



Contemporary Israel

Yisrael Ne'eman

Course Number: 702.2120
Semester: Spring 2014
Class Time: Tuesdays 12:00-15:00
Class Location: TBA

Office Hours: Half hour before or after class
Location: International School 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 (more than three unjustified absentees can lead to failure)
- Participation
- Field Trip to Gilboa and Kinneret Region
- Field Trip to the Galilee and Golan Heights
- **Class attendance and Academic Touring Days are mandatory.**

Final Grade:

15 minute in class presentation – Pass/Fail –affects one's final grade by up to plus/minus 3 points in either direction

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

Take Home Final Essay – 10 pages (67%) – Due 2 Weeks After Semester Ends

All essays are to have endnotes and a bibliography.

First Week – Introduction: The National Memory from Ancient times

Second Week – the Enlightenment through Herzl

The Zionist Ideal by Arthur Hertzberg – Chapter on "Theodor Herzl" pp. 201-230

The Jewish State by Theodor Herzl – Download from Internet:

Project Gutenberg *The Jewish State* – Theodor Herzl's Program for Zionism

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

The Zionist Idea by Arthur Hertzberg – Chapter on “The Zionism of Marxist and Utopian Socialists” pp. 329 - 396

The Making of Modern Zionism (Avineri) – Chapters on Syrkin, Borochov and Gordon pp. 125 - 158



Fourth Week – The National Religious Movement and Revisionism

The Zionist Idea (Hertzberg) – Chapters on Rabbi Kook and Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky pp. 416 – 431 and pp. 556 - 571

The Making of the Modern Zionism (Avineri) – Chapter on Rabbi Kook pp. 187 - 197

The Political and Social Philosophy of Ze'ev Jabotinsky, Modechai Sarig, ed. – Chapters 1 and 4 "Zionism" pp. 1 – 18 and "Resistance and Revolt" pp. 33 - 47

The Iron Wall – Zeev Jabotinsky (Download from Internet – **The Iron Wall Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky 1923** (mideastweb.org) with introduction and commentary

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

Trial and Error by Chaim Weizmann, Chapter 18 "The Balfour Declaration" pp. 252 – 262 and Chapter 21 "The Zionist Commission –the Positive Side" pp. 290 – 299

A History of Israel by Howard Sachar, Chapter 5 "Balfour" pp. 89 – 137

Sixth Week – The Arab – Jewish Confrontation and WWII

A History of Israel (Sachar) "The Seeds of Arab-Jewish Confrontation" pp. 163 – 226

A History of Zionism by Walter (Zeev) Laqueur, Chapters 10 and 11, "The European Catastrophe" and "The Struggle for the Jewish State", pp. 505 – 588

Seventh Week – The Struggle for the Jewish State and Independence

A History of Israel (Sachar) – Chapter 12 "The Birth of Israel" pp. 279 - 314

****Righteous Victims* by Benny Morris - Chapter "The First Arab-Israeli War", pp. 161 – 258

(Note – This chapter needs to be physically photocopied in the Reserve section of the library.)

Eighth Week – State Development and Immigration 1948 - 67

Israel: A History by Martin Gilbert

Chapters 15 - 16 "The Ingathering of the Exiles" and "Conflicts and Achievements"

pp. 250 – 305

Chapters 19 – 20 "A State in Being" and "Years in Growth", pp. 329 – 364

Ninth Week – The Six Day War and Aftermath

Righteous Victims (Morris) – Chapter "The Six Day War - The Road to War", pp. 302 - 311

A History of Israel (Sachar) – Chapter 21 "The Six Day War" pp. 615 – 666

And Chapter 23 "Israel and World Jewry" (includes Soviet immigration) pp. 714 – 739.

Tenth Week –The Yom Kippur War and its Aftermath

The Clash with Palestinian Nationalism

Israel: A History (Gilbert) – Chapters 24 and 25 – "The October War, Yom Kippur War 1973" and "The Fourth Postwar Era", pp. 426 - 495

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

UN Resolution 242, pp. 217 – 218

Palestine National Charter, pp. 218 – 223

Download **UN Res. 242** (Nov. 22, 1967) from Internet (mideastweb.org)

Download **Palestine National Charter** from Internet (iris.org.il) or Jewish Virtual Library



Eleventh Week – The Rise and Rule of the Likud: Peace with Egypt, The War in Lebanon and Jewish Settlement in the West Bank (Judea/Samaria) and Gaza

A History of Israel (Sachar) Chapters 26 – 29, pp. 831 – 896 (Likud Era)

The Israel - Arab Reader – “The Camp David Accords”, pp. 404 – 410 OR

Download from Internet **Camp David Accords** (mfa.gov.il)

The Arab – Israel Wars, (Herzog), Book 7 “Operation Peace for Galilee” pp. 339 – 369

Twelfth Week – The National Unity Governments, The Intifada (1987 – 91) the Resurrection of Labor (1992-96) and Labor/ Likud "rivalry" (1996 – 2001)

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

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

OR Download from Internet **Oslo Accords Declaration of Principles** (mfa.gov.il)

The Missing Peace by Dennis Ross, Chapter 24 "The Camp David Summit" and Chapter 25 "The Camp David Summit" pp. 650-711.

A History of Israel, Sachar, Chapter 39 "Israel Faces the 21st Century" pp. 1080 – 1097.

Thirteenth Week – Israel: 2001 – Present

Labor, Likud and the National Unity Governments

Defeating the Palestinian Terror Offensive (2004)

The Gaza Disengagement (2005)

A New Beginning?

Reading:

Camp David 2000 – The Oslo Accords in a New Light – *The Clinton Outline (Parameters) of December 2000* download from the internet **Clinton Parameters** (en.wikipedia.org)

Mideast on Target Articles (www.me-ontarget.org) by Yisrael Ne'eman

"Guerilla Warfare and the Moral/Ethical Debate" May 2004

"Who Are You Ariel Sharon?" January 2005

"False Messiah X 2" August 2005