Cultures and Contexts: Modern Israel

Spring 2018   CORE_UA 513
Tuesday-Thursday 4:55-6:10
CANT  Room 200

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Instructions regarding Room 200 in Cantor Building:

I am informed that the a/c is set to cool, and cannot be changed. Bring warmer clothing, just in case. Also, Cantor does not allow any food or drink in the lecture hall. So no eating or drinking...
1. Things you need to know about the course

Your obligations:

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 during recitations to ensure that you don’t slip behind on the bibliography. You will be expected to read approximately 75-150 pages per week. **Note: readings listed in brackets and marked with “also” are optional readings, for those that want to delve deeper. All other listed readings are not optional.**

There will be two exams and one written paper, in addition to the class tests on the readings. The Midterm exam will be on Thursday March 22 (normal class time and place.) The Midterm will be a multiple choice exam, covering the first half of the course plus brief explanations of concepts. The Final exam will consist of two parts – a multiple choice exam covering the second half of the semester, and essay questions relating to the whole course.

The written paper (6-8 pages, not including the required bibliography and footnotes) is due on March 28. You will be able to choose a paper topic from a list of appropriate topics for the paper, or suggest a topic yourself in consultation with your TA. (Topics not from the list of approved topics or approved in advance by your TA will not be graded.) Assistance with bibliographies and instructions on how to write a paper will be given during the recitations. These dates are final.

Note: When preparing your paper, your task is to read widely about the topic you have chosen, and to formulate your own answer to a research question you yourself posed. Naturally, you will base your work on the published research of others – but the synthesis, the argumentation and the writing must be yours. When quoting the opinions, the facts and the text of other writers you must cite your sources. Otherwise it is not possible to verify the accuracy of your opinions, and the ability to check facts and to verify them is the basis of all scholarly writing and scientific work. That is why your paper must include footnotes and a bibliography listing all the works you consulted, not only the works cited in the footnotes. Recycling the text of others without acknowledging that the text is borrowed is plagiarism, which is unprofessional (at best) and dishonest (at worst) and will have serious consequences in accordance with University regulations.

Consultation:

The TAs will announce their office hours and email addresses during the recitations. My email is: rz11@nyu.edu and I am always willing to meet to discuss any problems you are having with the course material – by appointment, set up via email. Or drop by my office in the Taub Center for Israel Studies, 14A The Mews, room 201, on Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30PM.
Grading:

Midterm Exam: 15%,
Final Exam 35%,
Term Paper 30%,
Recitation participation: 20%

2. Text Books:

Anita Shapira  Israel: A History
Benny Morris  Righteous Victims
Avi Shlaim  The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World  (2nd edition, if possible)
Charles Smith  Palestine and the Arab-Israeli  (8th edition, if possible)

[All these books are available second hand, especially earlier editions. It is possible to buy used copies. The new material available in the latest editions will be made available where appropriate.]

Additional resources:

In addition, articles and chapters from other books will be placed on NYU CLASSES for reading and discussion in the recitations.

For current events, the following Israeli newspapers are available in English:

www.haaretz.com  (English edition of Ha’aretz)
(www.haaretz.co.il for the Hebrew edition)
www.jpost.com  The Jerusalem Post
3. Course Outline and Readings

Readings not from the textbooks will be available on Blackboard

1. Zionism, Palestine, Israel – origins of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (to 1948)
   
   Shapira chapt 3-5; Shlaim, pp. 41-53

2. War of 1948: Independence and Nakba; Creating a Jewish State: Declaration of Independence
   
   Shapira, Chapt. 8
   

   
   Sachar, History of Israel, chapt. XV
   
   (Also: Gat, M. “Between terrorism and Emigration: the case of Iraqi Jewry” Israel Affairs, 7(1):1-24)

   
   Alan Dowty, The Jewish State 100 Years Later, chapt. 8
   

5. Relations with Diaspora Jewry
   
   
   
   (also: Urofsky, M, “American Jewry and Israel: the First Decade and Its Implications for Today,” in Lucas & Troen Israel’s First Decade, chapt. 33)
6. Political Parties and Foreign Policy Orientation: Between East and West; relations with U.S.A.

Bialer, U. Israel Between East and West, 1949-1956, chapt. 1-3

Zach Levey Israel and the Western Powers, 1952-1960, chapt. 1

7. Aftermath of Holocaust: Kastner assassination; trial of Adolf Eichmann, Kapo trials,

Ofer, D. “History, Memory and Identity Perceptions of the Holocaust in Israel,” in Rebhun/Waxman, chapt. 17


8. German Reparations

Auerbach, Y. “Ben-Gurion and Reparations from Germany,” in Zweig (ed.) David Ben-Gurion and Political Leadership in Israel, pp. 274-292

Weitz Y. “The Road to Wassenaar. How the Decision on Direct Negotiations Between Israel and Germany was Reached,” Yad Vashem Studies, 28: 311-350, 2000

9. Border Wars and the Palestinian Refugee issue

Morris, Righteous Victims, chapt. 6


11. Suez War, 1956
   Shapira chapt 12 or Shlaim chapt. 4

12. **Midterm**

13. Wadi Salib, the Black Panthers and Sephardi Protest Movements

   Dowty, chapt. 7,

   Rebhun/Waxman (eds), Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns
   chapt 3: Sammy Smooha “Jewish Ethnicity in Israel”

   Yaron Tsur, “Carnival Fears: Moroccan Immigrants and the Ethnic Problem in the Young

14. Six Day War

   Morris, *Righteous Victims*, chapt. 7

   Shlaim, “Poor Little Samson,” chapt.1, in W. Roger Louis & Avi Shlaim
   *The 1967 Arab-Israeli War. Origins and Consequences*

15. Gaza and West Bank under Israeli Occupation – early years; the origins of the Settler
    movement

   Dowty, chapt. 10,

   Feige, M. *Settling in the Hearts: Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories*,
   chapt 1-2

16. Yom Kippur War (1973) Sadat and the Peace Treaty with Egypt (Camp David I)

   Shapira chapt 15 & 17 or Shlaim Chapt 9

17. First Intifada (from 12/1987); Recognizing the PLO and the Oslo Agreements (1993)

   Smith, C. *Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, chapt. 11 and
   Shlaim chapt. 13
   (also: *Itamar Rabinovich, Waging Peace*, chapt. 1-2)
18. Arabs, Druze and Bedouin in contemporary Israeli Society

Dowty, chapt. 9


19. Kibbutz movement – rise and decline

[Documentary: “Inventing Our Lives: The Kibbutz Experiment]

20. Jerusalem

Wasserstein, B. Divided Jerusalem, chapt. 6


21 Russian and Ethiopian immigration 1990-2015

(TBA)

22 Camp David II, Taba talks and outline of an agreement; Second Intifada (9/2000)

Smith, chapt. 12 “Image vs Reality”

Shlaim, chapt. 17

23 Settlements (2016) and the Separation Barrier/Wall

Feige, M. Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories, chaps. 6-11

Taub, G. The Settlers, and the Struggle over the Meaning of Zionism, chaps. II-III

24 Challenge of the Ultra-orthodox Community (Haredim)

(TBA)

25 Israel – continuity and change: concluding lecture
There will be 2 film screenings as make-up classes (dates to be announced) in addition to the above schedule.

There will also be a number of public lectures at the Taub Center (all starting at 6:30pm – just after class), for which extra credit can be obtained.