtual Library Publications*;

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/halamish.html>

4 February; Palestine in the 1920s and the 1930s: II. The Palestinian-Zionist conflict; Attitudes of the Jews to the Arabs and to the conflict.

Reading

1. Yosef Gorni, *Zionism and the Arabs, 1882-1948*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1987, pp. 129-155.

2. Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism*, Basic Books, New York, 1981, pp. 159-186.

9 February; The Arab Revolt (1936-1939) and WWII.

Reading

1. Charles C. Smith, *Palestine and the Arab Israeli Conflict*, Bedford/St. Martin, Boston, 2001, pp. 134-150

2. Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims, a History of the Arab Zionist Conflict 1881-1999*, Knopf, New York, 1999, pp. 121-160.

3. Sachar, pp. 227-248.

11 February; 16 February, The 'moment of truth'. [1945-1949]

Reading

1. Tessler, pp. 246-264.

2. Morris, pp. 161-191.

3. Sachar, pp. 315-353.

4. Yoav Gelber, *Palestine 1948 War, Escape and the Emergence of the Palestinian Refugee Problem*, Sussex Academic Press, Brighton, 2001, pp. 138-171.

5. Zeev Sharef, *Three Days*, Doubleday, New York, 1962, pp. 44-68.

18 February; The emergence of the Palestinian refugees problem; The absorption of Jewish refugees.

Reading

1. Gelber, pp. 274-297.

2. Sachar, pp. 395-409; 437-443.

23 February: The first decade: state building.

Reading

1. Sachar, pp. 354-382
2. Joseph Heller, *The Birth of Israel: Ben Gurion and his Critics*, University Press of Florida, Gainesville, 2000 , pp. 197-216.

25 February; The first decade: foreign and defense policy.

Reading

1. Avi Shlaim, "Conflicting Approaches to Israel's Relations with the Arabs: Ben Gurion and Sharett", *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 37 (Spring, 1983), pp. 180-201.
2. Tessler, pp. 336-364.
Additional reading
Walter Eytan, *The First Ten years, A diplomatic History of Israel*, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1958, pp. 206-228.

2 March; The Arabs in Israel.

Reading

1. Jacob M. Landau, *The Arabs in Israel: A political Study*, Oxford UP, London, 1969, pp. 39-68.
2. Sachar, pp. 382-394.

4 March; The 1960s; the end of Ben-Gurion era. The road to the June 1967 war.

Reading

1. Sachar, pp. 543-552; 615-622.
2. Moshe Maoz, *Syria and Israel from War to peacemaking*, Oxford University press, New York, 1995, pp. 79-104.
3. Tessler, pp. 364-387.

9 March; The June 1967 war (the Six Day War) and its impact on the Israeli society.

Reading

1. Tessler, pp. 387-397.
2. Sachar, pp. 673-682; 702-713.
3. Jacob M. Landau, *The Arab Minority in Israel 1967-1991, Political Aspects*, Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1993, pp. 98-130
4. L.E. Dutter, "Eastern and Western Jews –Ethnic Division in Israeli Society" *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 31, No. 4 (Autumn, 1977), pp. 451-468.

11 March; The October 1973 (Yom Kippur) War and its consequences. (part I).

Reading

1. Avraham Sela, *Decline of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Albany, State University of New York Press, 1998, pp. 133-149.
2. Tessler, pp. 474-499.
3. Smith, pp. 351-366.

15-20 March; Spring Break

23 March; The October 1973 (Yom Kippur) War and its consequences (part II).

Reading

1. Don Peretz, "The Earthquake – Israel's Ninth Knesset Election", *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 31, No. 3 (Summer 1977), pp. 251-266.
2. G. Goldberg and E. Ben-Zadok, "Gush Emonim in the West Bank", *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (January, 1986), pp.52-73.

OR

David Newman, "From *Hitnahalot* to *Hitnatkot*" The Impact of Gush Emonim, the Settlement Movement on Israeli Politics and Society" *Israel Studies*, Vol. 10 No. 3 (1995), pp. 192-224.

3. Myron J. Aronoff, *Israeli Visions and Divisions, Cultural Change and Conflict*, New Brunswick, NJ, Transaction Books 1989, pp. 69-91.
4. Aronoff, pp. 93-119.

25 March; Israel and the Arab world. The Sadat initiative (1977).

Reading

1. Tessler, pp. 499-519.
2. Morris, pp. 449-443.
3. Kenneth W. Stein, *Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat, Kissinger, Carter, Begin and the Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace*, Routledge, New York and London, 1999, pp. 187-228.

30 March: No class.

1 April; Israel and the Arab world: The first Lebanon war (1982).

Reading

1. Sachar, pp. 897-920.
2. Smith, pp. 363-385.
3. Ian Bickerton, Clara L. Klausner, *A Concise History of the Arab Israeli Conflict*, Prentice Hall, New Jersey, 2001, pp. 214-224.

6 April; Structural and social changes: the *Shas* party.

Reading

1. Aaron P. Willis, "Shas, the Sepharadic Torah Guardians: Religious Movement and Political Power" in: Asher Arian and Michal Shamir (eds.), *The Elections in Israel 1992*, State University of New York Press, Albany, 1995, pp. 121-139.
2. Omer Kamil, "The Synagogue as a Civil Society or How We Can Understand the Shas Party" *Mediterranean Quarterly*, Vol. 12, No. 3, Summer 2001, pp. 128-143.

8 April; Structural and social changes: the Russian immigrants

Reading

1. Dina Siegel, *The Great Immigration: Russian Jews in Israel*, Berghahn

- Books, New York and Oxford, 1998, pp. 1-20.
2. Clive Jones, *Soviet Jewish Aliyah 1989-1992*, Frank Cass, London, 1996, pp. 118-149
 3. Aharon Fein, "Voting Trends of Recent Immigrants from the Former Soviet Union", in Asher Arian and Michal Shamir (eds.), *The Elections in Israel in 1992*, pp. 161-173.

OR

Larissa Remennick, "Transnational Community in the Making: Russian Immigrants of the 1990s in Israel", *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Vol. 28, No. 3, July 2002, pp. 515-530.

13 April; Structural and social changes: the Kibbutz movement

Reading

1. Daniel Gavron, *The Kibbutz, Awakening from Utopia*, Rowen & Littlefield, London, 2000, pp. 1-11, 275-283.

15 April; The Israeli Arabs towards the end of the twentieth century.

Reading

1. Jacob M. Landau, *The Arab minority in Israel 1967-1991*, pp. 162-196.

20 April; The first *Intifada*.

Reading

1. Smith, pp. 406-431.
2. Bickerton and Klausner, pp. 224-240.

20 April, Last day for submission of final papers.

22 April; The 1990s: mutual recognition with the Palestinians

Reading

1. David Makovsky, *Making peace with the PLO*, Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado, 1996, pp. 83-106; 117-127.
2. Morris, pp. 611-632.

27 April; The Israeli-Jordanian Peace Treaty.

Reading

1. Nigel Ashton, *King Hussein of Jordan, A Political Life*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2008, pp. 284-316.
2. Mutayyam Al O'ran, *Jordanian-Israeli Relations; The peace building Experience*, Routledge, London and New York, 2009, pp. 31-47 (e-book)

29 April; The death of a Prime Minister: Rabin's assassination.

Reading

1. Ehud Sprinzak, *Brother Against Brother*, Free Press, New York, 1999, pp. 244-285.

4 May; The second *Intifada*: the Islamic growing influence.

Reading

1. Jeremy Pressman, "The Second Intifada: Background and Causes of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict", *Journal of Conflict Studies*, Vol. XXIII,

No. 2, Fall 2003, pp. 1-30.

2. Shaul Mishal and Avraham Sela, *The Palestinian Hamas*, Columbia University Press, New York, 2000, pp. 13-26.

6 May; **Conclusion:** The Israeli society at the beginning of the 21st century

Reading

1. Eliezer Ben Rafael, *Ethnicity, Religion and Class in Israeli Society*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge and New York, 1991, pp. 219-242