Zionism and Contemporary Israeli Society

I Introduction: Israel as a Jewish State – Reality, History and Ideology

Secondary Reading:


- or -


II Zionism: Visions and Ideology

Topics:

A. The Normalization of World Jewry in Herzl's Vision of a Jewish State
B. Ahad Ha'am's Vision of the Land of Israel as a Jewish Cultural Center
C. A.D. Gordon's Philosophy of Man, Nature and Homeland
D. Martin Buber's Dream of the Jewish Homeland as a 'Light Unto The Nations'
E. Nahman Syrkin's Conceptions of Socialism and the Future Jewish State

Primary Readings for Part II (in order of topics):


*Secondary Readings* (for Part II):


Shimoni, p. 104 – 112.


Shimoni, p. 170 – 177.

**III Social, Cultural and Political Realities in Contemporary Israel**

Topics:

A. Religion and Culture

B. Identity and Education

C. Ethnic Diversity and Social Justice

D. Israel and the Jewish People

E. Israel, the Mid-East and the World

*Secondary Reading* for Part III:


Gabriel Sheffer, "The Israelis and the Jewish Diaspora", *Jews in Israel*, p. 419 – 444.

### III Conclusion: Contemporary Israel in the Context of Zionist Ideology – A Look to the Future

*** Photocopy to be distributed in the course of the semester

#### Course obligations:

A – readings

B – active class participation