



Full Syllabus



Course Title

Israel: Past and Present (core)

Lecturer

Dr. Rona Yona

Contact Details

ronayona@tauex.tau.ac.il

Semester

Fall 2021

Short Description

This course addresses question surrounding the history of Zionism and contemporary Israel. Central to these are the origins of Zionism a European national liberation movement embedded in the Middle East; The history of the mandate years between colonialism and national conflict; and the emergence of the “New Jew” cultural ideal. This course seeks to answer such questions through a broad and deep analysis that spans the 19th and 20th centuries, pays close attention to Israel's social and cultural composition as well as politics, and imbeds modern Israel into the global context. In addition, the second half of the course deals with contemporary Israeli society focusing in particular on its major tensions and dilemmas, like majority-minority relations, global-local aspects, gender issues, settlers vs. peace activists or ethnic tension (East-West) inside Israeli society. These will be explored using examples and sources in different fields: communication, literature, Middle East and Jewish Studies, etc.

Final grade components

Participation: Mandatory attendance and participation	20%
Midterm: An in-class exam	19%
Final Requirement: A take home exam that analyzes two major issues that we explore in class, using the material and bibliography that we covered (2000 words)	61%

Exam date 19.01.2022 (moed b: 09.02.2022)

All written work must be submitted via Moodle.

Course schedule

Class no. / Date	Required Course Reading	Subject
Part I: Past		
1)	Intro: The Zionist revolution	
Origins: Zionism in East and Central Europe		
2)	Anita Shapira, <i>Israel: A History</i> , 3-16; Eliezer Ben-Yehuda + Letter (1880) in: Arthur Hertzberg, (ed.), <i>The Zionist Idea</i> , 159-165;	The Jewish Nation



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	Idem, "The Reviva I of Hebrew" (1880), in: Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz (eds.), <i>The Jew in the Modern World</i> , 597-598	
3)	Shapira, <i>Israel: A History</i> , 16-24; Theodore Herzl, "The Jewish State", in: Laqueur and Rubin (eds.), <i>The Israel-Arab Reader</i> , pp. 6-11	The Jewish State
4)	Shapira, <i>Israel: A History</i> , 27-54	Early Settlement
Breakdown, Breakthrough: WWI and the Balfour Declaration		
5)	Daniel Gutwein, "The Politics of the Balfour Declaration: Nationalism, Imperialism and the Limits of the Zionist-British Cooperation", <i>Journal of Israeli History</i> 36/2 (2016)	
New Jew: The Yishuv (Zionist community in Mandatory Palestine)		
6)	Oz Almog, <i>The Sabra</i> , 23-35 (optional: Zionist Myths, pp. 35-45); Shapira, <i>Israel: A History</i> , 133-142	
Hostilities: Riots, Revolt, Holocaust, War		
7)	Rashid Khalidi, <i>The Iron Cage</i> , pp. 65-124	Palestinian opposition
8)	Dalia Ofer, "Fifty Years of Israeli Discourse on the Holocaust", in: Shapira (ed.), <i>Israeli Identity in Transition</i> , 137- 160	Holocaust memory
9)	Shapira, <i>Israel: A History</i> , 155-176	Independence and <i>Nakba</i>
Postcolonial: dilemmas of a young state		
10)	Dvora Hacohen, "Mass immigration and the demographic revolution in Israel" <i>Israel Affairs</i> 8/1-2 (2002) 177-190; Idem, "Immigration policy in Israel: the reality behind the myth" <i>Israel Studies Bulletin</i> 14/1 (1999) 1-8	Mass immigration
11)	Shapira, <i>Israel: A History</i> , 179-205	Forming a democracy
Growth and prosperity		
12)	David Engel, <i>Zionism</i> , 157-186	Normalization?
13)	Daniel Gutwein, "From Melting Pot to Multiculturalism", in: Shapira (ed.), <i>Israeli Identity in Transition</i> , 215-230	Individualism
Part II: Present		
Economy: socialism vs. start-up nation		
14)	Midterm Exam	A socialist heritage
15)	Dan Senor and Saul Singer, <i>Start-up Nation</i> , Introduction	Turning to capitalism
The occupation: settlements vs. peace movement		
16)	Jerusalem Day [TBA]	West Bank settlers



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17)	Tamar Herman, <i>The Israeli Peace Movement : A Shattered Dream</i> , 2009, 1-11	The Peace movement
Minorities: Israeli Arabs, migrant workers		
18)	Sami Smootha, <i>Index of Arab-Jewish Relations in Israel 2003-2009</i> , 6-30; <i>Ibid</i> , Findings and conclusions, 2013, 48-57	Arab-Jewish relations
19)	Adriana Kemp and Rebeca Rajjman, "‘Tel Aviv Is Not Foreign to You’: Urban Incorporation Policy on Labor Migrants in Israel" <i>The International Migration Review</i> 38/1 (2004) 26-51	Migrant workers
20)	<i>Zero motivation</i> (2014), 101 min	The Military
Gender: women’s rights, LGBTQ rights		
21)	Wisse Shayne, "A beach of their own: The creation of the gender segregated beach in Tel Aviv" <i>JIH</i> 35/1 (2016) 39-56	Feminism and its limits
22)	Alon Harel, "The rise and fall of the Israeli gay legal revolution", <i>Columbia Human Rights Law Review</i> 31/2 (2000) 443-471	Oy Vey! Jewish and gay
Ethnicity: East-West in Israeli society		
23)	Yaron Tsur, "Carnival fears: Moroccan immigrants and the ethnic problem in the young state of Israel" <i>JIH</i> 18/1 (1997) 73-103	The "eastern problem"
24)	Yifat Bitton, "Finally, Our Own Brown! (?)" <i>Israel Law Review</i> 45 (2012) 270-273; Menachem Mautner "Liberalism in Israel Between the 'Good Person' and the 'Bad Citizen'" <i>Israel Studies Review</i> 31/1 (2016) 6-35	The color of liberalism
Facing the future: globalization, EU, America, Middle East and Asia		
25)	Kornelia Binicewicz, "A Drop of Luck" (podcast/text), in: <i>Ladies on Records: 60s and 70s Female Music</i>	East, West, Middle
26)	Oz Almog, "The Globalization of Israel: Transformations", in: Shapira (ed.), <i>Israeli Identity in Transition</i> , 233-253	Israel in the world
This schedule is tentative and may change as the course progresses		

Optional course reading

Oz Almog, *The Sabra: The Creation of the New Jew*, 2000
 Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State*, 1981
 David Engel, *Zionism: A Short History of a Big Idea*, 2009
 Eran Kaplan and Derek Penslar (eds.), *The Origins of Israel, 1882-1948: A Documentary History*, 2011
 Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage: The Story of the Palestinian Struggle for Statehood*, 2006
 Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin (eds.), *The Israel–Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*, 8th revised edition, 2016
 Barbara E. Mann, *A Place in History: Modernism, Tel Aviv, and the Creation of Jewish Urban Space*, 2006
 Mendes-Flohr and Reinharz, *The Jew in the Modern World*, 2011
 Henry Near, *The kibbutz movement: a history*, 1992-1997
 Sharon Rotbard, *White City Black City: Architecture and War in Tel Aviv and Jaffa*, 2015
 Dan Senor and Saul Singer, *Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle*, 2009
 Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History*, 2012
 Anita Shapira (ed.), *Israeli Identity in Transition*, 2004



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Ari Shavit, *My Promised Land*, 2013

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

Phones should be turned-off while in class

Comments

Office hours: by appointment