History 370
History of Modern Israel
Spring 1999

Dr. Kenneth W. Stein
121 Bowden Hall
T-Th 11:30am - 12:45pm
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Office hours: Tuesday 10-11pm, Thursday, 1:30-2:30-pm

Course Description: This undergraduate lecture course will review the history of modern Israel from the inception of Zionism to the present. The four periods of study will be the ideological formations (to 1917), Zionist autonomy in Palestine (to 1948), the problems and successes of sovereignty (to 1977) and the quest for identity and normalization (to the present). Issues to be discussed will include the structure of the old and new Yishuv, immigrations to Eretz Yisrael, British rule in Palestine, Arab-Israel wars, relationships with the great powers, sociological associations and cleavages, Israeli literature, Israel-Diaspora relations, religion and state policy interaction, the political and economic systems, constitutional issues, Arab-Israeli wars and the peace process with Arab neighbors.

Grading: There will be a mid-term and a final examination. However, students may write a 10 page paper to satisfy the writing requirement. Papers are due the last day of class. If students opt to write a paper, then the two examinations and paper will each count one-third of the final grade. If students choose only to take the examinations, grading will be based upon one-third for the mid-term and two-thirds for the final. Students must announce their intentions to write a paper in a written note to the professor by February 5, 1999.

The mid-term examination will be held on Tuesday, March 16, 1999 during class period. Please bring one large blue book to the examination. Do not write on the blue book. Be sure it is a large blue book.

The final examination will be held on Monday, May 3, 1999 from 4:30-7:00pm. Please bring two large blue books to the examination. Do not write on the blue books. Be sure you bring two large blue books.

Students are expected to do all the readings assigned here, both the required texts and reserve readings. Students should complete the reading for a particular week prior to the week's assignments.

For your interest and individual viewing, Tkuma, a six part video (VCR) produced for Israel's 50th anniversary celebration is available from me on request. These six videos are the best pictorial history of Israel's origins, evolution, and present state of affairs. Each video is 55 minutes in length.

Required texts:


*Indicates assigned articles are at the reserve desk in Woodruff Library.

Class assignments:

January 14 - first day of class, orientation, syllabus distribution, and course overview

Week of January 18 - Origins of Zionism and the Old Yishuv in Eretz Yisrael


Week of January 25 - Zionists, the Balfour Declaration and World War I


Week of February 1 - The Palestine Mandate and the New Yishuv - 1920-1939
Gilbert, Martin. *Israel: A History*, pp. 3-81.


**Week of February 8 - The Palestine Mandate, the British, and the Arabs - 1939-1945**

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel: A History*, pp. 82-120.
Laqueur, Walter B. *A History of Zionism From the French Revolution to the Establishment of Israel*, pp. 338-383; 505-563,


**Week of February 15 - The end of the Mandate: illegal immigration, the United Nations, Israel's establishment, and war of independence, 1945-1949**

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel: A History*, pp. 121-249.


**Week of February 22 - The Israeli Political System**

Week of March 1 - Israeli Foreign Affairs, 1949-1967


Week of March 8 - Spring Break

Week of March 15 - The Arab-Israeli war of 1967 and Its Diplomatic Aftermath

March 16 - Mid-term Examination


Supplemental lecture - Ilan Segev, Consul of Israel to the Southeast, “Israel and the Arab World," 3pm White Hall (TBA)

Week of March 29 - Israeli society and culture I


April 1 - no class, Passover holiday

Week of April 5 - Israeli society and culture II

April 6 - Guest lecture, Professor Shalom Goldman, “Modern Israeli Literature: Trends and Reflections."
Alter, Robert, Modern Hebrew Literature, Behrman House, 1975. (all)

**Week of April 12 - Israeli Foreign Affairs, 1977-1999 - Patterns of Normalization**


**Week of April 19 - Israel in the 21st Century**

**April 22** - last day of class

**May 3, 1999** - Final Examination, 4:30-7:00pm