Selected Issues in the History of Zionism and the State of Israel

Course Description:

This course is an opportunity for students to engage in some of the major questions and dilemmas that faced the Zionist movement and its creation: the state of Israel. We shall look at issues such as Zionism and colonialism, the bi national idea, Britain; friend or foe of the Zionist movement. Issues concerning the period of statehood will include ethnicity, secular-religious divides and the notion of a Jewish - democratic state. The class will be heavily based on student reading and participation. It is designed to confront some of the critical issues being raised by Jews and non-Jews in the US and Europe today.

Course Requirements

- Students are expected to attend regularly and participate in class discussion. Please consult the Handbook of Academic Procedure if you are uncertain as to the attendance policy.

- Students are expected to keep abreast of the reading. In order to create an appropriate learning environment it is essential that you complete the reading assigned for each class which is approximately fifty pages per session.

- This is a cross-campus class and the overall group is split into two Forum groups. The groups will alternate each week posting to a threaded discussion on the guiding question for that week. Instructions and requirements can be found under Forums on the Course site in Sakai.

- Class presentation (details to be determined)

- A 10 page final paper, the subject of which will be determined by the student in consultation with their teacher. NB. Fifth Year students must submit their paper by April 11th. Fourth year students must submit their paper by May 9th.

Final Grades will be determined on the following basis:

- Class participation (Forum and in-class discussion) 30 %
- Class presentation 20 %
- Final paper 50%
January 19th

**Introduction, Expectations.**

Placing Zionism in Jewish History

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January 26th

**1) Zionism and Power**


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February 2nd

**2) Zionism and Colonialism**


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February 9th

**3) Zionism and the Bi-national Idea: From Mandate times to Today**


February 9th

4) Britain: Friend or Foe in the Building of the Jewish National Home?


5) The Palestinian Arab Leadership: What was its policy during the Second World War?


February 16th

6) Jews and Zionism: The Last Days of the Mandate and the Anglo-Jewish Community

(To be distributed)

7) Jews and Zionism: American Jewry and Israeli policy; One Path or Many Paths?


February 23rd

8) Zionism and Power: 1948 Dilemmas.


March 2nd

9) The Holocaust and the Creation of the State of Israel: Reassessing the Connection?


Or: ____________, "On the Myth of the Connection Between the Holocaust and the Creation of Israel," *Israel Affairs* 14: 3, 446-466.


March 9th

10) Jews and Zionism: Apartheid South Africa and the Jewish community 1959-67


11) Israel and the Ethnic Question; Symbolic or Real?


March 16th

12) Israel: Secular and Religious Tensions


March 23rd

13) The Religious and Nationalist Right in Israel: Current Trends

March 30th

14) The Palestinians and Holocaust Denial? What Purpose?


15) Is Anti-Zionism a New form of Antisemitism

April 6th

16) A Jewish state and a democratic state: Contradiction or Compatibility?


As’ad Ghanem, Nadim Rouhama and Oren Yiftachel, “Questioning ‘"Ethnic Democracy’” *Israel Studies* (3.2, Fall 1998).

April 13th

17) Teaching Israel? What are we trying to Teach?


