



348 HEB/SLC/JST 311 REL- ISRAELI SOCIETY AND CULTURE
iCourse

SYLLABUS

WELCOME

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Course description:

The course is designed to introduce the society and culture of the modern Israeli state. It focuses on the structure of the Israeli state and different aspects of its culture. The course starts from when the idea of the modern Jewish state was created, by the Zionist movement in Europe, and from there to its materialization as a modern state.

Among the subjects the course covers is the human mosaic that constitutes the Israeli society. Its mosaic pieces are ethnic origin, religious affiliation, and political association. The diversity of the popular music in Israel is an indicator of these pieces that coexist in the country.

The political arena will also be covered in the course. We will see how a system of multi parties, over 30, functions.

Israel is a country that encourages immigration; what does that mean? To whom is it directed? The course deals with these questions and they lead us to survey the other 25% of the state's citizens who are not Jewish.

Important aspect of the Israeli society is its being a welfare state. Welfare, in Israel, insures certain standards of living for all its citizens. It is not only in regard to health or retirement, but also to subsidized basic food, public transportation, even the arts, higher education, and more. The course covers these aspects as well.

An additional area with which we deal with is the unique Israeli creations and innovations, such as the Kibbutz (a communal settlement), solar energy systems, new genetic engineered fruits and vegetables, irrigation systems for a desert landscape, and more.

The last unit of the course concentrates on the art in Israel: the Israeli theater, poetry, literature, cinema, and museums. Under culture, I included the typical open markets that one sees in every city.

For every lesson there are songs to listen to, presentations, and video of Israel to watch. Some of the course's reading material offers personal stories of the multi sectors, which characterize the society in Israel. The final paper for the course is an analysis of an Israeli movie.

The course objectives:

1. To understand the historical background that led to the establishment of the modern State of Israel.
2. To critically examine social, political, and religious patterns that exists in Israel.
3. To recognize and understand the unique culture of Israel.
4. To have better understanding of news and sights which are coming from the television, internet, and other means of media.

Required book:

- Rosenthal, Donna, The Israelis: Ordinary People in an Extraordinary Land, Simon & Schuster Inc., A.S.U. 2008 (9780743270359)

Announcements:

Students are responsible for reading all messages posted on the "Announcements" section of Blackboard. The "Announcements" section will contain messages to the class as a whole, instructions for assignments, and any updates to the schedule from the lecturer. Be sure to check the "Announcements" section regularly.

Power Point Presentations:

For each Unit there is a Power Point presentation/s. The presentations have an audio attached to them. Be aware that in the audio you have additional information than what is presented on the slides. If you prefer, you can read the "audio" in the notes part of the presentations. You can pause the recording at any stage by pressing the pause button and also you can review each slide by moving the progress bar back to the beginning.

Copyrighted Material:

I would like to state that the course content, including the presentations, are copyrighted material and students may not copy or download. (see [ACD 304-06](#), "Commercial Note Taking Services" for more information).

The Weekly Reports, Units' Questions, Reading Remarks and Responses, and Research Papers:

At the end of the syllabus you will find a list and of the course assignments. On Blackboard you will find a time table of the assignments, pay close attention to the dates to make sure you won't miss due dates.

Throughout the course, students are required to make "postings" on the Blackboard. There are four types of postings required:

1. Weekly Reports on Discussion Board:

Each week you will research the internet for events or news that happened during the week forum **in Israel**. You will then post a summary of what you have found most interesting on the discussion board. It has to include your personal input that explains why you chose it. The report should be a minimum of 150 words.

The weekly report can be from all aspects of life of the **State of Israel**. Added YouTube videos are encouraged to the written portion. Hopefully this will give us more sense of Israel, during our course.

Here are a few suggestions where you can find up-to-date news about Israel:

<http://www.jpost.com/>

<http://www.ynetnews.com/home/0,7340,L-3083,00.html>

<http://www.haaretz.co.il/>

<http://www.israelhayom.com/> and there are many more.

2. Unit Questions:

For each unit there are one or two questions. You need to answer them all. Make sure your answers reflect the unit material. **Each** answer should have a minimum of 350 words.

The link to post your answers is in the Unit folder.

3. Unit Reading Remarks and Responses

Part A: after reading each unit's assigned reading, pick one or more content mentioned, which you find particularly interesting or important, and explain your choice(s). It should be at least 150 words.

Part B: you will respond to another student's choice (**A.**), with at least 100 words.

You are welcome to agree with fellow students as long as you add something of your own to the discussion; and you are welcome to disagree with your fellow students and argue a different point of view, but this must be done respectfully and politely as would be expected in any classroom discussion.

A. and **B.** responses will be posted on the course **Blackboard Discussion Board**.

Be aware that **Part A** is scheduled to be posted on Mondays and **Part B** on Fridays. This is to give the other students time to read and respond. On holiday's weeks the dates were moved. The due days for part **A.** and **B.** are indicated on the title of the unit forum.

4. Research Paper

Throughout the course there are two essay papers to write. Their topics relates to the material covered in the course, not just the papers' unit. For the essay assignments you will also draw upon outside sources (books, articles, news reports, websites, etc.), and of course they should be cited.

When writing your paper, be sure to keep in mind the following grading rubrics.
Your essay will be evaluated on how well you:

- 1) Demonstrate that you have viewed/listened to and understood the presentations
- 2) Demonstrate that you have read and understood the assigned reading portions of the units
- 3) Included outside sources. Don't forget to cite your sources
- 4) Include your commentary on, reaction to, reflection upon, or analysis of aspects of the subject matter

Each paper must be 3 - 4 pages in MLA format, and be submitted via Blackboard. Needless to say that Wikipedia is not a source of information.

The documents should be saved in either: .doc (a word document before 2007), .docx (word 2007 or 2010) or .rtf (rich text format).

The documents name should be: Last name & Assignment, example: Shemer Unit One Research Paper.doc

Once the assignment is finished be sure to click submit. If you save it as a draft I will not be able to access your work. The research papers must be submitted as an attached document, via Blackboard, using the links provided in the units

Make-up Work:

Make-up work is not offered.

Lecturer's expectations:

This is a distance learning course but not a self-paced course. Assignments have regular due dates. Due to the structure of the course, students are responsible for completion of all coursework and posting them by the end of their due dates.

Assignments are due before midnight of its respective due date. You have a few days for each Unit and corresponding assignments; please make sure to leave yourself enough time to take care of any technical problems that may arise.

Point Breakdown:

The overall grade for the course will be calculated on a point system.

1. Weekly Report: 5 points X 15 weeks	75 points
2. Unit Questions: 60 points X 5 units	300 points
3. Unit Reading Remarks (A) and Responses (B): 20 points for A + 5 for B X 5 units	125 points
4. Research Paper: 100 points each X 2 papers	<u>200 points</u>
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE:	700 points

Grading scale:

A+	≥97.0%	B-	80.0 - <83.0%
A	93.0 - <97.0%	C+	77.0 - <80.0%
A-	90.0 - <93.0%	C	70.0 - <77.0%
B+	87.0 - <90.0%	D	60.0 - <70.0%
B	83.0 - <87.0%	E	<60.0%

Honor's Contract

The course offers Honor's Contract. If you are interested, contact me so we can discuss a topic.

Changes to Syllabus:

The lecturer reserves the right to change any part of the syllabus. If any changes are made a message will be posted in the "Announcements" section of Blackboard.

Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>

If you have questions or hesitations, I encourage you to write to me and ask.

I wish us all an interesting and challenging course,

Judith Shemer

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