Students will engage in an exploration of Israel in the Jewish experience from antiquity to modernity, with incorporated perspectives of relevant religious and national groups. A more in-depth look will be taken at the modern state of Israel and current issues in its society, politics, geography, and foreign policy. Topics range from political structure and parties to current state and local politics, divisions in Israeli society, religion and politics, Arabs in Israel, the Arab/Israeli conflict, army life, and more.

In order to gain multiple perspectives, students will read scholarly materials but will also regularly read electronic Israeli press in English and will submit written responses to two articles weekly. Classes will be devoted to specific topics, however, current issues will be dealt with regularly.

Texts (Chapters and parts from):
- Dan Horowitz and Moshe Lissak, *Trouble in Utopia: The Overburdened Polity of Israel*.

Suggested Sources for articles:
- *HaAretz*, English Edition at www.haaretzdaily.com or in Hebrew at www.haaretz.co.il
- *The Jerusalem Post* at www.jpost.com
- *The Jerusalem Report*
- *Israel-related selections from The New York Times*
- *Jewish Virtual Library*

Course Requirements:
- All students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions and activities.
- Students will submit two responses each week to articles concerning current events in Israel. There will be a midterm and a final exam testing absorption and understanding of concepts taught in class, as well as a 12-15 page research paper developing a topic of interest related to the course.
- Students will be required to screen 3 films and submit a one-page review of each film. These will be due at the end of the semester. Films will be on reserve in the Olin Library.

Composition of Final Grade:
- class attendance/participation 10%
- responses 20%
- mid-term exam 20%
- final exam 20%
Week 1: Introduction
Wed. August 30th - Class # 1: Welcome to Introduction to Israel Studies (Professor Nachmias)
• Brief “What do you know about Israel” quiz
• Discuss class’ answers
• Review syllabus

Fri. September 1st - Class # 2: Discussion Section
• Discussion of current situation in Lebanon
• If we have time:
  o Overview of the timeline of ancient history, focus on population shifts, impacts of different religions and groups that came through
  o Crash course on the different religions that have ties to Israel - holiest sites for each religion and why Israel is important to them

Course Packet:

Week 2: Ancient History of Israel
Mon. September 4: Labor Day – no class

Wed. September 6th - Class # 3: Lecture (Professor Barmash)
• Touch on Pre-Israelite Canaan/Palestine/Syria
• Biblical Israel through Roman times and Jewish Exile
  1. Settlement period
  2. Relationship to land of Israel during Babylonian Exile and Second Temple Period

Course Packet:
1. Peter Machinist: “Outsiders or Insiders” in The Other in Jewish Thought
2. Ancient Israel Chapters 3 and 8

Fri. September 8th - Class # 4: Discussion Section
• Discuss reading and material covered in class
• Hold a discussion on exile – meaning and consequences for Jewish people and land of Palestine

Week 3: Ancient History of Israel (continued)
Mon. September 11th - Class # 5: Continuation of Ancient History Lecture (Professor Victor LeVine)
• Pharonic Times to Modern Times: The Shifting of the Center of Political Gravity in the Middle East

Course Packet:
• Reading selected by Professor Le Vine

Wed. September 13th - Class # 6: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)
• Review and discuss ideas and history presented by Professor Le Vine

** indicates mandatory reading
Fri. September 15th - Class # 7: Discussion Section
- Discuss readings
- Correlate events to timeline and discuss the progression, fill in/relate to other important events of the time period
- Discuss emergence and significance of Diaspora, life in Diaspora (changes that occurred in religious practice, how exile changed Jewish life
- Wrap up ancient history, answer any questions
- Start the transition to “modern history” by over-viewing the timeline

Week 4: Modern History of Israel
Mon. September 18th - Class # 8: Speaker - expert on the history of Zionism (Professor Kieval)
- Different movements
- Herzl and the origins of Zionism
- What does the word Zionism really represent and what has it come to represent in modern times
- Alternatives to Zionism (ex: dissents made by certain communities, matters of debate regarding Zionist movements)

Course Packet:
1. Leon Pinsker: Auto-Emancipation (1882)**
2. The Bilu: Manifesto (1882)**
3. Theodor Herzl, A Solution of the Jewish Question (1896)**
4. Rabbi Zadok HaCohen Rabinowitz: The Zionists are not our Saviors (1900)**
5. The Mizrahi: Manifesto (1902)**
6. Max Nordau: Jewry of Muscle (1903)**
7. Agudat Israel: Founding Program (1912)**
8. Ha-Shomer Ha-Zair: Our World View (1917)**

Wed. September 20th - Class # 9: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)
- WWI and British Mandate (and different plans to reconcile Jewish immigration), basics of Zionism, Zionist Congresses, Uganda, different waves of Aliyah, organization of Yishuv. Major events that set Israel’s statehood into motion
- Discuss the ideas and tenets upon which Israel was conceived and founded
- Discuss the beginnings of Jewish acquisition of land in Israel and obstacles encountered
- Discuss beginnings of conflict with Palestine’s Arabs

Reading: Laqueur, A History of Zionism, Chaps.3-5

Course Packet:
Jewish National Fund, Wikipedia
www.kkl.org.il

1. The First Zionist Congress: The Basle Program (1897)**

** indicates mandatory reading
2. Seventh Zionism Congress: Anti-Uganda Resolution (1905)**
3. The Balfour Declaration (Nov. 2, 1917)**
5. The Council of the League of Nations: Mandate for Palestine (1922)**

**Fri. September 22nd - Class # 10: Discussion Section**
- Discuss Palestine as far as population numbers and demographics: affect of Jewish immigration and the process of acquiring land and building infrastructure on the land and the people occupying it at the time
- Discuss diaspora Jewry leading up to WWII – Dreyfus trial, pogroms, the literature written about the creation of a Jewish state

**Course Packet:**
Burns, Michael, *France and the Dreyfus Affair, New York: St. Martin’s, 2000*

**Week 5: Modern History of Israel (continued)**

**Mon. September 25th - Class # 11: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)**
- Steps towards statehood – UN partition plan
- Introduction to the “War of Independence”¹
- Reactions of the world
- Start discussion of Israel as a state, what kind of infrastructure, government, etc. was put into place, law of return..

**Course Packet:**
Laqueur, A History of Zionism, Chaps. 6-11
1. The Peel (Royal Commission) Report: Conclusions (1937)**
2. David Ben Gurion: On the Arab Question (1937)**
4. Towards a Jewish State: The Biltmore Program (1942)**
5. Ha-Shomer Ha-Zair: The Case for a Bi-National Palestine (1945)**
6. Pact of the Arab League (1945)**
7. The Arab Office: The Arab Case for Palestine (March 1946)**
8. Moshe Shertok (Sharett): Bi-Nationalism is Unworkable (1947)**
10. Proclamation of the State of Israel (May 14, 1948)**
11. UN General Assembly Resolution 194: Return of Refugees (1948)**

**Wed. September 27th - Class # 12: Discussion Section**
- Israel and the Holocaust: affect on Israeli identity, reactions to Holocaust among Israelis (second and third generation) ;David Grossman
- Discuss formation of the state of Israel and review material

¹ Will be discussed more in depth during week 11

** indicates mandatory reading
**Fri. September 29th - Class # 13: Israel and the Holocaust (Professor Brown)**
- Discuss influence of Holocaust on Jewish, world thought (and action) about creation of “Jewish homeland”

**Course Packet:**
Laqueur, A History of Zionism, Chap.10
1. David Grossman’s *See Under Love* (excerpts)**

**Week 6: Israeli Geography**
*Mon. October 2nd – Yom Kippur, no class*

*Wed. October 4th - Class # 14: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*
- Overview of Israel’s geography, geo-politics
- Natural resources
- Regions, economy, social groups, cultural variations

**Course Packet:**
Asher Arian, *Politics in Israel*, Chaps1-3

**Fri. October 6th - Class # 15: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)**
- Discuss policies for population of Negev, Galil
- Settlements: creation, purposes and outcomes
- Meaning of “annexed” lands
- Discuss how geography affects relations between Israel and neighboring countries

**Course Packet:**
*Israeli Settlement, Wikipedia.*

**Week 7: Arab Nations and Israel**
*Mon. October 9th - Class # 16: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)*
- Israel and its neighbors in the Arab world (Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Iran, etc.) – discuss interactions and those nations (and their governments’) attitudes and actions towards Israel
- Palestinians and connections to, origins in surrounding lands

**Course Packet:**

*Wed. October 11th - Class # 17: Speaker – expert on terrorist groups of the Middle East (Professor Bueno De Mesquita)*
- Go through and discuss the various terrorist groups that target Israel
- What are their aims, who are their sponsors, what role do they play in the countries in which they operate, etc.
- The security fence

** indicates mandatory reading
Fri. October 13th - Class # 18: Discussion Section
- Why are the Middle East countries so concerned with Israel?
- Discuss a little more about the security fence
- Discuss Israel’s relations with other countries outside the Middle East – the U.S, Russia, Europe.
- Arabs in Israel

Course Packet:

Week 8: Discussion of Israeli Historiography/Social-economic-ethnic cleavages
Mon. October 16th - Class # 19: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)
- Discuss different sources of Israeli history…issues encountered in recording Israeli history
- Mention historical revisionism, new historians

Course Packet:
2. Horowitz and Lissak, Trouble in Utopia, Chaps. 3 and 6
3. Arian, Chap.12

Wed. October 18th - Class # 20: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)
- Social cleavages
- Cleavages, politics, and public policies

Reading:
1. Arian, Chaps, 4, 5 and 8

Fri. October 20th – fall break, no class

Week 9: Religions of Israel
Mon. October 23rd - Class # 21: Speaker – Scholar on Muslims and Israel
- Discuss the religion’s ties specifically and offer more insight, answer questions

Course Packet: reading selected by lecturer

Wed. October 25th – Class # 22: Speaker – Scholar on Jews and Israel (Dr. Shveka)
- Discuss the religion’s ties specifically and offer more insight, answer questions

Course Packet: reading selected by Dr. Shveka

Fri. October 27th - Class # 23: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)
- Islam, Judaism, and Christianity in modern Israel, what are the influences that keep the people tied to the land

Course Packet:

** indicates mandatory reading
Week 10: Peoples of Israel
Mon. October 30th - Class # 24: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)
- Who are modern Israelis – Russians, Ethiopians, the religious population segment, etc.
- Who are Palestinians
- Talk about other demographic groups in Israel (Druze, Bedouins, etc.)
Reading: Arian, Chap. 2)**

Course Packet:

Wed. November 1st - Class # 25: Speaker – Israeli Culture and interaction within the diversity (Professor Berg)
Course Packet: reading selected by Professor Berg

Fri. November 3rd - Class # 26: Speaker – expert on the Palestinian people
- Who exactly are Palestinians, when did they settle in Israel, Palestinian refugees
Course Packet:
1. reading selected by lecturer
2. Arian, Politics in Israel, pp.42-47

Week 11: Israeli Politics and Governance
Mon. November 6th - Class # 27: Speaker (Professor Itai Sened)
Reading: Arian, Politics in Israel.

Wed. November 8th - Class # 28: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)
- Political elites,
- Elections and coalitions
- Different political parties

Reading: Arian, Politics in Israel, Chapters 4-7 and 9

Fri. November 10th - Class # 29: Discussion
- Political trends in Israel in recent years
  - Current events and political trends and leaders
Reading: Horowitz and Lissak, Trouble in Utopia, Chap.6)

** indicates mandatory reading
Week 12: Jerusalem
Mon. November 13th - Class # 30: Lecture (Professor Barmash)

- Jerusalem as capital city and contested metropolis
- Review holy sites in Jerusalem and their history
- Discuss different claims to the city, city’s role in peace negotiations

Course Packet: reading selected by lecturer

Wed. November 15th - Class # 31: National Security Lecture (Professor Nachmias)

- IDF
- Military, politics and decision-making

Course Packet:
Horowitz and Lissak, Chap. 5
Arian, Politics in Israel, pp.324-336.
Gal, Reuven. Portrait of an Israeli Soldier.**

Fri. November 17th - Class # 32: Speaker – expert on the IDF

- Touch briefly on different wars.
- Discuss recent military conflicts and interactions (Jenin, Gaza Withdrawal, Bulldozing of homes, weapon smuggling tunnels, etc.) and give insight into how these operations are planned, executed, why, and their success

Course Packet: reading selected by lecturer

Week 13: Israeli Defense Forces (continued)
Mon. November 20th - Class # 33: Discussion

- Go in depth about each war with maps, statistics, etc.
- Discuss the wars – who, where, when, why, how, outcomes, repercussions, consequences
- Lead into topic of peace negotiations

Course Packet:

Thanksgiving Break

Week 14: Continuation of discussion of Israeli Wars/Discussion of Peace Negotiations
Mon. November 27th - Class # 34: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)

- Discuss the different wars, how they changed the dynamics of Israel’s relationship with Arab countries, of its position of the world, and of the country in general
- Examine the intended and the unintended consequences of each war

Course Packet:

** indicates mandatory reading
4. Hanoch Bartov: The Eve of the October 1973 War**
5. Motti Ashkenazi: Protest Movements in the Aftermath of the October 1973 War**

**Wed. November 29th - Class # 35: Lecture (Professor Nachmias)**
1. Peace Agreements –
2. Discuss what was on the table each time – concessions, risks, etc.

**Course Packet:**
2. The Peace Process, Jewish Virtual Library

**Fri. December 1st - Class # 36: Speaker – expert on peace negotiations (Professor Victor Le Vine)**
- In-depth analysis of each agreement: what worked, what didn’t
- Discuss “hot topics” like “right of return”

**Week 15: Current Events/Wrap Up**
**Mon. December 4th - Class # 37: Lecture**
- Israel’s interaction with the world, media, life in Israel today

**Wed. December 6th - Class # 38: Speakers – What it’s like to be a Palestinian, What it’s like to be an Israeli**
- Talk about every day life, their take on their country, how they feel about what’s going on, what are the greatest threats to their people/country in their eyes.
- Personal perspectives

**Fri. December 8th - Class # 39: Wrap Up**
- Review overarching themes

Final Exam: Thursday, December 21, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

** indicates mandatory reading