

**Israel: History of a Nation-State**  
**Dr. Tal Elmaliach**

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**Course Description**

This course describes and analyzes some of the main issues in the Israeli Politics and Society through a Historical overview of more than 100 years, from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to this day. The course is organized into four parts: The first part establishes the historical background of the Zionist movement from 1881 to 1948 and focuses on the Yeshuv as an Emerging state. The second part examines the process of the Israeli nation building from its establishment in 1948, until the 1967 war, and describes the mass immigration, and the creation of Israeli Democracy. The third part deals with the "normalization" of the life in Israel between 1967 and 2000, years of great development combined with wars and dramatic political changes. The fourth part examines the challenges facing the Israeli State and the whole Zionist project at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

**Course Requirements**

Course requirements:

1. Class attendance is mandatory and students are expected to actively participate in class.
2. You should read the material assigned for a date before that class.
3. 15 min Presentation on a topic from the syllabus
4. 30 min Group presentation (during the second half of the course) dealing with one of the challenges facing the Israel society at the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Each student will than write an independent paper on his group's topic.
6. The final exam will be a written comprehensive exam covering the course material.

You should also keep up on current events relating to Israel. Sources for extensive coverage include: the New York Times; Israeli dailies: Ha'aretz ([www.haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com)) and the Jerusalem Post ([www.jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)); Jerusalem Report ([www.jrep.com](http://www.jrep.com)); Jerusalem Media and

Communication Center ([www.jmcc.org](http://www.jmcc.org)). Knowledge of current developments, especially events relating to material covered in the course, will influence the participation grade.

### **Grading**

Criteria Final course grades will be assigned according to the following weights:

Class participation 15%

Presentation 20%

Group presentation 15%

Independent paper 15%

Final Exam 35%

### **Required Readings**

Anita Shapira, *Israel – A History*, Brandeis University Press, 2012.

Horowitz, Dan and Moshe Lissak, *Trouble in Utopia - The Overburdened Polity of Israel*, Albany: New York: State University of New York Press, 1988.

### **Changes to the syllabus**

The information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

# Course syllabus

## Part One: Ideological, historical, and political background 1881-1948

### **1. orientation, syllabus distribution, and course overview**

#### **2. The origins of Zionism**

- Periodization of Jewish History
- Jews and Modernity
- Zionism as a revolution

David Vital, "Zionism as Revolution? Zionism as Rebellion?", *Modern Judaism*, Vol. 18, No. 3, 1998, pp. 205-215.

Jacob Katz, "The Forerunners of Zionism", *Jerusalem Quarterly*, 7, spring 1978, pp. 10-21.

#### **3. Trends in Zionist movement**

- General Zionism
- Religious Zionism
- Labor Zionism
- Revisionist Zionism

Gideon Shimoni, *The Zionist Ideology*, Hanover, N.H.: Brandeis University Press, 1995, pp. 85-118.

Amos Perlmutter, "Dov Ber-Borochov: A Marxist-Zionist Ideologist", *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (Jan., 1969), pp. 32-43

Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism*, Basic Books, 1981, pp. 159-197.

#### **4. A state in the making**

- First Aliyah 1881-1903
- Second and Third Aliyah 1904-1914 - Anna
- Fourth and Fifth Aliyah
- The illegal immigration
- The British Administration
- Jews and Arabs relationship
- The economy of the Yeshuv
- The Yeshuv during the Holocaust
- The making of the Tzabar

Dan Horowitz, "Before the State: Communal Politics in Palestine under the Mandate", in Baruch Kimmerling, (ed.), *The Israeli State and Society: Boundaries and Frontiers*, Albany: State University of New York Press, 1989, pp. 28-65.

Yehuda Bauer, "The Impact of the Holocaust on the Establishment of the State of Israel", in: *Major Changes Within the Jewish People in the Wake of the Holocaust* (proceedings of the Ninth Yad Vashem International Historical Conference, Jerusalem, June 1993, ed. Yisrael Gutman), Jerusalem: Yad Vashem 1996, pp. 545-552.

## Part two - Nation building 1948-1967

### **5. War of independence and Mass immigration**

- The UN General Assembly vote
- The Civil war
- The Deceleration of Independence
- The Invasion of the Arab Troops
- Course of the war
- Palestinian Refugees
- Historiography of the war
- Dimensions, Origins and Characteristics of the mass immigration
- Effects on the Israeli Population
- Israeli Absorption Policy

Alon Kadish and Avraham Sela, "Myths and Historiography of the 1948 Palestine War Revisited: The Case of Lydda", *Middle East Journal*, Vol. 59, No. 4 (Autumn, 2005), pp. 617-634.

Benny Morris, "The Origins of the Palestinian Refugee Problem", Laurence J. Silberstein (ed.), *New Perspectives on Israeli history*, New York University Press, New York and London, 1991, pp. 42-56.

Ephraim Ya'ar, "Continuity and Change in Israeli Society: The Test of The Melting Pot" *Israel Studies*, 10(2) 2005, pp. 91-128.

### **6. The creation of democracy**

- Altalena Affair
- The Palmach disbandment
- State and Religion
- The Seamen's Rebellion
- The Payments from Germany
- Israel and the Cold War
- The War of Sinai
- Wadi Salib Riots

- The Lavon Affair
- Israeli Military Governorate
- Nuclear ambiguity
- The end of the Ben-Gurion Era

Alan Dowty, Israel's First Decade: Building a Civic State, in: Ilan Troen and Noah Lucas (eds.), *Israel: The First Decade of Independence*, Albany: State University of New York Press, 1995, pp. 31-50.

Anita Shapira, *Israel – A History*, Brandeis University Press, 2012, pp. 179-208

## **7. Economic Development**

- The Austerity Period
- The Agricultural Revolution Industrialization
- The Developing cities
- The Histadrut
- 'Second Israel'
- The Recession
- The Impact of the Six day War over the Israeli Economy

Avi Bareli, "'Mamlakhtiyut', capitalism and socialism during the 1950s in Israel", *Journal of Israeli History* 26, 2 (2007), pp. 201-227.

Shapira, pp.208-222

## Part three – The challenge of Democracy 1967-2000

### **8. The Israeli-Arab Conflict After the 1967 war**

- The Waiting Period
- The course of the war
- The Israeli Euphoria
- The captured territories and Arab displaced populations
- The failure of the Peace process
- The War of Attrition
- Yom Kippur War

Sammy Smooha, "Arab-Jewish relation in Israel: A deeply divided society." In: Anita Shapira (ed.) *Israeli Identity in Transition*. Praeger, 2004, pp. 31-67.

Eli Rekhess, "The Evolvement of an Arab–Palestinian National Minority in Israel", *Israel Studies*, Volume 12, Number 3, Fall 2007, pp. 1-28.

## **9. Counter Culture**

- Hanoch Levin
- Siach Lochamim
- The Movement for Peace and Security
- The Black Panthers
- The Goldman Affair
- The Shministim Letter
- The Protest Movement after Yom Kippur War
- The Protest Parties of the 1974 and 1977 Elections

Oded Heilbronner, "Resistance through rituals – Urban subculture of Israeli youth from the late 1950's to the 1980's", *Israel Studies*, 16(3)2011, pp. 28-50.

Tal Elmaliach, "The Israeli Left between Culture and Politics: Tzavta Club and Mapam 1956-1973", *Journal of Israeli History*, Vol. 33. No. 2, September 2014, pp. 169-183.

## **10. The upheaval**

- The Historiography of the Upheaval : Politics, Sociology, Economy and Culture
- The Economic Liberalization: The Sectorial part of privatization
- The Inflation Period and the Economic Program of 1985
- The Lebanon war
- The Settlements project
- First Intifada

Sami Shalom Chetrit, "Mizrahi Politics in Israel: Between Integration and Alternative", *Journal of Palestine Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (Autumn, 2000), pp. 51-65.

Shapira, pp. 357-421.

## **Part Four: Post-Zionism**

### **11. Globalization**

- Americanization and Consumerism
- Oslo Agreement
- The Conservative and religious Reaction
- Rabin's Murder
- Binyamin Netanyahu and The rise of Israeli Neo Liberalism
- The Oligarchic Part of Privatization

Oz Almog, "The Globalization of Israel: Transformations", Anita Shapira (ed.), *Israeli Identity in Transition*, Praeger, 2004, pp. 233-256.

Derek J. Penslar, "Normalization and its Discontents: Israel as a Diaspora Jewish Community", Alan Dowty (ed.), *Critical Issues in Israeli Society*, Greenwood Publishing Group, 2004, pp. 223-250.

## **12. Privatization**

- Privatization of Memory
- Identity against Class
- The Debate over a Jewish and Democratic State
- Left and Right Post Zionism

Daniel Gutwein, "Left and right post-Zionism and the privatization of Israeli collective memory", Anita Shapira. Derek Pensler (ed.), *Israeli Historical Revisionism from Left to Right*, Frank Cass Publishers, London, Oregon, 2003, pp. 9-43.

Daphne Barak-Erez, "Civil Rights and Privatization in Israel", *Israel Yearbook on Human Rights*, (28)1999, pp. 223-224.

## **13. Israel and the 21st century challenges**

- Jews and Arabs divide
- Hawks and Doves divide
- The religious-secular divide.
- The Jewish ethnic divide
- The Class Divide