



Contemporary Israel

Yisrael Ne'eman

Course Number: 702.2120

Semester: Fall 2009

Class Time: Tuesdays 15:00-18:00

Class Location: 2014 Terrace Bldg.

Office Hours: Half hour before or after class

Location: International Office

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Course Description:

This course presents an historical perspective on current issues in Israeli society. Emphasis is given to the historical development of ideological, religious and political dimensions of modern Zionism, and to Israeli social institutions, economic systems, political parties, nationalistic movements and security issues.

Course Requirements:

- Attendance
- Participation
- Field Trips to Northern Galilee and Golan Heights
- Field Trip to Gilboa and Kinneret Region.
- Take Home Mid Term
- Take Home Final Essay
- **Class Attendance is Mandatory**

Final Grade:

Take Home Essay - 5 pages (33%) – Due as a Mid Term

Take Home Final Essay – 10 pages (67%) – Due Four Weeks After Semester Ends

First Week – Introduction: The National Memory from Ancient times

Second Week – the Enlightenment through Herzl

Reading:

The Jewish State by Theodore Herzl (preferred)

“Herzl” in *The Zionist Idea* by Arthur Hertzberg

“Herzl” in *The Making of Modern Zionism* by Shlomo Avineri

Third Week – Labor Zionism – Nahum Syrkin, AD Gordon and Ber Borochov

Reading:

The Zionist Idea – Chapter on “The Zionism of Marxist and Utopian Socialists”

The Making of Modern Zionism – Chapters on Syrkin, Borochov and Gordon



Fourth Week – The National Religious Movement and Revisionism

Reading:

The Zionist Idea – Chapters on Rabbi Kook and Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky

The Making of the Zionist Idea – Chapters on Rabbi Kook and Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky

Fifth Week – The Balfour Declaration, the Yishuv and Jewish Diplomacy

Reading: *Trial and Error* by Chaim Weizmann, pp. 252 – 262 and 290 – 299.

A History of Israel by Howard Sachar, pp. 89 – 137.

Sixth Week – The Arab – Jewish Confrontation

Reading: *A History of Israel* pp. 163 – 222.

Seventh Week – The Struggle for the Jewish State and Independence

Reading (one of the following)

A History of Zionism by Walter Laqueur, pp. 505 – 588.

The Arab – Israel Wars by Chaim Herzog, pp. 17 – 110.

Eighth Week – State Development and Immigration 1948 - 67

Reading:

Israel: A History, by Martin Gilbert

Chapters 15 and 16 "The Ingathering of the Exiles" and "Conflicts and Achievements" - pp. 250 – 305.

Ninth Week – The Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War

Reading (one of the following)

The Six Day War by Randolph S. and Winston S. Churchill (entire book)

The Arab – Israel Wars – Chapter on "Six Day War"

A History of Israel – Chapter 21 "The Six Day War"

Tenth Week – Diplomacy and the Clash with Palestinian Nationalism

Internal Development: 1967 – 82.

Reading: *The Arab – Israel Reader* by Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin, ed.,

UN Resolution 242, pp. 217 – 218

Palestine National Charter, pp. 218 – 223.

Israel: A History – Chapters 23, 24 and 25 – "The dilemmas of victory", "The October War, Yom Kippur War 1973" and "The fourth postwar era"

Eleventh Week – The Rise of the Likud: Causes and Effects

Peace with Egypt

Reading:

A History of Israel, pp. 831 – 860. (Likud Era)

The Arab – Israel Reader – "The Camp David Accords", pp. 404 – 410.



Twelfth Week – The Lebanon War and the Fall of the Likud

The National Unity Governments

Reading:

The Arab – Israel Wars, “The War in Lebanon” pp. 339 – 369.

A History of Israel, Chapters 32 – 33, pp. 934 – 976. (National Unity Governments)

Thirteenth Week – The Intifada (1987 – 91)

The Oslo Accords and the Labor Government (1992 – 96)

Reading:

A History of Israel, pp. 957 – 976 (the Intifada)

The Arab – Israel Reader, Chapter 29, “The Oslo Accords” pp. 599 – 615.

Israel: A History, “The Peace Process” pp. 588 – 619.

Fourteenth Week – Israel: 1996 – Present

Labor, Likud and the National Unity Governments

Domestic Development Under Labor (including immigration)

2000 – The Oslo Accords in a New Light

Defeating the Palestinian Terror Offensive and the Gaza Disengagement – A New Beginning?

Mideast on Target Articles by Yisrael Ne'eman and Elliot Chodoff (TBA)