

Zionism

History 84/184

Jewish Studies 84/184

Cross-listed with REES, IR, CREES, Ways (engaging diversity, and social inquiry)
Winter 2016

Professor Steven Zipperstein—Stanford University

Tu/Th 1:30-2:50

Office hrs, Wed, 1:30-3, and by appointment

This course explores the – often vastly – conflicting narratives on the origins and activities of Zionism in Europe, Palestine, and the first years of the State of Israel. We will examine the full range of Jewish and Palestinian voices responding to Jewish nationalism, and eventually to Israeli policy, and we will examine utopian Zionism, the roles of secularism and religion, and the intersection between Zionist ideals and practices on the ground. The Zionist movement sought not only political liberation for Jews, but also cultural transformation of the rhythms of Jewish life and this, too, we'll explore. Concepts of home, refuge, liberation and catastrophe in Palestinian and Jewish life will be looked at in the context of a movement that has generated a huge body of literature both laudatory and critical. Needless to say, we'll only be able to examine a small, but crucial slice.

Requirements:

Attendance in class and section and completion of weekly reading assignments is obligatory. The in-class midterm will constitute 25% of your grade, in-class presentations another 15%, and the final paper – based on a reading of a written work, film, or artifact not assigned on the syllabus but approved by Prof. Zipperstein – will constitute 60%. Students are asked to build into this final paper information culled from class readings and discussions. Weekly and obligatory TA meetings will be held with Ashley Walters at times determined at the first session of class.

Required books will be available for purchase in the Stanford bookstore, and can also be found on reserve. Supplementary readings will also be placed on reserve and will be available online. Students are urged to read prior to the start of class one or another of the following books:

Yitzhak Laor, *The Myths of Liberal Zionism*

Amos Elon, *Jerusalem*

Amy Dockser Marcus, *Jerusalem 1913*

Derek Penslar, *Israel in History: The Jewish State in Comparative Perspective*

Rashid Khalidi, *The Iron Cage*

Gershon Shafir, *Land, Labor, and the Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*

Amos Oz, *In the Land of Israel*

Bernard Avishai, *The Tragedy of Zionism*

Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History*

Edward Said, *The Question of Palestine*
Ari Shavit, *My Promised Land*

Required readings – all available in the Stanford Bookstore, and on reserve:

David Engel, *Zionism*
Arthur Hertzberg, ed., *The Zionist Idea*
S. Yizhar, *Khirbet Khizeh*
Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity*
Hillel Halkin, *Jabotinsky*
Amos Oz, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*

Week 1 -

January 5. Introductions, description of syllabus and requirements, preliminary definition of terms: Zionism, Jewish, Palestinian.

January 7. Alternate beginnings
Beshara Doumani, *Rediscovering Palestine*, pp. 55-94 [on reserve]
Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 3-36 [on reserve]

Week 2 –

January 12. Origins of Zionist thought
Engel, *Zionism*, pp. ix-52
Hertzberg, pp. 181-98
Hayyim Nahman Bialik, "The City of Killing," *Songs from Bialik*, pp. 1-10 [reserve]

January 14. Herzl and his opponents – discussion with Steven M. Cohen, a leading sociologist of contemporary Jewish life
Engel, pp. 53-76
Hertzberg, pp. 201-277

Week 3 -

January 19. Herzl and his opponents, continued
Steven J. Zipperstein, *Elusive Prophet: Ahad Ha'am and the Origins of Zionism*, pp. 1-66 [reserve]

January 21. Palestine.
Khalidi, pp. 9-62
Neville Mandel, *The Arabs and Zionism Before World War I*, pp. 1-57 [reserve]
Manya Wilbushevitz-Shohat, "The Collective," in *The Plough Woman: Records of Pioneer Women in Palestine*, pp. 3-12 [reserve]

Week 4 -

January 26. Balfour Declaration

Engel, pp 77-104

Husayn-McMahon Correspondence

<http://www.mideastweb.org/mcmahon.htm>

Sykes-Picot Agreement

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/sykes.asp

Balfour Declaration

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/balfour.asp

[1919 Balfour Memorandum on Syria, Palestine, and Mesopotamia](#)

January 28. Continued

Chaim Weizmann, Trial and Error, pp. 176-208 [reserve]

George Antonius, The Arab Awakening pp. 243-75, 386-98 [reserve]

Week 5 –

February 2. Work, Immigration, Land and Faith in Palestine

During the last 40 minutes of class we'll be joined by Zachary Baker, curator of Judaica and Hebraica Collections, Green Library, who will speak about the huge holdings on Tel Aviv in the Stanford Libraries

Engel, pp. 105-30

Zachary Lockman, "Railway Workers and Relational History: Arabs and Jews in British-Ruled Palestine, Comparative Studies in Society and History, 35.3 (1993), pp. 601-27 [reserve]

February 4. Jews, Arabs, and the Future

Halkin, Jabotinsky, pp. 63-172

Week 6 --

February 9. In-class midterm

February 11. Refuge

Bernard Wasserstein, On the Eve: The of Europe Before the Second World War, pp. 361-86 [reserve]

Halkin, pp. 173-223

Philip Mattar, The Mufti of Jerusalem, pp. 99-107 [reserve]

Week 7 –

February 16. Armed Force

Guest lecture by Dr. Reut Izkowitz Malka, visiting scholar Stanford
Shapira, David Ben-Gurion, pp. 135-173 [reserve]

Joel Beinin, "Forgetfulness for Memory: The Limits of the New Israeli History,"
Journal of Palestine Studies, vol. 35, no 2, Winter 2005, pp. 6-23 [reserve]

February 18. Amos Oz, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, selections
Discussion of the first half of the book by TA Daniella Farah.

Week 8 --

February 23. Discussion of the second half of Oz's *A Tale of Love and Darkness*.

February 25. War

Ari Shavit, *My Promised Land*, pp. 99-134 [reserve]

Yizhar, entire novella

Week 9 --

March 1. Building the State

Shapira, Ben-Gurion, pp. 174-203 [reserve]

James Gelvin, *The Israel-Palestine Conflict: 100 Years of War*, pp. 116-43
[reserve]

Hannah Arendt, "Zionism Reconsidered," Jerome Kohn and Ron H. Feldman,
eds. *The Jewish Writings*, pp. 343-374 [reserve]

March 3. Class discussion of Arendt's "Zionism Reconsidered"

Week 10 --

March 8, Class conversation/summing up over dinner at a nearby restaurant