



DEPARTMENT OF JUDAIC STUDIES

JUST 3011: Land and Cultures of Israel

Tue 11:00 AM– 12:15 PM; THUR 11:00 AM– 1:05 PM

Prof. Sara Reguer

Office Hours: After class or by appointment

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Course Description

Survey of the history, geography, art, theater, socio-economic, and political structure of Israel. Analysis of its population, ethnic groups, minority absorption, acculturation, educational system, labor movements, kibbutzim, and social welfare, relationship of the state of Israel to the Jewish people.

The following books will be used most frequently:

*Bickerton & Klausner A Concise History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (4th Ed. Prentice Hall, 2002)

Patai, Raphael, ed. Encyclopedia of Zionism and Israel, [cited as EZI]

Chapters from Simon, Laskier, Reguer, The Jews of the Middle East and North Africa in Modern Times.

*Rubin, Barry Israel: An Introduction. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012)

[*Required text]

Goals

To offer students an understanding of how the modern state of Israel came into existence and how it has functioned since 1948.

Objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to read and analyze primary sources, will be able to differentiate fact from polemic/opinion, and will be familiar with secondary sources giving them the larger picture of the history of the modern state of Israel.

Outcomes

Each of the three objectives is addressed by class assignments, and class lectures expand upon them.

Assessment

Class discussions, examinations, and term papers will measure what the students actually learn. From anecdotal evidence, observation, and student reaction, students demonstrate an increased awareness and sensitivity based on their new knowledge. Some are also able to participate knowledgeably in the current debates swirling around the Israeli/Palestinian issues.

Course Outline

I. History Up to the Founding of the State of Israel

1. The Zionist Movement in its Historical Context
 - r. Roth, Cecil, A History of the Jews (NY 1964), ch. 28-30
 - r. Hertzberg, Arthur, ed. The Zionist Idea (NY 1969) Introduction
Bickerton & Klausner Intro., ch. 1, doc. 1/3, 1/4
2. Pre-mandate Palestine
 - B & K, pp 35-43, doc. 2/1 - 2/8
 - r. EZI: Balfour Declaration, First Aliya, Second Aliya
Simon, Laskier, Reguer, Ch. 18 ["Eretz, Israel/Palestine"]
3. The Mandate Period, 1920-1948
 - B & K, pp 43-56, doc. 2/9 - 2/11
 - r. Hurewitz, J.C., The Struggle for Palestine (NY 1950)
 - r. EZI: Mandate, Yishuv, Jewish Agency, World Zionist Org.
4. The Holocaust and the Birth of the State
 - B & K, ch. 3, 4 (all doc.)

II. The Development of the State of Israel

1. Geography
 - r. EZI: Geography, Climate
Rubin, pp. 81-105
2. People
 - a) Sephardi and Oriental Jews
 - r. EZI: Ashkenazim, Sephardim, Oriental Jews
Rubin, pp. 105-120, 121-146
 - b) Non-Jewish Minorities
 - r. EZI: Arabs, Christian Communities, Druze, Bahai
Rubin, pp. 146-157

3. Security and Defense
B & K, ch. 5, 6, 7
Rubin, ch.2
4. Political Organization
Rubin, ch.5
5. Economy
r. EZI: Moshava, Kibbutz, Moshav, Economy, Histadrut
Rubin, ch.6
6. Religion
r. EZI: Religion & State, Religion & Religious Attitudes
Rubin, pp.157-188
7. Culture
Rubin, ch. 7

Paper: Choose a topic on either International Relations or on Culture or on some aspect of 60 years of accomplishment [clear it with me]. Due last day of class, but be prepared to make a short oral presentation to the class.
20%

Midterm: 35%

Final Exam: 45%

EXAMPLES of TOPICS

Technology	Art	Germany
Medicine	Music	Argentina
Agriculture	Tourism	Brazil
"Lost Jews" – India	China	Mexico
Cinema	South Africa	