



Ginsburg Ingerman Overseas Students Program
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The Israeli Mosaic
An Introduction to Israeli History, Politics, Society and Culture
013-5-4011

Sde Boker Campus

Dr. Paula Kabalo

Email: pkabalo@bgu.ac.il

Phone: 08 659 6962 (office)

Office hours: Beer Sheva, Main Campus Room 612 , Building 72 – Monday 09:00 – 10:00 ; Sde Boker Campus, Moran Building – Thursday 12:30-14:00

Office location (Beer Sheva): Building #: 72 Room #: 612

Office location (Sde Boker): Building: Moran, The BG Research Institute

Course Description:

The years preceding and following the founding of Israel were dominated by intense events, which have impacted all spheres of life. The course follows the history of Israel from the 1930s until the late 1960s, through the observation of its complex reality. It will lean on Ben Gurion's Archives as a major source of historical records for those crucial years. The students will be engaged in broad discussion and will experience individual archive inquiry on specific case studies. Ben Gurion's dominance as a leading politician and statesman as well as his personal engagement with various strata of society offer his archives as a natural setting for such and introductory course that serves as a primary stage for any further exploration of Israel's history politics, society and culture.

Course Objectives:

The aim is to provide basic knowledge on Israel's history, politics, society and culture, following correspondence, minutes from formal meetings, memoranda, and popular culture. This methodology offers the students a multifaceted approach, one that doesn't simply provide a narrative but rather offers a joint reconstruction of historical narratives

Course Structure:

Each course meeting will include a **lecture**, and archive/library **exercise** and a **discussion** based on students' findings

Total # of Credits: 4 (without internship) Or 6 (including internship)

Teaching Method:

The course will be conducted through a combination of formal lectures, small study groups and class discussion. The lectures will be based on weekly reading assignments, mostly based on the course textbook. In addition to these readings, primary sources will be revealed and tracked by the students during class meetings and thereafter presented and discussed in class. Each meeting will include a time frame for internship within the Institute's units: Ben Gurion archive Online, Library, educational institute [Program developing and Overseas programs]. The course takes place at the Ben Gurion Research Institute, Sde Boker Campus and the above mentioned structure will be divided into three time frames: 08:30-10:00; 10:30-12:00; 13:00-15:00 [12:00-13:00 – lunch time].

Course Requirements

Compulsory attendance **YES**

Pre-requisites: **NONE**

Structure of Final Course Grad

1. Participation	20%
2. Two Midterm assignments	40% (20% each)
3. Final Exam	<u>40%</u>
	100%

Note:

- Work handed in late, will not be graded!
 - Penalties and course policies should be clearly articulated (i.e. students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than 2 class meetings unexcused)
-

Course Schedule Layout:

* Note – readings are all based on course text book. Additional – recommended readings will be assigned throughout the course. One of the assignments will be based on two articles from the additional reading list.

Week 1-2 [September 22th, October 6th]

Weekly subject title: 1930s - the evolution of the Israeli politics:

- The political mosaic of the *Yishuv* and its inter relations (left vs. right politics, religious vs. secular groups)
- Ben Gurion and Weizmann – a dual leadership?
- The Arab revolt and its consequences
- Peel's partition plan – contents, significance and reactions (the meaning of partition – the religious vs security justifications for the principle of partition or its rejection)
- British Palestine policies – the relations with the Jewish and Arab communities

Readings: Sachar, ch. VIII-IX

Week 3-4 [, 27th]

Weekly subject title: The 1940s – Struggle and Diplomacy

- Struggle for statehood - Internal disputes (the Haganah vs IZL and Lehi)
- The Yishuv via the Holocaust
- Struggle for statehood - The International Scene (AA Committee; UNSCOP; 181 Resolution) and the internal agreements – the status Quo on religious matters – an agreement between Zionist leadership and the Ultra Orthodox Jewish Party (Agudat Israel)
- "Futile Diplomacy" – Arab-Zionist negotiations at the end of the mandate
- Preparing for independence – the establishment of a state infrastructure

Readings: Sachar, ch. XI-XII

Week 5 : November 3th

- Unscop and Resolution 181 – the principle of partition and recognition of a Jewish state : Interests and Lobbying ; interpreting the document; analyzing the reactions

Readings: Sachar, ch. XI-XII

Week 6-7 [November 10^h ; 17th]

Weekly subject title: 1948 – The Israeli War of Independence

- The inter-communal war
- The emergence of the Palestinian refugee problem
- The declaration of Independence and the extension of the conflict
- The establishment of a Unified army and the enforcement of a central authority – almost a civil war?
- The role of the Sabra generation and the war culture and myths

Readings: Sachar, ch. XIII

Week 8-9 [November 24th, December 1st]

Weekly subject title: The 1950s – the making of Israel and the Israeli

- Nation building – demography, economy, geography policies and the challenge of social and cultural cohesion
- The integration of Exiles – the pre-modern Jewish communities and their perception of Israel and *Israeliness* (the "messianic" immigration vs the ideologies of modern nation building)
- The concept of *Mamlachtiyut* – statism and civil society – rivals or partners?
- Internal rifts: the Ultra Orthodox community; the Arab minority; the radical right wing and the struggle over German reparations.
- infiltration and the Israeli government refugee policy and the Arab minority in Israel
- the 1956 War – triggers, goals, consequences
- Who is a Jew? – state and religion in Israeli legislation

Readings: Sachar, ch. XIV-XV; XVII

Week 10-11-12 [December 8th, 15th]

Weekly subject title: The 1960s – a Fool's Paradise?

- The contradictions of the Eshkol era – conciliatoriness and Nuclear power
- The sense of tranquility and prosperity – reality or illusion?
- Israel's regional ties – the "African Affair"
- The military government and its dismantling
- 1967 – an earth quake – the emergence of the Greater land of Israel movement (the burst of religious sentiments following the 1967 territorial changes)
- War of Attrition and its cultural reflections - *Late summer Blues* and the Military Bands

Readings: Sachar, ch. XVIII-XIX; XXI

Week 13

Final exam.

Tour [optional]

Course Textbook

Howard Sachar, *A History of Israel: From the rise of Zionism to our Time*, New York: Knopf. 1996 or 2007 [2nd or 3rd edition] ; primary sources will be tracked and revealed by the students during the course

Additional recommended Bibliography

-
- Caplan, N. "Zionist-Arab Diplomacy : Patterns and Ambiguities on the Eve of Statehood". L. J. Silberstein (ed). *New Perspectives on Israeli History*, New York: New York University Press, 1991. pp. 242-257
 - Heller, J. *The Birth of Israel, 1945-1949*, University Press of Florida, Gainesville 2000, pp. 1-17;

- Begin, M. *The Revolt*. London: W.H.Allen, 1951. pp. 133-153
- Bar-Zohar, M. *Ben-Gurion : a Biography*. New York: Adama Books, 1986. pp. 121-124;
- Heller, J. *The Stern Gang: Ideology, Politics and Terror, 1940-1949*, Frank Cass, London 1995, pp. 137-145
- Halamish, A. *The Exodus Affair : Holocaust Survivors and the Struggle for Palestine*. London: V. Mitchell, 1998. pp. 75-102
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 – bring the hardcopies of this document to class on October 16th
- Cohen Michael, J. *Palestine and the Great Powers* (Princeton, 1982), pp. 260-300
- Friedman, M. "The Structural Foundation for Religio-Political Accommodation in Israel : Fallacy and Reality", I. Troen & N. Lucas (eds). *Israel - the First Decade of Independence*. New York: State University of New York Press, 1995. pp. 51-81
- Sprinzak, E. *Brother Against Brother : Violence and Extremism in Israeli Politics from Altalena to the Rabin assassination*, New York: The Free Press, 1999. pp. 17-50
- Morris, B. " The Causes and Character of the Arab Exodus from Palestine : the Israel Defence Forces Intelligence Branch Analysis of June 1948", in: Morris, *1948 And After: Israel and the Palestinians*, Oxford 1990
- Morris, B. "The Historiography of Deir Yassin", *Journal of Israeli History* 24,1 (2005) 79-107
- Stein, Kenneth, W. "One Hundred Years of Social Change: the Creation of the Palestinian Refugee Problem", in: L. J. Silberstein (ed). *New Perspectives on Israeli History*, New York: New York University Press, 1991. pp.57-81
- Rozin, O. "The Austerity Policy and the Rule of Law : Relations Between Government and Public in Fledgling Israel" *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 4,3 (2005) 273-290
- Lissak, M. "The Civilian Components of Israel's Security Doctrine: the Evolution of Civil Military Relations in the First Decade," in: *Israel: the First Decade of Independence*, pp. 575-593
- Hacoen, D. "The Law of Return as an Embodiment of the Link Between Israel and the Jews of the Diaspora", *Journal of Israeli History* 19,1 (1998) 61-89
- Oren, Michael. "Escalation to Suez: The Egyptian-Israel Border War, 1949-1956". *Journal of Contemporary History* vol. 24: 2 pp. 347-373

- Golani Motti. "Shall we go to War? And if we do, When? The Genesis of the Internal Debate in Israel on the Road to the Sinai War". *Israel Affairs*. Vol 6: 3-4 2000. pp. 22-42
- Oren Michael. "Did Israel Want the Six Day War?" *Azure* 5759, 1999. pp. 47-86
- Segev Tom. 1967. Metropolitan Books, NY. 2007. pp. 1-15; 277-287
- Sprinzak, E. *Brother Against Brother : Violence and Extremism in Israeli Politics from Altalena to the Rabin assassination*, New York: The Free Press, 1999. pp. 115-144