

## Cultures and Contexts: Modern Israel

**Fall 2021      CORE\_UA 537**  
Monday/Wednesday 4:55-6:10pm  
Rm 102, 19 University Place

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### Teaching Assistants:

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2. Text Books and Additional Resources
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## 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.**

You will be graded by:

- (i) 3 “concept” papers in which you will have to explain in 100-200 words each 3 key terms or issues
- (ii) A research paper (6-8 pages, not including the required bibliography and footnotes) is due on October 29. 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.
- (iii) Midterm and Final exams will be multiple choice. (These exams are intended to ensure that you keep up with the readings and lectures.)

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 statements, and the ability to check facts and to verify argument 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](mailto:rz11@nyu.edu) and I am always willing to meet via zoom to discuss any problems you are having with the course material – by appointment, set up via email

## Grading

Concept papers: 15%  
Research Paper 35%,  
Recitation participation: 20%  
Midterm exam: 15%  
Final exam: 15%

Note the Extra Credit possibilities (below)

The Midterm exam will be given during the recitation in the last week of October, and the Final exam during the first week of December.

## **2. Text Books:**

Anita Shapira Israel: A History [digital copy available online from Bobst]  
Benny Morris Righteous Victims  
Avi Shlaim The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, if possible)  
Ilan Peleg and Dov Waxman Israel's Palestinians: the Conflict Within [digital copy available online from Bobst]

[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 **Brightspace** for reading and discussion in the recitations.

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

[www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com) (English edition of Ha'aretz)  
([www.haaretz.co.il](http://www.haaretz.co.il) for the Hebrew edition)  
[www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com) The Jerusalem Post

## **3. Extra Credit:**

The Taub Center for Israel Studies at NYU holds many public events (lectures, films via Zoom) each semester relating to contemporary Israel.

You can obtain extra credit (up to a total of 2% toward the final grade) by observing at least three of these events and submitting a 1-2 page account of each event to your TA. A list of appropriate events will be distributed.

## **Course Outline and Readings**

*Readings not from the textbooks will be available on Brightspace*

### **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

(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**

Shapira chaps 10 & 11.

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

### **4. Knesset and Government; 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

Yossi Harpaz and Ben Herzog "Report on Citizenship Law: Israel" European University Institute, Country Report June 2018

### **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 1-3

(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 System, Parties and Foreign Policy Orientation: Between East and West; relations with U.S.A.**

Uri Bialer Israeli Foreign Policy, chapt. 5 (pp. 77-108)

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

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. Suez War, 1956**

Shapira chapt 12 or Shlaim chapt. 4

### **12. 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

Bryan K. Roby The Mizrahi Era of Rebellion. Israel’s Forgotten Civil Rights Struggle, 1948-1966, chapt. 5 & Conclusion (pp. 137-177)

### **13. Six Day War – Causes and Course of War**

Morris, Righteous Victims, chapt. 7

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

### **14. Six Day War – Consequences**

Shapira, pp. 289-304

Michael Oren Six Days of War, Chapt “Aftershocks”, pp. 305-327

Guy Laron The Six Day War, “Conclusion” pp. 284-313

Avi Raz The Bride and the Dowry, Chapt 1, pp. 25-51

**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**

Peleg and Waxman Israel's Palestinians chapt....

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

Aviad Rubin "The Palestinian Minority in the State of Israel: Challenging Jewish Hegemony in  
Difficult Times" in Paul Rowe (ed.) Routledge Handbook of Minorities in the Middle East,  
London 2018, pp. 287-300

**19. Kibbutz movement – rise and decline**

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

## **20. 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)

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

Smith, chapt. 12 "Image vs Reality"

Shlaim, chapt. 17

## **22 Settlements (2019) and the Separation Barrier/Wall**

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

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

## **23 Contemporary issues in Israeli society - Challenge of the Ultra-orthodox Community (Haredim); Changing Economy**

(TBA)

## **24 Israel – continuity and change: concluding lecture**



## TIMETABLE

All lectures listed here will be recorded, whether they are taught live or on zoom.  
There will be no recordings for Sept 8 (Rosh Hashana) or 15 (Erev Yom Kippur).  
I will be recording lectures for all other Jewish holidays.

### Lecture:

1	9/13
2	9/20
3	9/22
4	9/27
5	10/4
6	10/6
7	10/13
8	10/18
9	10/20
10	10/25
11	10/27
12	11/1
13	11/3
14	11/8
15	11/10
16	11/15
17	11/17
18	11/22
19	11/24
20	11/27
21	11/29
22	12/1
23	12/6
24	12/8