History of Zionism and the State of Israel

Dr. Avi Picard

Israel is the outcome of an ideological movement that creates a community, which became a state. The movement, the community and the state will be the aims of this course.

Course description

The course will offer a historical introduction accompanied by a sociological analysis of the Zionist movement, the early settlement or 'Yishuv' and the first 50 years of the State of Israel. The first part of the course will be devoted to the emergence of Zionism, the ideologies of its early leaders, and the relationship of the Yishuv to internal Zionist debates and external powers. In the second part of the course, we will discuss The creation of the State; the Arab-Israeli conflict; the political system; the mass immigration and the ethnic gap; and relations with the Arab minority and the question of Identity.

Requirements:

Attendance: Students must attend all classes. Class attendance is recorded. Student with more than four unexcused absences will have there final grade lowered.

Participation: Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings as well as current events concerning Israel. Questions, discussion and debate during class are strongly encouraged.

Midterm Exam: The in-class, mid-term exam will consist of short-answer questions (multiple choice, true/false, explain the terms, etc.) based upon the topic we have covered up to that point.

Final quiz: Like the midterm exam, based upon all the semester’s topics. The purpose of those exams is to check student’s reading, knowledge and understanding of the course materials.

Research Paper: Student will choose a subject to research and write about. The subject and the research question must be approved by me. The paper should be based upon at least 5 scholarly sources and should be approximately 10 pages, written according to proper academic rules. The purpose of this paper is to practice your writing skills and to specialize in one subject.

Grading:

Attendance – 10%
Participation – 10%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam – 30%
Required Bibliography

Alan Dowty, The Jewish State – A century later, California UP, Berkeley, 2001
Topics and reading

Part 1 - Zionism

1. Why did the National Jewish movement emerge?
The state of the Jews by the 1800’s: Emancipation, Enlightenment and Anti-Semitism
Laquer, Pp. 3-39; Pp. 56-70.

2. Non-national solutions and first attempts for Nationalism
Assimilation, Integration, Immigration, Revolutionism, Nationalism; The movement of Lover of Zion (Hibat Zion) and the first Aliyah.
Sachar, Pp. 13-35

3. “At Basel I founded the Jewish state”
Hertzel and his opponents; Socialist Zionism and the Second Aliyah
Sachar, Pp.36-64; Laqueur, Pp. 270-295.
Background: Shlomo Avineri, The making of modern Zionism, Ch. 9 Pp. 88-100;

4. the land which was promised three times.
World War 1 and the Balfur Declaration and other agreements.
Sachar, Pp. 89-115

5. The triangle
British – Arabs – Jews between the world wars.

6. Hyper political society
The national home and it’s internal developments.

7. The seventh Million
Part 2 – Israel

8. The war of independence.
Sachar, Pp. 315-347.

9. A nation in uniform
Gilbert, Pp. 306-328; 384-461

10. From dominant party to a two system party
:Israeli political arena: 1949-2006

11. War and peace
Gilbert, Pp. 496-619.

12. A Jewish state or a state of all its citizen
Israel and it’s Arab minority; Post Zionism and Israel identity.

13. A tribal society
Immigration and ethnicity; Israel and the Jewish diaspora
Sachar, Pp. 395-428; Pp. 714-739

14. Religion versus secularity
Church and State in Israel
Dowty, Pp. 159-183.