

History of Zionism and Israeli Society
HIS 170
American Jewish University Campus in Israel
Young Judea Year Course

Introduction

Over 100 years ago, a search for the solution to the problem of maintaining Jewish identity in the modern world engendered the Zionist idea, which called for a revolution in Jewish life. The creation of a modern Jewish society in the land of Israel based on the Zionist idea was an ambitious and fabulously successful project that, while having in many ways solved the problem of modern Jewish identity, continues to raise new ones.

This course will serve as an introduction to the major issues in the history of Zionism and the State of Israel. The course is made up of three sections:

1. Zionist Philosophy
2. The Arab-Israeli Conflict
3. Israeli Society

Course Goals

- To provide a good understanding of Zionist philosophy.
- To provide an overview of Israel's history.
- To introduce to students the major issues facing Israeli society.
- To empower students to develop their personal identification with the major issues facing Israel today.

Course Requirements and Assessments

Students will participate in classroom study twice a week. Students will be evaluated in the following areas throughout the course: Class participation and preparation (20%), a mid-term paper (20%), resource project (20%) and a final examination (40%).

Class Sessions:

Part 1: Zionist Ideology

1. Introduction: What does Israel mean to me?

Sources:

Selected readings from 'What does Israel mean to me?' Alan Dershowitz
Zionist Timeline

2. Precursors to Zionism

Sources:

Shlomo Avineri – 'Zionism as a Revolution'
'Bird in a Vacuum Pump'
Emancipation
Herder and Goethe
Traditional sources on Zionism

3 & 4: Herzl and Ahad Ha'am: Political and Cultural Zionism: Which one am I?

Sources:

Herzl, Selected Readings from 'The Zionist Idea'
Achad Ha'am, Selected Readings from 'The Zionist Idea'

5 & 6. The new Jew: Farmer and Fighter

Sources:

Bialick; 'The City of Slaughter'

Berdichevski
The New Jew Pictures
Jabotinsky, Selected readings from 'The Zionist Idea'
Gordon, Selected readings from 'The Zionist Idea'

1. *Religious Responses to Zionism*

Sources:

Bavli Mesechet Ketubot
Tzadok Hacohen Rabinowitz
Hermann Cohen
Yitzchak Reines
Avraham Yizchak Hacohen Kook

Part 2: The Arab-Israeli Conflict

8 & 9. The Narrative of the Conflict

Sources:

Background to the conflict

10. The Role of the IDF in Israeli Society

Sources:

The Image of the army in songs
Serio Yahni
'Army holds Israeli Society together'
Israel Rethinks Its 'People's Army'

11. Attempts for Peace

Sources:

Neil Lochery, 'Lessons of the Middle East peace process for other countries'

Part 3: Israeli Society

12. The Melting Pot: Aliyot to Israel

Sources:

Natan Chofshi: 'My first day in Israel'
Aliyot to Israel
The Law of Return
Amoz Oz, In Bet Shemesh
How well will they do?
Yair Lapid; 'I confess'
The Eastern Poets
Peter Hirschberg: 'The Ethnic Underclass'
Yossi Klein Halevi; 'Where are our children?'

13. Poverty and Welfare in Israel

Sources:

Traditional sources on Tzedaka
Collection of articles dealing with poverty issues in Israel

14. A Jewish Democracy 1: The Israeli Arabs

Sources:

The Declaration of Independence
Israeli Arab Fact Sheet
Sammy Smooha
Ruth Gavison
Alan Dowerty

15. A Jewish Democracy 2: Religion and State

Sources:

Israel as a Jewish State
The Status Quo Agreement

Jerusalem Report Article: Malls and Shabbat
Acquiring Israeli Citizenship from 'The Jewish Political Tradition'

16. How does Israel remember: Israel and the Holocaust

Sources:

The Rappaport Sculpture
Interview with Tom Segev

17. Israel Diaspora Relations

Sources

A.B. Yehoshua; 'The Jewish Neurosis of Golah'
Gershon D Cohen; 'The Centrality of the Jewish People'

18. The Political System in Israel

19. Post Zionism

Sources:

Eliezer Schweid: 'The Goals of Zionism Today' and 'The Post Zionist Movement'

20. Conclusion

Bibliography

- Avineri, Shlomo, The Making of Modern Zionism - The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State (New York: Basic Books, 1984)
- Davis, Moshe, ed., Ideological Perspectives (New York: Herzl Press, 1980)
- Gilbert, Martin, Israel: A History (New York: William Morrow and Company, 1998)
- Hertzberg, Arthur, ed., The Zionist Idea (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1997)
- Lacqueur, Walter and Barry Rubin, eds., The Israel-Arab Reader (New York: Viking Penguin Inc., 1984)
- Lochery, Neill, The Difficult Road To Peace: Netanyahu, Israel And The Peace Process (London: Continuum, 1998)
- Mendes-Flohr, Paul R. and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., The Jew in the Modern World (New York: Oxford University Press, 1980)
- Morris, Benny, Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-1999 (New York: Vintage Books)
- Sachar, Howard, A History of Israel (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1976)
- Segev, Tom, The Seventh Million (New York: Owl Books, 2000)
- Yaari, Avraham, The Goodly Heritage (Jerusalem: Youth and Halutz Department, 1958)