

Cultures and Contexts: Modern Israel

Fall 2015 CORE-UA 513
Monday/Wednesday 2:00-3:15

5 Washington Place
room 101

Prof. Ronald W. Zweig rz11@nyu.edu

Yaelle Frohlich yrf202@nyu.edu
Donna Herzog dmh385@nyu.edu
Geoffery Levin gpl233@nyu.edu

Contents:

1. Things you need to know for the Cultures and Contexts: 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 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 Wednesday October 28 (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 essay questions relating to the whole course.

The written paper (6-8 pages, not including the required bibliography and footnotes) is due at your **last Recitation meeting before Thanksgiving (i.e. November 24)**. 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 Mondays, 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 chaps 3-5; Shlaim, pp. 41-53

2. War of 1948: Independence and Nakba; Creating a Jewish State: Declaration of Independence

Shapira, Chapt. 8

and

Yoram Shachar, "Jefferson Goes East: The American Origins of Israel's Declaration of Independence," Theoretical Inquiries in Law, Vol 10, 2009, pp. 589-619

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

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

Sachar, History of Israel, chapt. XV

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

4. State and Religion; Law of Return and Law of Citizenship

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

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

5. Relations with Diaspora Jewry

Liebman, C, "Diaspora Influence on Israel: The Ben-Gurion/Blaustein 'Exchange' and Its Aftermath," Jewish Social Studies, 36(1): 271-280, 1974

Zvi Ganin An Uneasy Relationship: American Jewish Leadership and Israel, 1948-1956, chaps xxx

(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. 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

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

Yablonka, H. "The Development of Holocaust Consciousness in Israel: the Nuremberg, Kapos, Kastner and Eichmann Trials," Israel Studies, Vol 8, no. 3, Fall 2003, pp. 1-24.

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

Zaki Shalom "Strategy in Debate: Arab Infiltration and Israeli Retaliation Policy in the Early 1950s," Israel Affairs, 8(3):104-117, 2002)

10. Israeli Arabs, the Military Government, and Land Policy – 1950s-1960s

Peretz, D. Early State Policy Towards the Arab Population, 1948-1955. New Perspectives on Israeli History, 1991 82-102.

Rekness, E. Initial Israeli Policy Guidelines Towards the Arab Minority, 1948-1949. New Perspectives on Israeli History, 1991 103-123.)

11. MIDTERM

12. Suez War, 1956

Shapira chapt 12 or Shlaim chapt. 4

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 State of Israel,” Journal of Israeli History, 18(1): 73-104, 1997

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,
chapters 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

Kenneth Stein, "Continuity and change in Egyptian-Israeli relations, 1973-97." Israel Affairs 3(3+4): 296-320, 1997)

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

Smith, C. Palestine and the Arab-Israeli Conflict, chapt. 11

Shlaim chapt. 13

(also: **Itamar Rabinovich, Waging Peace, chapt. 1-2)**

18. Arabs, Druze and Bedouin in contemporary Israeli Society

Dowty, chapt. 9

Rekness, E. "The Evolution of the Arab-Palestinian National Minority in Israel," Israel Studies, 12(3): 1-28, 2007

19 Jerusalem

Wasserstein, B. Divided Jerusalem, chapt. 6

Della Pergola, S. "Jerusalem's Population, 1995-2020: Demography, Multiculturalism and Urban Policies," European Journal of Population, 17: 165-199 (2001)

20 The Kibbutz movement

Lecture and film

[documentary film Toby Freilich "Inventing Our Lives: the Kibbutz Experiment"]

21 Russian and Ethiopian immigration 1990-2012

(TBA)

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

Smith, chapt. 12 “Image vs Reality”

Shlaim, chapt.

24 Settlements (2015) and the Separation Barrier/Wall

Feige, M. Jewish Fundamentalism in the Occupied Territories, chapt. 1-2

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

25 Current issues in Israeli politics: the Ultra-orthodox
Israel – continuity and change: concluding lecture

NEW TIMETABLE:

- 9/23 – no class
- 9/28 – no class
- 9/30 Relations with Diaspora Jewry
- 10/5 Foreign Policy
- 10/7 Aftermath of Holocaust
- 10/13 German Reparations
- 10/14 Border Wars, and Palestinian Refugee Issue
- 10/19 Israeli Arabs; Military Government; Land Policy
- 10/21 Suez War
- 10/26 Wadi Salib, Sephardi protest movements
- 10/28 MIDTERM
- 11/2 Six Day War
- 11/4 Gaza and the West Bank under Israeli Occupation – first 20 years
- 11/9 Yom Kippur War (1973), Sadat and Peace with Egypt
- 11/11 First Intifada
- 11/16 Arab, Druze and Bedouin in contemporary Israeli Society
- 11/18 Jerusalem
- 11/23 Kibbutz Movement
- 11/25 Camp David II
- 11/30 Settlements and the Separation Barrier/Wall
- 11/2 Russian and Ethiopian Immigration from 1990s
- 12/7 Current Issues in Israeli Politics: Ultra-Orthodox (Haredi)
- 12/9 New Israeli economy/”Startup-Up Economy”
- 12/14 Israel: Continuity and Change – concluding lecture