

**HEBREW UNION COLLEGE LOUCHHEIM SCHOOL OF JUDAIC STUDIES
AT USC DORNSIFE COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS, & SCIENCES**

JS 389 Culture and Society in Israel: Inventing The Dream
Fall 2015

Instructor: Bruce A. Phillips, PhD
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30-10:50
Room: WPH 205

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“When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream”
-Psalm 126

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Course Objectives-Specific: As an elective in the Middle Eastern Studies Program, this course investigates the multiple social forces that shaped and continue to shape culture and society in contemporary Israel. We begin with by canvassing competing ideas in the 19th century about what a Jewish state should be. We then proceed to examine the process of creating a state, a national culture, and a society in what would become the state of Israel. We conclude by examining the current tensions and fissures within Israeli society, including the peace process. The emphasis of this course is on the multiple narratives that have shaped and continue to shape Israel including Jewish and Arab, secular and religious Israelis, Western and Eastern, individualist and collectivist, ideological and pragmatist.

Course Objectives-General: The decade following the end of the Second World War saw the creation of new countries such as the Philippines (1946), Jordan (1946), India (1947), Pakistan (1947), Sri Lanka (1948), Ireland (1948), Burma (1948), People’s Republic of China (1949), Indonesia (1949), Libya (1951), and Laos (1953). Among these new nations was Israel, created by a vote of the United Nations on November 29, 1947. Beyond introducing the student to the complexity of Israeli society, this course provides access to a variety of conceptual tools by which to understand the dynamics of newly created societies. These include the historical analysis of contemporary issues, interrelationship between demographic forces and social structure and nation building.

Statement on Diversity: Understanding diversity is central to this course because Israel is a diverse society. Israel continues to struggle with such diversity issues as the integration of immigrants from vastly different cultural backgrounds, maintaining a Jewish state while protecting minority rights, and navigating between secular and religious visions for the state. Where appropriate and relevant, the course will reflect on the comparative response of Israel and the United States to parallel issues of diversity.

READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

Texts

- Anita Shapira, Israel: A History
- Calvin Goldscheider Israeli Society in the 21st Century
- All other readings in Course Reader.

Course Assignments:

Mid-term (6 pages-25% of grade): We will have a take-home mid-term with a choice of topics covering the first half of the course. I will hand it out on 10/13 and it will be due on 10/20/15 (email to bphillip@usc.edu by the start of class)

Class participation (10% of grade): This includes participation in class discussions, raising questions, references to the reading. Your participation will enliven the class for all your fellow students.

Presentation of current events and special topics in class (25% of grade): There is a lot going on in Israel and there are many sources available in English, much of it online. Each student will make two 5-10 minute presentations in class about ongoing news stories. I'll assign each of you a week and you can choose a topic. For example, the Iran Nuclear deal is current right now as are the upcoming PA leadership transition. You can also choose to cover a cultural story of interest (film, music, art, literature). You'll be graded on how well do you explain the current event and explaining its relevance to our class.

I'll meet with you when it's your turn to help you pick a topic and identify resources.

Here are some online sources:

- <http://www.haaretz.com> has great articles with a left-leaning slant.
- YNET.com also had lots of very interesting articles.
- <http://www.timesofisrael.com/> This is an online newspaper started by the former editor of the Jerusalem post.
- Jpost.com *The Jerusalem Post* is a right-leaning newspaper and online newspaper. It's been published since the early 20th century (starting out as "the Palestine Post").
- The editor of <http://imra.org.il/> is right-leaning, but he keeps his editorials separate from the news coverage. It has lots of articles translated from the Arabic press, including Palestinian perspectives.
- <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/israel-pulse#> translates articles from all over the middle east. This is their Israel section.
- <http://www.hiddush.org/> is an advocacy organization for freedom of religion in Israel. They have lots of interesting articles.
- <http://www.israelhayom.com/site/today.php>

You can also present on a topic from the syllabus if you want to explore something in greater depth (especially if it's relevant to your paper topic) instead of a "current event."

Final Paper: (15 pages-40% of grade-Due Thursday December 10 @ 4pm):

A term paper should be a learning experience. In this class you can pick any aspect of Israeli society you would like to explore further. You should have a preliminary topic to me by October 23. I will meet with each student at least once to help you. The Hebrew Union College librarians, Yaffa Weisman, Sheryl Stahl, and Henry Wudi are creative and knowledgeable resources for you as well, and you should definitely consult them. Henry knows everything about Israel from the latest cookbooks to Israeli-Arab literature.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Session		Topic	Reading
Tuesday	8/25/15	Introduction to the class	n/a
Thursday	8/27/15	Zionism: The New Jew	Shapira Chapters 1 & 2
Tuesday	9/1/15	Creating a Proto- State	Shapira Chapters 4 & 5
Thursday	9/3/15	Creating a Proto- Society	Shapira Chapter 6 Ari Shavit, <i>My Promised Land</i> Chapter Two
Tuesday	9/8/15	1948: Independence/Naqba	Shapira Chapter 7 Ari Shavit, <i>My Promised Land</i> Chapter Five
Thursday	9/10/15	The population of the new state	Goldscheider Chapter 2
Tuesday	9/15/15	The great immigration	Shapira Chapter 10
Thursday	9/17/15	Jewish immigration & ethnicity	Goldscheider Chapter 3 in-class asserting ethnicity in music
Tuesday	9/22/15	Ethnicity & Politics	Chetrit, Mizrahi Politics
Thursday	9/24/15	Creating a New Society	Shapira Chapter 11
Tuesday	9/29/15	Creating a New Language	Hirschfeld, "Locus and Language: Hebrew Culture in Israel, 1890-1990"
Thursday	10/1/15	Creating a New Culture: Art	Zalmoni, Israeli Art
Tuesday	10/6/15	Creating a New Culture: music	Regev, Popular Music and National Culture in Israel Bohlman, Folk Song, National Song
Thursday	10/8/15	Creating a Utopian Society: the Kibbutz	Spiro the Kibbutz film in class: <i>Adamah Meshugah</i>
Tuesday	10/13/15	Creating place	Goldscheider Chapter 5

Thursday	10/15/15	The Holocaust in Israeli society	Tom Segev, <i>The 7th Million</i> Film in class <i>Kayitz shel Aviha</i>
Tuesday	10/20/15	Creating new borders: 1967	Shapira Chapters 13 & 14
Thursday	10/22/15	Arabs in Israeli Society I	Goldscheider Chapter 4
Tuesday	10/27/15	Arabs in Israeli Society II	In class-Israel TV show "Arab Labor" Ari Shavit, <i>My Promised Land</i> Chapter Thirteen
Thursday	10/29/15	The Yom Kippur War & its Aftermath	Shapira Chapters 15 & 16
Tuesday	11/3/15	Religion in Israel I-Overview	Goldscheider Chapter 6
Thursday	11/5/15	Religion in Israel II-marriage	Hiddush Religion & State Index 2013
Tuesday	11/10/15	Religion in Israel II-Divorce	Hiddush Marriage & Divorce Movie "Gett-The Trial of Vivian Anselm"
Thursday	11/12/15	Gender in Israeli Society	Goldscheider Chapter 7 In class film "Zero Motivation"
Tuesday	11/17/15	Family in Israeli Society	Goldscheider Chapter 10
Thursday	11/19/15	Settlers & the Territories	Gorenberg <i>The Accidental Empire</i> Shavit <i>My Promised Land</i> Chapter 8
Tuesday	11/24/15	Newest Immigrants: Russians	Rosenthal, <i>The Israelis</i> , 120-169
Thursday	11/26/15	Newest Immigrants: Ethiopians	Goldscheider Chapter 8 Chetrit, Intra-Jewish Conflict in Israel: White Jews, Black Jews
Tuesday	12/1/15	Jewish or Democratic State?	Stern, <i>Painful Choices</i>
Thursday	12/3/15	Jewish or Democratic State?	Dowty, Is Israel a Democracy?

Other Course Information

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged and inappropriate use of the ideas or wording of another individual. Most simply, plagiarism can be characterized as “academic theft.” As defined in the University Student Conduct Code, plagiarism includes: “The submission of material authored by another person but represented as the student’s own work whether that material is paraphrased or copied in verbatim or near verbatim form;” “The submission of material subjected to editorial revision by another person that results in substantive changes in content or major alteration of writing style;” and “improper acknowledgment of sources in essays or papers.” Because of the serious penalties for plagiarism, you should ensure that any writing you submit represents your

own assertions and abilities and incorporates other texts in an open and honest manner. In academic assignments, writing is assumed to be the original words and thoughts of the student unless otherwise noted (i.e., material from other sources is clearly and properly cited). The best way to avoid plagiarism is to be careful to document your sources, even when you are only making use of data or ideas rather than an actual quote. Students who violate academic standards will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards. In accordance with these standards, plagiarism will result in an 'F' grade for the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the University.

Accommodation of Disabilities

Students requesting academic accommodations due to disabilities must register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) as early in the semester as possible (STU 301, tel. 740-0776, open 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday). Please bring me your letter of verification for approved accommodations early in the semester, and let me know if you need any assistance with this process.

How To Reach Me

I am available to help you with your writing, your presentation, and your comprehension of the course material. Students are expected to make at least one appointment to meet with me during the semester. The best way to get in touch with me is via e-mail (bphillip@usc.edu or bphillips@huc.edu). You can also call me at my office (213-765-2151.) Hebrew Union College is at the corner of Hoover and 32nd, about one block north of Jefferson.