

Tulane University
Department of History and the Jewish Studies Program

Origins of the State of Israel

JWST 481.01
HISM 698-02
Seminar: Spring 2009
(T 4-6:30)

Instructor: Dr. Moshe Naor
Office Hours: Thursday, 2-4, Alcee Fortier Hall 202
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Course Description

The seminar will examine the social, economic and political development of the Jewish community in Palestine (The Yishuv) from the beginnings of the Zionist movement in the early 1880s until the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. The course will discuss the history of the Yishuv as a process of nation building. We will focus on political organization, immigration, urbanization, security and military affairs, the struggle for economic autonomy, education, culture, and leisure. We will also examine the relationship of the Yishuv with the Palestinian Arabs, the British mandatory government, and the Jewish World.

Grading

- Five-page book review, which has to complete by week seven (20%)
- Oral presentation on an article from the required bibliography (15%)
- Final Paper (50%)
- Attendance and participation (15%)

Course Topics and Readings

Week 1 (Jan.13)

Zionism and Historiography

Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State*, New York: Basic Books, 1981, pp.3-13.

Hedva Ben-Israel, "Zionism and European Nationalism: Comparative Aspects", *Israel Studies*, 8 (2003), pp.91-104.

Derek J. Penslar, "Beyond Revisionism: Current Directions in Israeli Historiography", *Israel in History*, London and New York: Routledge, 2007, 25-50.

Week 2 (Jan.20)

Immigrants and the Creation of the "New Yishuv"

Israel Bartal, "'Old Yishuv' and 'New Yishuv': Image and Reality", *The Jerusalem Cathedra*, 1 (1981), 215-231.

Derek J. Penslar, "Is Zionism a colonial movement", *Israel in History*, London and New York: Routledge, 2007, 90-111.

Arieh Saposnik, "Will Issue Forth from Zion"? The Emergence of a Jewish National Culture in Palestine and the Dynamics of Yishuv-Diaspora Relations", *Jewish Social Studies*, 10/1 (2003), 151-184

Week 3 (Jan.27)

Pioneers and the Conquest of land and Labor

Gur Alroey, "Journey to Early-Twentieth-Century Palestine as a Jewish Immigrant Experience", *Jewish Social Studies*, 9(2003), pp.28-64.

Ben Halpern and Jehuda Reinharz, "The Cultural and Social background of the Second Aliyah", *Middle Eastern Studies*, 27/3 (1991), 487-517.

Anita Shapira, "Gedud ha-Avodah: a dream that failed", *Jerusalem Quarterly*, 30 (1984), 62-76.

Week 4 (Feb.3)

Political Communities under British Mandate

Gabriel Sheffer, "British Colonial Policy-Making towards Palestine (1929-1939)", *Middle Eastern Studies*, 14/3 (1978), 307-322.

Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*, Boston 2006, 31-64.

Dan Horowitz and Moshe Lissak, *Origins of the Israeli Polity: Palestine under the Mandate*, University of Chicago Press, 157-185.

Week 5 (Feb.10)

Jewish-Arab Relations in Mandatory Palestine

Yosef Gorni, *Zionism and the Arabs*, Clarendon Press, 1987, 11-77

Avraham Sela, "The Wailing Wall Riots (1929) as a watershed in the Palestine Conflict", *Muslim World*, 84 (1994), 60-94.

Israel Kolatt, "The Zionist Movement and the Arabs", *Essential Papers on Zionism*, 617-647.

Deborah S. Bernstein, *Constructing Boundaries: Jewish and Arab Workers in Mandatory Palestine*, State University of New York Press, 2000, PP.1-47.

Week 6 (Feb.17)

Between the Iron Wall to the Binational State

Shlomo Avineri, "Jabotinsky: Integralist Nationalism and the Illusion of Power", *The Making of Modern Zionism State*, pp.159-186.

Yaakov Shavit, "Fire and Water: Ze'ev Jabotinsky and Revisionist Movement", *Essential Papers on Zionism*, pp.544-566.

Yfaat Weiss, "Central European Ethnonationalism and Zionist Binationalism", *Jewish Social Studies*, 11/1 (2004), 93-117.

Hagit Lavsky, "German Zionists and the Emergence of Brit Shalom", *Essential Papers on Zionism*, pp.648-670.

Week 7 (March.3)

The Labor movement way for Hegemony

Zeev Sternhell, *The Founding Myths of Israel: Nationalism, Socialism, and the Making of the Jewish State*, Princeton University Press, 1998, pp.3-46.

Shlomo Avineri, "Ben-Gurion: The Vision and Power", *The Making of Modern Zionism State*, .198-216..

Gideon Shimoni, *The Zionist Ideology*, pp.166-235.

Week 8 (March.10)

The New Jew: Culture, Education and Nation Building

Anat Helman, "Even the Dogs in the Street Bark in Hebrew: National Ideology and Everday Culture in Tel Aviv", *The Jewish Quarterly Review*, 92 (2002), pp.359-382.

Avraham Shapira, "Spiritual Rootlessness and Circumscription to the 'Here and Now' in the Sabra World View", Dan Urina and Efraim Karsh (eds.), *In Search for Identity: Jewish Aspects in Israel Culture*, London and Portland: Frank Cass, 1999, pp.103-131.

Anita Shapira, "Native Sons", *Essential Papers on Zionism*, pp.790-821.

Anita Shapira, "The Fashioning of the 'New Jew' in the Yishuv Society", *Major Changes Within the Jewish People in the Wake of the Holocaust*, Jerusalem: Yad Vashem, 1996, pp.427-441.

Week 9 (March, 17)

Books Review Presentations

Week 10 (March.31)

Zionism and the use of force

Anita Shapira, *Land and Power*, pp.277-352.

Uri Ben-Eliezer, *The Making of Israeli Militarism*, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1998, pp.65-94

Week 11 (April. 14)

Documentary Film: *Children of the Sun*, director: Ran Tal, Israel 2008

Week 12 (April.21)

The Yishuv and the Holocaust

Yechiam Weitz, "The Yishuv's Response to the Destruction of European Jewry, 1942-1943", *Studies in Zionism*, 8 (1987), pp.211-222.

Dina Porat, "Ben-Gurion and the Holocaust", in: Ronald Zweig (ed.), *David Ben-Gurion: Politics and leadership in Israel*, London, 1991, 145-170.

Hanna Yablonka, "The Development of Holocaust Consciousness in Israel: the Nuremberg, Kapos, Kastner and Eichmann Trials", *Israel Studies*, 8 (2003), 1-24.

Week 13 (April.28)

The End of the British Mandate and the transition from Community to State

Aviva Halamish, "Illegal Immigration: Values, Myth and Reality", *Studies in Zionism*, 9/1 (1988), 47-62..

Michael J. Cohen, "The Zionist Perspective", Roger Louis and Robert W. Stookey (eds.), *The End of the Palestine Mandate*, London 1986, pp.79-103.

Jehuda Reinharz, "The Transition from Yishuv to State: Social and Ideological Changes", Laurence J. Silberstein (ed.), *New Perspectives on Israeli History: The Early Years of the State*, New York and London: New York University Press, 1991, pp.27-41.