

Modern Israel

Spring 2006 MAP V55.0537
Monday/Wednesday 4:55pm
Silver 207

Contents:

1. Academic Guidelines for Students, MAP, College of Arts and Science
2. Things you need to know for the Modern Israel course and Additional Resources
3. Course Outline and Reading List

2. Things you need to know about the course

Reading material:

The books by Howard Sachar and Benny Morris are available in every major bookstore, Amazon and other online vendors and second hand bookstores as well. You can pick up cheap copies in many places. They will also soon be available in the NYU Bookstore. (Don't blame the bookstore staff if they don't have enough copies – it is my fault.)

The relevant chapters of the Rebhun/Waxman book will be available on Blackboard as the course progresses. The books by Mahler and Kimmerling are available from the online from the major vendors. They will also be available at the NYU bookstore soon. They are not necessary for the first month of lectures

The other books are available in Bobst on reserve. Articles and some chapters of books will be made available on Blackboard.

The reading of at least one item on the list for each lecture is compulsory, and from time to time there will be brief class tests to ensure that you don't slip behind on the bibliography. You will be expected to read approximately 100-150 pages per week, although sometimes the reading will be less.

Your obligations:

There will be two exams and one written paper, in addition to the class tests on the readings. The first exam will be on March 8, the second on the allocated exam day after the end of classes in May. Each exam will be a multiple choice exam, covering half of the course (i.e., subjects covered in the half of the semester immediately before the exam). The paper (5-8 pages, plus bibliography and footnotes) is due on April 1. You will receive lists of appropriate topics, and instructions on how to write a paper, during the recitations. These dates are final.

Access:

The TAs will announce their office hours and email addresses during the recitations. My email is: rz11@nyu.edu and am always willing to meet to discuss any problems you are having with the course material – by appointment, set up via email.

Grading:

The TAs assist me in setting final grades for the course. The grades will be determined in the following way: First Exam: 25%, Second Exam 25%,
Term Paper 25%, Recitation participation and spot reading checks: 25%

Class Cancellation:

There will be no class on April 12 (Passover). There will be a make-up class in April – date to be announced – when we are organizing a one day “MAP Modern Israel Film Festival” of documentaries on Israel. These documentaries will be discussed in your recitations, and attendance is expected.

On March 28 there will be general elections in Israel. These elections are widely believed to be more important than most general elections, and we will discuss the parties and platforms prior to the elections as well as study the results afterwards.

Additional resources:

About halfway through the semester, you will be asked to follow the Israeli press (in English!) available online.

The links are:

www.haaretz.com (English edition of Ha'aretz)
www.haaretz.co.il for the Hebrew edition)

www.jpost.com The Jerusalem Post

Required Books:

1. Howard A. Sachar A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time (2nd edition)
2. Benny Morris Righteous Victims. A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict
3. Alan Dowty The Jewish State. A Century Later
4. Uzi Rebhun and Chaim Waxman (eds) Jews in Israel. Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns [selected chapters only – all on Blackboard]
5. Gregory Mahler Politics and Government in Israel. The Maturation of a Modern State
6. Baruch Kimmerling The Invention and Decline of Israeliness

Syllabus:

A: Zionism, Palestine, Israel – origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (to 1948)
(4 lectures – 1/18-1/30)

Palestine in 19th century
Zionism and Balfour Declaration
Mandate, Arab Rebellion, Partition 1937
White Paper 1939 and the Jewish revolt
Britain abandons Mandate, UN and Partition
War of 1948 – Independence/Nakba
Refugees and Armistice agreements

Reading :

Morris, pp. 3-258

Or

Sachar, pp. 4-353

B : Creating a Jewish State (1949-1966)
(8 lectures – 2/1 – 2/26)

Declaration of Independence

Dowty, chapt. 4

Tuvia Friling and Ilan Troen, “Proclaiming Independence. Five Days in May from Ben-Gurion’s Diary” Israel Studies, 3(1):170-194, Spring 1998

Elyakim Rubinstein, “The Declaration of Independence as a Basic Document of the State of Israel” Israel Studies, 3(1):195-210, Spring 1998

Mass Immigration

Sachar, pp. 395-424

Moshe Lissak, “The Demographic-Social Revolution in Israel in the 1950s: the Absorption of the Great *Aliyah*” Journal of Israeli History Vol. 22(2):1-32, 2003

Law of Return and Relations with Diaspora Jewry

Dvora Hacoen “The Law of Return as an Embodiment of the Link between Israel and the Jews of the Diaspora” Journal of Israeli History, 19(1): 61-90, 1998

Charles S. Liebman, “Diaspora Influence on Israel: The Ben-Gurion-Blaustein 'Exchange' and Its Aftermath,” Jewish Social Studies 36, no. 1 (1974): 271-280.

Religion and State

Mahler, chapt. 2.

Dowty, chapt. 8

Menachem Friedman, “The Structural Foundation for Religio-Political Accomodation in Israel: Fallacy and Reality”, in S. Ilan Troen and Noah Lucas, Israel. The First Decade of Independence, chapt. 2

Holocaust survivors and relations with Germany

Sachar, pp. 464-471 & pp. 552-561

Dalia Ofer, "History, Memory and Identity Perceptions of the Holocausts in Israel," in Rebhun and Waxman, chapt. 17

Yehudit Auerbach, "Ben-Gurion and Reparations from Germany," in Ronald Zweig (ed.), David Ben-Gurion: Political Leadership in Israel, pp. 274-292

Kibbutz movement

Eliezer Ben-Rafael Menachem Topel, "The Kibbutz's Transformation. Who Leads It and Where?," in Rebhun and Waxman, chapt. 17

Israel between East and West

Uri Bialer, "Facts and Pacts: Ben-Gurion and Israel's International Orientation, 1948-1956," in Ronald Zweig (ed.), David Ben-Gurion: Political Leadership in Israel, pp. 216-235

Oriental Jews and the ethnic issue

Yaron Tsur "Carinval Fears: Moroccan Immigrants and the Ethnic Problem in the Young State of Israel," Journal of Israeli History, 18(1): 73-104, 1997

Dowty, chapt. 7

Sammy Smoocha, "Jewish Ethnicity in Israel: Symbolic or Real," in Rebhun & Waxman, chapt. 3

Border war

Morris, chapt. 6

C : Six Day War as Turning Point

5 lectures (3/1 – 3/27)

Six Day War

Morris, chapt. 7

Sachar, pp. 615-666 (chapt 21)

Settlement movement and messianism

Ehud Sprinzak, The Ascendance of Israel's Radical Right, chapt. 3-4

Policies toward Palestinians

Sachar, pp. 667-713 (chapt. 22)

Terrorism and counter-terrorism

Morris, Chapt. 12

Yom Kippur War and the peace with Egypt

Morris, chapt. 9-10

Sachar, chapt. 24-25, 27

Lebanon and the PLO

Morris, chapt. 11

D : Oslo and the Peace Process

2 lectures (3/29-4/17)

Israeli Elections, March 28 2006 : analysis of results

**First Intifada, Negotiating with PLO
& Camp David and the Second Intifada**

Mahler, chapt. 11

Morris, chapt 13-14

Rabin assassination (no readings)

E : Israel Today

4 lectures (4/19-5/1)

Arabs, Druze and Beduin in Israeli society (2 lectures)

Dowty, chapt. 9

Dan Rabinowitz and Khawla Abu Baker Coffins on Our Shoulders. The Experience of the Palestinian Citizens of Israel

Russian and Ethiopian immigrations

Elazar Leshem and Moshe Sicron The Soviet Immigrant Community in Israel (chapt 4 in Rebhun & Waxman)

Steven Kaplan and Hagar Salamon « Ethiopian Jews in Israel : A Part of the People or a People Apart ? » (chapt. 5 in Rebhun & Waxman)

Trends in Israeli Politics and Society