

Modern Israel  
INTS 481W-905 Spring 2015, MWF 1:50-2:40 PM GLAS 008  
Texas A&M University, GLAS 008

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## **MODERN ISRAEL**

### **Course description**

In the Modern Israel course, we will discuss the history of the nation from its foundation in 1948 to the present day. Topics covered will include: Israel's strategy and security issues, its relationship to the United States and world Jewry, its economy, language, media, religious groups (Jewish, Muslim, Christian) and ethnic groups (Arab, Bedouin, Druze, Ethiopian/African, European, Jewish), and its culture (film, literature and art). We will discuss the religious and secular Zionist movements that helped found Israel and the Arab Palestinian nationalist movements that emerged in response to the foundation of the Israeli state. Guest speakers will supplement our research.

### **Course outcomes:**

Students will become familiar with basic and important information about contemporary Israeli culture, media, politics, economy and literature. Students will recognize the major historical events of the modern state of Israel and Zionism in the Middle East. Students will be able to critically examine the different narratives of the Israelis and Palestinians with regard to major historical events. Students will synthesize the differing perspectives of the various ethnicities in contemporary Israel.

### **Grading scale:**

90%-100% (A); 80%-89% (B); 70%-79% (C); 60%-69% (D); 0%-59% (F)

### **Your grade will be determined by the following:**

→ **Participation and attendance (10%).** This includes your attendance and your participation in discussion. Next to a short lecture at the start of class, this course will be driven by your thoughts and comments on the texts we read and the films we view. Your participation grade depends on your preparedness (including having a copy of the daily readings for the course). See participation rubric on eCampus.

→ **Journal responses (40%).** As a way to synthesize the information from your reading and to demonstrate understanding, you will write journal responses between 200-350 words long.

→ **Final paper (30%)** -The 2000-word final paper you will write will be a thesis-driven essay on the topic of Israel. It can be an expansion on a journal entry you have submitted or on a topic we have read about or discussed in the class. You are required to cite three sources from the course in your paper and integrate them into your thesis. You must also have an outside source included in your bibliography. Your paper proposal is worth 5% of this grade and your bibliography is worth 5%. The remaining portion of your grade will be the paper itself, which is to be 2000 words minimum.

→ **Workshop with Anat Zuria (20%)**. There will be a visiting Israeli filmmaker at the TAMU campus from March 1 to Spring Break. You will do a new media project (video or other) as part of a master-class/workshop. You must attend these sessions and if you cannot attend one session, view the podcast. You will complete a new media project with another student and you will be graded (individually) for completion and depth of reflection.

Required texts: All books can be found at the Texas A&M bookstore. Israel: A History is also available as a downloadable eBook at the library: [library.tamu.edu](http://library.tamu.edu)

ISBN	Title	Author	Publisher
978- 1137290823	Arabs and Israelis, 2014	Aly, Feldman, and Shikaki	Palgrave McMillan
978- 0385521703	My Promised Land, 2013	Shavit, Ari	Spiegel and Grau
978- 1592641055	The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God, 2004	Keret, Etgar	Toby Press
978- 1611686180	Israel: A History, 2012	Shapira, Anita	Brandeis UP
978- 0874519624	Israel in the Middle East, 2007 (IITME)	Rabinovich, Itamar and Reinharz, Eds.	Brandeis UP

#### **Academic integrity:**

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.” You are expected to be aware of the Aggie Honor Code and the Honor Council Rules and Procedures: <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor>

#### **Disabilities:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute providing comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an

accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, B-118 Cain Hall (phone: 845-1637). For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

**Attendance:**

You are allowed three unexcused absences per semester. Every additional unexcused absence will result in a 1 percentage point reduction in your final grade.

Please see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm> for current policy on university-excused absences. For illness- or injury-related absences of fewer than three days, a note from a health care professional confirming date and time of visit will be required in order to count the absence as university-excused; for absences of three days or more, the note must also contain the medical professional's confirmation that absence from class was necessary (see Rule 7.1.6.1).

An authorized absence entitles you to complete assignments and make up papers or exams you may have missed. You must notify the instructor at least 48 hours before the absence except in the case of emergency.

Date	Discussion	Readings/Homework
W Jan 21	Introduction	<a href="http://youtu.be/M9QjWd3brhE">http://youtu.be/M9QjWd3brhE</a> <a href="http://youtu.be/gANoAlZOecI">http://youtu.be/gANoAlZOecI</a> <a href="http://youtu.be/r4hpkKfcskY">http://youtu.be/r4hpkKfcskY</a>  (Class Handout) Sergio DellaPergola, "Demography in Israel," in <i>Routledge Handbook on Modern Israel</i> , ed. Alain Dieckhoff (London: Routledge 2013), pp. 83-104.

F Jan 23	<p>First Thoughts My Promised Land: At First Sight, pp. 3-22</p> <p>Films from 1895-7: <a href="http://youtu.be/OhYLtLouWSA">http://youtu.be/OhYLtLouWSA</a> <a href="http://youtu.be/qFNA-GPUGGM">http://youtu.be/qFNA-GPUGGM</a></p> <p>Poster by Ephraim Moses Lilien (1901): <a href="http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/may-our-eyes-behold-your-return-to-zion-with-mercy">http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/may-our-eyes-behold-your-return-to-zion-with-mercy</a> Herzl (1901): <a href="http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/herzl-lilien">http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/herzl-lilien</a></p>	<p>Buy books. Download Ha'aretz App on your phone or tablet.</p> <p>See the data that shows that both pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian Twitter accounts link most frequently to Ha'aretz: <a href="http://qz.com/244620/there-is-only-one-major-news-site-that-both-pro-israelis-and-pro-palestinians-read/">http://qz.com/244620/there-is-only-one-major-news-site-that-both-pro-israelis-and-pro-palestinians-read/</a></p>
M Jan 26	<b>Class does not meet.</b>	Please begin upcoming readings for Wednesday and Friday
W Jan 28	Zionism	<p>Israel: A History: "The Emergence of the Zionist Movement," pp. 3-26 Israel in the Middle East (IITME): "A Solution to the Jewish Question," Theodor Herzl, pp. 16-21; The Basle Program, p. 21; The First Zionist Congress, Ahad Ha'am, pp. 22-24 View this political poster from the Zionist movement in Russia (in Yiddish): <a href="http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/the-rebirth-of-our-land-through-hebrew-labor">http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/the-rebirth-of-our-land-through-hebrew-labor</a></p>
F Jan 30	Beginnings	<p>Israel: A History: "Jews, Turks and Arabs," pp. 27-64 Film from 1911: <a href="http://youtu.be/T0zpbDGjHAE">youtu.be/T0zpbDGjHAE</a> Arabs and Israelis: The Formative Years, pp. 7-45. IITME: Peel Commission: Report Conclusions, pp. 4-46; White Paper, pp. 48-51</p>
M Feb 2	Mandate Period	<p>Israel: A History: Palestine under British Rule, pp. 67-102 IITME: Mandate for Palestine, pp. 35-41; Jabotinsky, "The Iron Wall," pp. 41-43</p>
W Feb 4	Ein Harod	<p>My Promised Land: Into the Valley, pp. 25-47 BBC Documentary: Birth of Israel <a href="http://youtu.be/vCC3BEwdS0M">http://youtu.be/vCC3BEwdS0M</a> <b>First journal response due by class time.</b> What is Zionism? Describe the world</p>

		of Palestine when the Zionists arrived and what they saw. Use examples from the readings to explain. 300-350 words
F Feb 6	The Yishuv	Israel: A History: The Yishuv: Society, Culture, Ethos, pp. 133-152
M Feb 9	Oranges	My Promised Land: Orange Grove, pp. 49-70 Compare video, Picking and Packing Oranges, 1957: <a href="http://youtu.be/fKbWZX8JI-Q?list=PL7Yaf7nQHP3Df7UjVtZxezvui00VQzDwF">http://youtu.be/fKbWZX8JI-Q?list=PL7Yaf7nQHP3Df7UjVtZxezvui00VQzDwF</a> Israeli Citrus: 1967: <a href="http://youtu.be/iOxWcl4V1xc?list=PL7Yaf7nQHP3Df7UjVtZxezvui00VQzDwF">http://youtu.be/iOxWcl4V1xc?list=PL7Yaf7nQHP3Df7UjVtZxezvui00VQzDwF</a> Posters about Jaffa oranges: 1927: <a href="http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/lord-jaffa-oranges-finest-for-flavor">http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/lord-jaffa-oranges-finest-for-flavor</a>
W Feb 11	<b>Class does not meet.</b>	Read for Wednesday
F Feb 13	1948	Israel: The War of Independence, pp. 157-178. IITME: UN Resolution 181, pp. 61-65; Proclamation of the State of Israel, pp. 72-5, UN Resolution 194, pp. 88-92 Arabs and Israelis: The Partitioning of Palestine and the Nakba pp. 46-84
M Feb 16	1948	My Promised Land: Lydda 1948, pp. 99-132 IITME: The Law of Return, 1950, pp. 102. View PBS Interview with Ari Shavit: <a href="http://youtu.be/qag-wguV2-8">http://youtu.be/qag-wguV2-8</a>  Additional reading: Gertz, Nurith. 2000. "Among the Nations of the World: (Press and Literature at) The War of Independence, 1948-1949. <i>Myths in Israeli Culture: Captives of a Dream</i> . London: Valentine Mitchell. (pp. 27-58)
W Feb 18	Nation Building	<b>Second journal Response due at class time:</b> 300 words: Describe the importance of 1948 for the history AND present of Israel today. Use examples from the readings to ground your writing.  Israel: A History: Chapter 8: The Creation of Israeli Democracy, pp. 179-207 IITME: The Absorption of Immigrants, pp. 103-5 IITME: Jewish Religion and Israeli Democracy, pp. 92-5

F Feb 20	The Great Aliyah	<p>Israel: A History: Chapter 10: The Great Aliyah, pp. 222-247  My Promised Land: Housing Estate 1957, pp. 132-173.  Learn Hebrew: <a href="http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/for-your-sake-and-for-your-childrens-sake-learn-hebrew">http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/for-your-sake-and-for-your-childrens-sake-learn-hebrew</a>  Please order food in Hebrew:  <a href="http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/please-order-in-hebrew-in-cafes-and-restaurants">http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/please-order-in-hebrew-in-cafes-and-restaurants</a>  Learn Hebrew: <a href="http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/hebrew">http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/hebrew</a>  Speak Hebrew for Mutual Understanding! :  <a href="http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/speak-hebrew-for-mutual-understanding">http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/speak-hebrew-for-mutual-understanding</a>  A History of Modern Hebrew as told by Shalom Sesame (Sesame Street):  <a href="http://youtu.be/jzPDmhihPBM">http://youtu.be/jzPDmhihPBM</a></p>
M Feb 23	Ben Gurion	<p>Israel: A History, Ch. 11: Culture and Norms in an Evolving Society, pp. 248-270  ; The German Reparations, p. 106</p>
W Feb 25	Eichmann	<p>View: The Trial of Adolf Eichmann (2013) by Michael Prazan on Media Matrix  IITME: The Capture of Adolf Eichmann, p. 167-8  View newsreel from the time: <a href="https://archive.org/details/1961-04-13_Eichmann_trial">https://archive.org/details/1961-04-13_Eichmann_trial</a></p>
F Feb 27	The Kibbutz	<p>Israel: A History: Ch. 12: Politics, Peace and War, pp. 271-292  View Kibbutz Daphna, 1964.  <a href="https://archive.org/details/KibbutzDaphna">https://archive.org/details/KibbutzDaphna</a>  View sculpture/ poster Kibbutz Negba :  <a href="http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/left-front">http://www.palestineposterproject.org/poster/left-front</a></p>
M March 2	<b>Class does not meet</b>	<p>Workshop with Israeli filmmaker Anat Zuria  We will view her films Mekudeshet (Sentenced to Marriage) and Tehara (Purity)  Please see eCampus for details on schedule.  Anat will screen her films</p>
W March 4	<b>Class does not meet</b>	<p>Workshop with Israeli filmmaker Anat Zuria</p>
F March 6	Guest speaker: Anat Zuria	<p>Make sure you see the films at the screening before you come to class. They will also be available by Media Matrix.</p>

M March 9	1967	View Six Days in June: The War that Redefined the Middle East (2007) on Media Matrix Israel: A History: Six Days That Changed the Middle East, pp. 295-306
W March 11	1967	Arabs and Israelis: The 1967 War and the “Naksa,” pp. 118-155. IITME: UNSC Resolution 242, p. 242-3; The Palestine National Charter, pp. 243-6; The Ideology of the National Religious Party, pp. 301-5; IITME: Jewish Religion and Israeli Democracy, pp. 92-5; Palestinian (PLO) National Charter, pp. 243-6
F March 13	Guest speaker: George Deek, Deputy Chief of the Mission of Israel to Norway	<b>Submit project from Anat Zuria workshop. This project will be graded for completion.</b> View this video of our speaker, George Deek: <a href="http://youtu.be/8m6ux-IeNo4">http://youtu.be/8m6ux-IeNo4</a>
M March 23	Haredim: The Ultra Orthodox in Israel  Guest speaker: Ruth Tsuria?	Be prepared to discuss the following questions: What is the role of women among the Haredim? Why are many haredim anti-Zionist? What sorts of occupations do the haredim have in Israel? What is the role of the rabbi in the haredi community? What is the role of media and the internet among the haredim? What’s the haredi view of voting, the Israeli state. Pt. 1 <a href="http://youtu.be/FGJg1IHPPZw">http://youtu.be/FGJg1IHPPZw</a> ; Pt. 2 <a href="http://youtu.be/6MAN8gF1mvY">http://youtu.be/6MAN8gF1mvY</a> Pt. 3 <a href="http://youtu.be/6MAN8gF1mvY">http://youtu.be/6MAN8gF1mvY</a> Pt. 4 <a href="http://youtu.be/vJ29LtE9iLg">http://youtu.be/vJ29LtE9iLg</a> Pt. 5 <a href="http://youtu.be/yOWd0Bf8gUg">http://youtu.be/yOWd0Bf8gUg</a>
W March 25	Religion, Ethnicity and the State	Prof. Yedidia Stern on the Challenges Facing Rabbis today in Israel (Israel Democracy Institute)  <a href="http://youtu.be/M3CIqlSLvIE?list=PLmCtYOSs2DQwsBdAPbmXuHPITbs109a4g">http://youtu.be/M3CIqlSLvIE?list=PLmCtYOSs2DQwsBdAPbmXuHPITbs109a4g</a>  A State of Ethnicities: <a href="http://www.jta.org/2014/03/03/news-opinion/israel-middle-east/op-ed-why-israeli-is-not-a-nationality">http://www.jta.org/2014/03/03/news-opinion/israel-middle-east/op-ed-why-israeli-is-not-a-nationality</a>  <a href="http://www.timesofisrael.com/supreme-court-rejects-israeli-nationality-status/">http://www.timesofisrael.com/supreme-court-rejects-israeli-nationality-status/</a>  <a href="http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-jewish-state-in-question">http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-jewish-state-in-question</a>  Interview with Prof. Aviad Hacoen on the Integration of the Ultra Orthodox into

		<p>Israeli society (Israel Democracy Institute).</p> <p><a href="http://youtu.be/dqQHgVmeU24?list=PLmCtYOSs2DQwsBdAPbmXuHPItbs109a4g">http://youtu.be/dqQHgVmeU24?list=PLmCtYOSs2DQwsBdAPbmXuHPItbs109a4g</a></p>
F March 27	<p>Supreme Court and the Picture of the Nation (Taub Center). Bring laptops or a device to this class.</p> <p><a href="http://taubcenter.org.il/state-of-the-nation-picture-2014/">http://taubcenter.org.il/state-of-the-nation-picture-2014/</a></p>	<p>Basic Laws of Israel:</p> <p><a href="http://www.knesset.gov.il/description/eng/eng_mimshal_yesod1.htm">http://www.knesset.gov.il/description/eng/eng_mimshal_yesod1.htm</a></p> <p><a href="http://versa.cardozo.yu.edu">http://versa.cardozo.yu.edu</a></p> <p><b>Third journal response due at class time:</b> Follow link to the English translations of all Israeli Supreme Court decisions and search for a topic, read the ruling and describe what you learned by doing so and what you find interesting about it. 200 words (please cite ruling number and link to search)</p> <p><a href="http://versa.cardozo.yu.edu">http://versa.cardozo.yu.edu</a></p>
M March 30	Intifada	Arabs and Israelis: Ch. 7 From the First Intifada to Madrid and Oslo, pp. 231 -268
W April 1	Peace?	<p>My Promised Land: Gaza Beach 1991, pp. 227-236</p> <p>My Promised Land: Peace 1993,</p>
F April 3	<b>Class does not meet</b>	
M April 6	Tel Aviv: A Bubble?	<p>View film: The Bubble (2006) on Media Matrix</p> <p>My Promised Land: Shock 2006, pp. 327-337</p> <p><b>Fourth journal response due at end of day on TUESDAY APRIL 7:</b> What are your impressions about the film, Bubble? What does it show about Israel at the start of the 21<sup>st</sup> century? 200 words.</p>
W April 8	<p>The People of Israel: Druze</p> <p>The People of Israel: Ethiopian Jews</p> <p>The People of Israel: Bedouin</p>	<p>IITME: On Behalf of Pluralism (Amos Oz), pp. 412-4</p> <p>Listen to podcast: <a href="http://tlv1.fm/out-of-the-comfort-zone/2014/12/05/dive-into-the-lives-of-israels-druze-out-of-the-comfort-zone/">http://tlv1.fm/out-of-the-comfort-zone/2014/12/05/dive-into-the-lives-of-israels-druze-out-of-the-comfort-zone/</a></p> <p>The story: <a href="http://youtu.be/cUXB1Ebe8RI">http://youtu.be/cUXB1Ebe8RI</a>; Informal poll on the street: <a href="http://youtu.be/bAEILcV5PhQ">http://youtu.be/bAEILcV5PhQ</a></p> <p>IITME: The Ethiopian Migration, pp. 421-422</p> <p>Optional: View Yellow Asphalt on Media Matrix</p>



F April 10	RONEN KORESH visits class	
M April 13	The People of Israel: Arab Israelis	Anita Shapira on the Challenges of Arab Israelis <a href="http://youtu.be/TUiZrTu7ApY?t=4m10s">http://youtu.be/TUiZrTu7ApY?t=4m10s</a> Arab Israeli rap artist DAM: Born here <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlo6lyP9tTE">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlo6lyP9tTE</a> View Arab Labor Season 1: Independence Day <a href="http://bcove.me/mu13jj20">http://bcove.me/mu13jj20</a>
W April 15	The People of Israel: Arab Israelis  Informal poll on the street: Arab Israelis: Do you love Israel? <a href="http://youtu.be/CBTLbj_ouVM">http://youtu.be/CBTLbj_ouVM</a> Informal poll on the street: Jewish Israelis: Would you vote for an Arab prime minister? <a href="http://youtu.be/Dlq3lUBUHHY">http://youtu.be/Dlq3lUBUHHY</a>	Arabs and Israelis: Ch. 9: Oslo's State-building and Peacemaking, pp. 306-330. IITME: Hamas: Opposition to Any Accommodation With Israel, pp. 500-2  <b>Fifth journal response due at class time:</b> What in your view are the challenges and opportunities of the situation of the Arab Israelis? What is the situation of minorities in Israel in your view? Use information from the readings, videos, and podcasts as evidence in your answer. 250 words.
F April 17	PROF. MOHAMMAD WATTAD VISITS CLASS	Class will meet in ACAD 130
M April 20	<b>Class does not meet</b>	
W April 22	Etgar Keret	Read Keret: Son of the Head of the Mossad, Siren, Shoes, Cocked and Locked <b>Sixth journal response due at class time:</b> See eCampus for list of questions to answer in your journal response (about the Keret readings).
F April 24	Etgar Keret	Rabin is Dead, Kneller's Happy Campers Short film, Keret/ Geffen: What about me? <a href="http://youtu.be/baUG5er7s7A">http://youtu.be/baUG5er7s7A</a>
M April 27	Streetwise Hebrew and Reflections on the last Gaza Conflict	Listen to podcasts: The word, Shoa <a href="http://tlv1.fm/streetwise-hebrew/2014/04/27/shoa-holocaust-streetwise-hebrew/">http://tlv1.fm/streetwise-hebrew/2014/04/27/shoa-holocaust-streetwise-hebrew/</a> The word, Yalla

		<a href="http://tlv1.fm/streetwise-hebrew/2014/06/17/yalla-lets-go-streetwise-hebrew/">http://tlv1.fm/streetwise-hebrew/2014/06/17/yalla-lets-go-streetwise-hebrew/</a>  Read Etgar Keret and Sayed Kashua: "Tell Me a Story With a Happy Ending": <a href="http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/tell-story-happy-ending-exchange-etgar-keret-sayed-kashua">http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/tell-story-happy-ending-exchange-etgar-keret-sayed-kashua</a> Pt. 2: <a href="http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/tell-story-happy-ending-exchange-etgar-keret-sayed-kashua-part-ii">http://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/tell-story-happy-ending-exchange-etgar-keret-sayed-kashua-part-ii</a>
W April 29	Media and Conflict Guest speaker Nick Starnes	
F May 1	Rabbi Matt Rosenberg	Class meets at Hillel in the evening. Please read before coming to Hillel: <a href="#">Steven Bayme</a> , "American Jewry and the State of Israel: How Intense the Bonds of Peoplehood?" Jewish Political Studies Review 20:1-2 (Spring 2008) (on eCampus)
M May 4	Discussion of paper topics	<b>Paper proposal @ 250 words and bibliography due</b> at class time, printed. Bring two copies. Expand on one of your journal entries or a topic covered in class.
T May 5	Paper proposals returned. Discussion of Shavit	My Promised Land: pp. 383-422.

Final papers due Monday, May 11 at 4PM. 2000 words, submit via Turn It In on eCampus.