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 on 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


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


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

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

Reading

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

Reading

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

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

Reading

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

Reading
1. Tessler, pp. 246-264.

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

Reading

23 February: The first decade: state building.
Reading
1. Sachar, pp. 354-382

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

2 March; The Arabs in Israel.
Reading
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.

9 March; The June 1967 war (the Six Day War) and its impact on the Israeli society.
Reading
2. Sachar, pp. 673-682; 702-713.

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

15-20 March; Spring Break
23 March; The October 1973 (Yom Kippur) War and its consequences (part II).

**Reading**

OR


**Reading**

30 March: No class.

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

**Reading**
1. Sachar, pp. 897-920.

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

**Reading**

8 April; Structural and social changes: the Russian immigrants

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

OR


13 April; Structural and social changes: the Kibbutz movement
Reading

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

20 April; The first Intifada.
Reading

20 April, Last day for submission of final papers.

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

27 April; The Israeli-Jordanian Peace Treaty.
Reading

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

4 May; The second Intifada: the Islamic growing influence.
Reading
No. 2, Fall 2003, pp. 1-30.

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

**Reading**