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 19th 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 21st 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 21st century. Each student will then write an independent paper on his group's topic.

5. 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) and the Jerusalem Post (www.jpost.com); Jerusalem Report (www.jrep.com); Jerusalem Media and
Communication Center (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**


**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


3. Trends in Zionist movement
   - General Zionism
   - Religious Zionism
   - Labor Zionism
   - Revisionist Zionism


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


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


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


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


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


9. **Counter Culture**
   - Hanoch Levin
   - Siach Lochemim
   - 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.


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


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


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


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