Description
Israeli history is highly contested. History plays a role in legitimizing the positions of the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, but it also serves as the background of major controversies within Israeli society. Studying Israeli history therefore offers a chance to explore the contribution and impact, the problems and pitfalls, of writing history in a multi-ethnic and complex society where the past really matters.

In recent decades, historians and social scientists have produced a large body of studies dealing with the history of the mandatory era and the early state period, moving from more traditional fields such as military and diplomatic history to new territories ranging from the legal history to the study of everyday life or governnmentality. This seminar will explore some of the recent debates and trends in Israeli historiography. Among the topics that will be discussed are the 1948 war and the new historians; Critical sociology and class, gender and ethnic conflicts; Zionism, Colonialism and Orientalism; The formation of the Israeli identity and of the Israeli state; Histories of Jewish-Arab relations and civil rights discourse in the 1950s; Memory and representation; Consumption, hygiene and the body.

Course requirements
1. Attendance and active participation in class discussions are essential.

2. A weekly written summary of one of the required readings due at each class session. The length of the summary should be approximately 1-2 pages. Students will be required to submit 5 summaries.

3. Depending on enrollment, students will be asked to participate in one or two debates/presentations based on the required reading.

4. The major written assignment will be a 10-15 page long research paper to be submitted at the end of the course (December 1, 2009). Paper topics must be approved by me. The topic should be chosen by the third week of the course (October 13, 2009).

5 Grades will be based on class participation (30%), discussion papers (20%), and final paper (50%).
Syllabus
[Note: the dates are tentative and depend on the pace of discussion in class]

Readings:

2. October 6, 2009: Histories of Class and Ethnic Conflict
Readings:

   Debate I: Mizrahi Jews and Zionism (Shohat v. Tsur)

3. October 13, 2009: Colonialism, Orientalism and Zionism
Readings:


**Paper Topic:** Please submit (by 10/13 at 10:00am) a one page description of your paper topic, including a brief bibliography. You can send the description by email (likhovski@law.ucla.edu).

4. October 20, 2009: The Formation of Israeli Identity

**Readings:**


5. October 27, 2009: The Early Israeli State: Culture and Governmentality

**Readings**


H.C. 10/49 Zeev v. Acting District Commissioner of the Urban Area of Tel Aviv, *Selected Judgements of the Supreme Court of Israel* 68-75.
H.C. 73/53 Kol Haam Co. Ltd. v. Ministry of the Interior, 1 Selected Judgements of the Supreme Court of Israel 90-121.


7. November 10, 2009: Land in 1950s Israel
Readings


Debate II: Law and Power in the 1950s (Kedar v. Holzman-Gazit)

8. November 17, 2009: Memory and Representation
Readings:


**Debate III: Israel and the Memory of the Holocaust in the 1950s (Shapira v. Zertal)**


**Readings:**


10. December 1, 2009: Body and Hygiene

**Readings:**


Some Additional Materials

**General Surveys**


1. The 1948 War and the New Historians


2. Histories of Class and Ethnic Conflict


3. Colonialism, Orientalism and Zionism


4. The Formation of Israeli Identity


5. The Early Israeli State: Culture and Governmentality


6. Individualism and Rights Discourse in the 1950s


7. Land in 1950s Israel


8. Memory and Representation


9. Consumption and the History of Everyday Life


10. Body and Hygiene
