Description: This course will offer an introduction to modern Israeli history. We will use as our starting point the first Zionist waves of immigration to Palestine in the late 19th Century, and we will carry on into the early decades of the State of Israel. We will explore such themes as: government, politics, migration, the experiences and influences of various population groups, social and cultural institutions and the Israel-Arab conflict. Emphasis will be placed on class discussion, critical thought and rigorous readings of historiographical material. The principle aim of the course is for the student to come away with a familiarity with - and critical understanding of - central dates, terms, events and debates that form a basis of modern Israeli history.

Teaching Method: The sessions will be comprised of a lecture which will then be followed by class discussion based on a critical reading of the weekly assignments.

Requirements and Evaluation:
Class attendance and participation: 17%
Weekly responses to readings: 18%
Response paper on Beaufort: 25%
Mid-term exam: 15%
Response paper on Table for One: 25%

Weekly reading responses:
• Must not exceed one page
• Identify the central argument / idea of the article
• These reading notes are meant to help you prepare for class by allowing you to reflect on the texts discussed.
• Grading: 1, 0.5 or 0.
• Must be submitted at the start of every class
• You may not submit responses for classes that you do not attend, unless it is an excused absence (documented illness or Emergency Dean), in which case the response will be due in the next class.
• Late submissions will not be read, and will receive a mark of 0
• You only need to submit 18 responses. That is: you are permitted to miss two responses.
• On days where there are two reading assignments, your one response should engage with the two articles.

Office Hours: My office hours are Thurs. (11:00-12:15), and by appointment. If you are not able to come to my office hours, you are welcome to contact me by e-mail to set up an appointment for an individual meeting. My office is located in room 105, The Cohen Center for Jewish Life, 503 E. John St.
E-mail: E-mail does not replace office hours nor should you expect immediate, long, detailed responses to your questions. If you have a question, raise it in class, during office hours, or during an individual meeting with the instructor.

Attendance and Missed Class: It is your responsibility to come to class. If, for some reason, you are unable to attend a class it is your responsibility to get a hold of missed lecture notes (and all material discussed in class, including changes made to the syllabus, work assignments and all other announcements) from your classmates. The only excused absences are those that have a note from the Emergency Dean.

Mobile phones and Computer Policy: No laptops, cell phones, or similar electronic devices are allowed to be used in class.

Disability Policy: If you have a physical or mental disability, either hidden or visible, which may require classroom, test-taking or other reasonable modifications, please see me as soon as possible.

Reading Material: All reading is mandatory. Course packets containing all of the reading material can be purchased at Notes-n-Quotes, 502 E. John St. Champaign. You must bring the reading packet with you to each class.

In addition to the course packets you are required to read:


Both of these books can be purchased at the Illini Union Bookstore on Wright St.
Schedule

Week 1:

Aug. 23: Introduction

Aug. 25: Palestine before Zionism

Week 2:

Aug. 30: Zionism


Sept. 1: The First and Second Aliyot (1882-1914)


Week 3:

Sept. 6: Beaufort paper preparation class.

Sept. 8: World War I and the Third Aliya

Submission deadline: papers on Beaufort.
Week 4:

Sept. 13: Visit with author Ron Leshem

Sept 15: The Fourth and Fifth Aliyot (1918-1939)

Week 5:

Sept 20:
The Beginning of the Conflict (1918-1939)

Sept. 22: World War II

Screening of documentary ‘Pillar of Fire’ episode 14

Week 6:

Sept 27: Anticipating Statehood

Sept. 29: No class (Jewish New Year)
Week 7:

Oct. 4: War and Statehood (1947-1948)

Oct. 6: The Palestinian Refugees and Arab Citizens of Israel

and


Week 8:

Oct. 11: Exam.

Week 9:


**Oct. 20: The Sinai War (1956)**


and

Chapter 9. Shimon Peres. ‘The Road to Sèvres: Franco-Israeli Strategic Cooperation’

Week 10:


Hanna Yablonka. ‘The Development of Holocaust Consciousness in Israel: The Nuremberg, Kapos, Kastner, and Eichmann Trials’ *Israel Studies - Volume 8, Number 3, Fall 2003, pp. 1-24*

In-class screening and discussion:
Witnesses at the Eichmann Trial.
(Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive)

**Oct. 27: The ‘Mizrahim’**


Week 11:

**Nov. 1: The Six Day War (1967)**

*Time Magazine*. ‘Middle East: The Quickest War’ June 16, 1967

Paul Celan ‘Denk Der’ (Think of It)

**Nov. 3: Culture and Society**

Week 12:

Nov. 8: The Yom Kippur War and its Aftermath (1973)

Nov. 10: ’The Upheaval’ (1977)
Statement to the Knesset by Menachem Begin Nov. 20, 1977
Statement to the Knesset by President Sadat Nov. 20, 1977

Week 13:

Nov. 15: Lebanon and its legacy (1982)

In class screening: Waltz with Bashir

Nov. 17: After Lebanon / Epilogue

Submission deadline: *A Table for One* papers.

- Thanksgiving Break -

Week 14:

Nov. 29: Appelfeld: Culture and Society

Dec. 1: Appelfeld: People and Religion

Week 15:

Dec. 6: Appelfeld: War
Resources for academic writing

Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL) : http://owl.english.purdue.edu/

Illinois library ‘How Do I?’ guide for research and writing:
http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/howdoi/how.html

Plagiarism Policy:

UIUC Department of History, Plagiarism Policy:
http://www.history.illinois.edu/courses/plagiarism/