

NEJS 145A
History of the State of Israel
Spring 2014

Prof. Ilan Troen and Dr. Shay Rabineau
Meeting Time: Monday & Wednesday, 2:00 PM-3:20 PM

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM and by appointment
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Course Description:

We will examine the historical background to the establishment of the State of Israel from the founding of the first settlements in Eretz Israel/Palestine at the end of the nineteenth century through the Oslo Accords of 1994, and to an assessment of the present moment. We will use a variety of approaches utilizing methods and materials based in political, cultural, and social history.

The readings include a rich and diverse mixture of primary sources such as official documents and private diaries, as well as key scholarly articles, short stories, music, and films. Note that many of the articles are intended as recommendations for undergraduates, but as requirements for graduate students. Details are provided below and will be discussed further in class.

Required Texts (available at the Brandeis bookstore):

- Itamar Rabinovitch and Jehuda Reinharz, *Israel in the Middle East* (Brandeis, 2008)
- S. Ilan Troen, *Imagining Zion: Dreams, Designs, and Realities in a Century of Jewish Settlement* (Yale, 2003)
- Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History* (Brandeis, 2012)

Course Requirements:

- Attendance is mandatory; please inform instructors about absences ahead of time.
- Students are expected to prepare for each class by completing required readings.
- Please bring the Rabinovitch/Reinharz book of documents to every class session.

Course Evaluation:

1. 4-page response paper on a document chosen in consultation, due (date): **10 points**
2. 4-page response paper on a film or work of Hebrew literature, due (date): **10 points**
3. Midterm exam (take-home exam given March 5, due March 10): **40 points**
4. Final exam/paper (take-home exam given : **40 points**

Course Website (LATTE):

Please check the course website on LATTE regularly for further information on requirements, readings, and for links to reading and viewing materials.

Film Screenings:

Most of the films listed on the syllabus have been uploaded to the LATTE system and can be viewed outside of class. In some cases, we will offer screenings of films outside of class at times that are convenient for the majority of participants. These screenings will be determined during the semester and will be announced in class.

Academic Integrity:

Pursuant to the Academic Regulations of the Brandeis University College of Arts and Sciences, "every member of the university community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. A student shall not receive credit for work that is not the product of the student's own effort." In presentations, written assignments, and exams, due credit must be given to the originators of quotes and ideas. Allegations of academic dishonesty by undergraduate or graduate students are reported to the Department of Student Rights and Community Standards for adjudication within the Student Judicial System.

Schedule of Classes and Required Readings:

1. Monday, Jan. 13: Introduction to Zionism

- Shapira, *Israel*, ch. 1
- R&R #1 – The Bilu, Manifesto (1882)
- R&R #2 – Pinsker, Auto-Emancipation (1882)
- R&R #22 – *Proclamation of the State of Israel* (May 14, 1948)
- To be examined in class:
 - R&R #68 – PLO, *Palestine National Charter*
 - R&R #117 – Hamas, *The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement*

2. Wednesday, Jan. 15: Early Zionism and Its Discontents

- Troen and Lassner, *Jews and Muslims*, ch. 9 (on LATTE)
- R&R #3 – Herzl, *A Solution of the Jewish Question* (1896)
- R&R #5 – Ahad Ha'am, *The First Zionist Congress* (1897)
- Mizrahi, *Manifesto* (on LATTE)
- Agudat Israel, *Founding Program* (on LATTE)
- Ha-Shomer Ha-Tzair, *Our World View* (on LATTE)
- To be examined in class:
 - R&R #4 – First Zionist Congress, *The Basle Program* (1897)

[OFF Monday, Jan. 20 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day]

3. Wednesday, Jan. 22: Zionist Encounters with the Land of Israel

- Troen, *Imagining Zion*, ch. 1
- Shapira, *Israel*, ch. 2
- R&R #6 – Manya Shochat, “The Collective”
- To be viewed in class:
 - Film: H. Lerski, *Avodah* (1935)

4. Monday, Jan. 27: Guest - Ari Shavit (2:00 PM, Rapaporte Treasure Hall)

5. Wednesday, Jan. 29: Building the Yishuv: Colonization or Colonialism?

- Troen, *Imagining Zion*, chs. 2-3
- Shapira, ch. 3
- Gershon Shafir, “Zionism and Colonialism” (LATTE)

6. Monday, Feb. 3: Beginnings of the Arab/Jewish Conflict

- Troen, *Imagining Zion*, ch. 4
- Ha-Shomer Ha-Tzair, “The Case for a Bi-National Palestine” (on LATTE)
- Moshe Shertok, “Bi-Nationalism is Unworkable” (on LATTE)
- R&R #12 – Peel Commission, *Report Conclusions* (1937)
- To be discussed in class:
 - Balfour Declaration
 - Hogarth-McMahon Correspondence

7. Wednesday, Feb. 5: War of Independence Part I: In Fact and Myth (the conduct of the war and the origins of the Arab and Jewish refugee problems)

- Shapira, *Israel*, ch. 7
- Tuvia Friling and S. Ilan Troen, *Proclaiming Independence: 5 Days in May from Ben-Gurion's Diary* (on LATTE)
- Avi Shlaim, “The Debate about 1948” (on LATTE)
- Yehoshua Porath, “War and Remembrance” (on LATTE)
- S. Yizhar, “The Prisoner” (on LATTE)
- To be discussed in class:
 - R&R #22-26 – documents on establishment of State of Israel (1948)
 - R&R #140 – Mahmoud Darwish on the *Naqba* (1998)

8. Monday, Feb. 10: War of Independence Part II: Aftermath and Myth

- Shapira, *Israel*, ch. 8

- Benny Morris, *1948*, ch. 11, “Some Conclusions”
- Mordechai Bar-On, “Small Wars, Big Wars: Security Debates during Israel’s First Decade” (on LATTE)
- Film: T. Dickinson, *Hill 24 Doesn’t Answer* (1955)

9. Wednesday, Feb. 12: Armistice Agreements through the Suez-Sinai Crisis

- R&R #33-43 – documents on armistice agreements and postwar foreign policy
- S. Ilan Troen, “The Protocol of Sevrés: British/French/Israeli Collusion Against Egypt, 1956” (on LATTE)
- Uri Bialer, “Top Hat, Tuxedo, and Cannons: Israeli Foreign Policy 1948-1956 as a Field of Study” (on LATTE)

[OFF Monday, Feb. 17 and Wednesday, Feb. 19 – February Break]

10. Monday, Feb. 24: *Mamlakhtiyut* – Building a Jewish State

- Shapira, *Israel*, ch. 9
- Nir Kedar, “Ben-Gurion’s *Mamlakhtiyut*: Etymological and Theoretical Roots” (on LATTE)
- To be discussed in class:
 - R&R #17, 27-33, 48 – documents on character of Israeli government

11. Wednesday, Feb. 26: Early Statehood in Hebrew Literature

- Short story: Haim Hazaz, “The Sermon” (on LATTE)
- Short story: Savyon Leibricht, “Apples in the Desert” (on LATTE)
- Short story: A.B. Yehoshua, “Facing the Forests” (on LATTE)
- Poetry selections from Yehuda Amichai (on LATTE)
- Film: Ilana Tsur, *Altalena* (1994)

12. Monday, March 3: Ingathering of the Exiles: Israel and the Holocaust

- R&R #30, 31, 46 and Appendices 7-10 –reparations, war crimes, immigration
- Tuvia Friling, “New Historians and the Failure of Rescue Operations During the Holocaust” (on LATTE)
- Short story: Etgar Keret, “Shoes” (on LATTE)
- Short story: Aharon Megged, “The Name” (on LATTE)
- Film: Tom Segev, *The Seventh Million: Israelis and the Holocaust*

13. Wednesday, March 5: Ingathering of the Exiles: Mizrahi Immigrants

- Troen, *Imagining Zion*, ch. 9
- R&R #44-45 – documents on development towns and ethnic tensions

- Henriette Dahan-Kalev, “You’re So Pretty – You Don’t Look Moroccan” (on LATTE)
- Film: Ephraim Kishon, *Sallah Shabbati* (1963)
- Film: *Forgotten Refugees*
- **Take-home midterm exam handed out in class – due Monday, March 10**

14. Monday, March 10: Arabs in a Jewish State

- **Take-home midterm exam due at the beginning of class**
- Selections from Amos Oz, *A Tale of Love and Darkness* (on LATTE)
- R&R #51 – Itamar Rabinovitch, “From ‘Israeli Arabs’ to ‘Israel’s Palestinian Citizens’”
- Elie Rekhess, “Initial Israeli Policy Guidelines Toward the Arab Minority, 1948-1949” (on LATTE)
- To be viewed in class:
 - Television selections: Sayed Kashua, *Arab Labor*

15. Wednesday, March 12: Exploring and Developing Eretz Israel

- Shay Rabineau, “Marking and Mapping the Nation,” ch. 3 (on LATTE)
- Yael Zerubavel, *Recovered Roots*, ch. 8, “The Rock and the Vow” (on LATTE)

16. Monday, March 17: 1967: Turning Point in Israeli History

- Shapira, *Israel*, ch. 13, 14
- R&R #57-64
- Zaki Shalom and S. Ilan Troen, “Ben-Gurion’s Diary for the 1967 Six-Day War” (on LATTE)
- Michael Walzer, selections from *Just and Unjust Wars* (on LATTE)
- Pinhas Ginossar and Zaki Shalom, “Yehoshafat Harkabi, The Last Reminiscence: An Interview” (on LATTE)

17. Wednesday, March 19: New Frontiers: West Bank and Jerusalem

- Troen, *Imagining Zion*, ch.12
- Gershom Gorenberg, selections from *The Accidental Empire* (on LATTE)
- Short story: excerpt from David Grossman, *The Yellow Wind*

18. Monday, March 24: 1973 Yom Kippur War to the 1977 “Upheaval”

- Shapira, *Israel*, ch. 15-16
- Michael Feige, “Peace Now and the Legitimation Crisis of Civil Militarism” (on LATTE)

19. Wednesday, March 26: First Lebanon War through the First Intifada

- Shapira, *Israel*, ch. 17
- R&R #105-109, 115-118
- Eyal Zisser, “The 1982 ‘Peace for Galilee’ War: Looking Back in Anger – Between an Option of a War and a War of No Option” (on LATTE)

20. Monday, March 31: The Road To and From the Oslo Accords

- Shapira, *Israel*, ch. 18
- To be discussed in class:
 - R&R #110-112, 115-118, 132-144

21. Wednesday, April 2: Jewish Extremism

- R&R #122-123
- Ehud Sprinzak, *Brother Against Brother* (on LATTE)
- Motti Inbari, “The Oslo Accords and the Temple Mount” (on LATTE)

22. Monday, April 7: Return to previous ideas; Revisionism and its Critics

- Shapira, *Israel*, ch. 19 and final section, “An Interim Summary,” p. 469 ff.
- Benny Morris, “The New Historiography: Israel Confronts Its Past” (on LATTE)
- Anita Shapira, “The Past is Not a Foreign Country” (on LATTE)

23. Wednesday, April 9: Israel as a Democratic and a Jewish State?

- R&R #119-131
- Tony Judt, “Israel: The Alternative” (on LATTE)
- Shalom Lappin, “Israel and the New Anti-Semitism” (on LATTE)
- Leon Wieseltier, “Israel, Palestine, and the Return of the Bi-National Fantasy” (on LATTE)

24. Monday, April 14: Israeli Identities: Jews in Israel, Arabs in Israel

- R&R #136-138, 140, 143-144
- Troen and Lassner, *Jews and Muslims*, introduction and epilogue (on LATTE)
- Henry Makow, “A Chilling Interview with Benny Morris” (on LATTE)
- Benny Morris, “Peace? No Chance” (on LATTE)

[OFF Wednesday, April 16 and Monday, April 21 – Passover Break]

25. Wednesday, April 23: Is a Two-State Solution Still Viable?

- R&R #145-155
- Selections from “Future Vision” documents (on LATTE)

- Article on Sari Nusseibeh (on LATTE)
- Asher Susser, “Israel, the Arabs, and Palestine: Facing Crucial Decisions” (on LATTE)

26. Monday, April 28: Other Present-Day Discussions and Debates

- Readings to be announced beforehand (will be on LATTE)
- **Final exam handed out in class**
- **Final exam due at the end of scheduled exam time during finals week**
- **Bring exams to Prof. Troen’s office at MCH 307**

Finals week: Friday, May 2 – Friday, May 9; exact exam due date to be announced