

World Cultures: Modern Israel

Spring 2008 MAP V55.0537

Monday/Wednesday 9:30am

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Contents:

1. Things you need to know for the World Cultures: Modern Israel course
2. Text Books and Additional Resources
3. Course Outline and Reading List

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 50-100 pages per week.

Note: readings listed in brackets and marked with "also" are optional readings, for those that want to delve deeper. Other listed readings are not.

There will be two exams and one written paper, in addition to the class tests on the readings. The midterm exam will be on March 12, the final on the allocated exam day after the end of classes in May. The midterm 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 Final exam will consist of multiple choice questions on material covered in the second half of the semester, plus a brief essay section relating to the whole course.

The written paper (5-8 pages, plus bibliography and footnotes) is due on the first day of class after the Spring Break (i.e. March 24). You will receive lists of appropriate topics for the paper, assistance with bibliographies and instructions on how to write a paper, during the recitations. These dates are final.

Consultation:

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:

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

Class Cancellation:

There will be no class on April 12 and April 28 (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 discuss in your recitations, and attendance is compulsory.

2. Text Books:

1. Alan Dowty The Jewish State. A Century Later
2. Benny Morris Righteous Victims. A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict
3. Uzi Rebhun and Chaim Waxman (eds.) Jews in Israel. Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns [selected chapters only – all on Blackboard]

[available at the NYU Bookshop]

Additional resources:

Additional articles and chapters of other books will be posted on Blackboard for those that want to read more.

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

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)

Morris, chapt. 2-4

2. War of 1948: Independence and Nakba

Morris, chapt. 5

3. Creating a Jewish State: Declaration of Independence

Dowty, chapt. 4

(Also: Friling and Troen, "Proclaiming Independence," Israel Studies, 3(1) :170-194, Spring 1998)

4. Mass Immigration: Holocaust survivors, Eastern Europe, Iraq and North Africa

Sachar, History of Israel, chapt. 15

(Also: Gat, M. "Between terrorism and Emigration: the case of Iraqi Jewry" Israel Affairs, 7(1) :1-24)

5. State and Religion:

Dowty, chapt. 8

6. Law of Return and Law of Citizenship

Hacohen, D, "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, 2003

7. Relations with Diaspora Jewry

Liebman, C, "Diapora Influence on Israel: The Ben-Gurion/Blaustein 'Exchange'

and Its Aftermath,” Jewish Social Studies, 36(1): 271-280, 1974

(also: Urofsky, M, “American Jewry and Israel: the First Decade and Its Implications for Today ,” in Lucas & Troen Israel’s First Decade, chapt. 33)

8. Foreign Policy Orientation: Between East and West, relations with U.S.A.

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

9. German Reparations

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

10. Border Wars and the Palestinian Refugee issue

Morris, chapt. 6

11. Israeli Arabs, the Military Government, and Land Policy

Dowty, chapt. 9

12. Suez War, 1956

Morris, chapt. 6

13. Political Parties and the Sephardi Protest Movements

Dowty, chapt. 7, and
Rebhun/Waxman, chapt 3: Sammy Smooha “Jewish Ethnicity in Israel”

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

14. Aftermath of Holocaust: Kastner assassination; trial of Adolf Eichmann

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

15. Six Day War
Morris, chapt. 7

16. Gaza and West Bank under Israeli Occupation, to December 1987 (1st Intifada)
Dowty, chapt. 10
(also: Sachar, chapt. 22)

17. Rise of the Settler Movement
Sprinzak, E., The Ascendance of Israel's Radical Right, chaps 3-4

18. Yom Kippur War (1973)
Morris, chapt. 9

19. Sadat and the Peace Treaty with Egypt
Morris, chapt. 10
(also: Stein, K. Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat Kissinger, Carter, Begin and the Quest for Arab-Israeli Peace (1999))

- 20-21. First Intifada (1987), recognizing the PLO and the Oslo Agreements (1993),
Second Intifada
Smith, C. Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, chaps. 10-12

22. Arabs, Druze and Beduin in Israeli Society
Dowty, chapt. 9
(also: Rekhess, E. "The Evolution of the Arab-Palestinian National Minority in Israel," Israel Studies, 12(3): 1-28, 2007)

23. Religious-secular divide, Ashkenazi-Mizrachi divide

Dowty, chapt 8

24. Current issues in the Peace Process: Jerusalem, refugees, borders, settlements and security

(Reference material will be distributed.)