Ben-Gurion University of the Negev  
Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism  
The Israel Studies International MA Program  
Spring Semester 2013

**Israeli History "From Below"**  
The Role of Children & Youth, Immigrants, Minorities and Professionals in the Shaping of a New Society 1948-1977

Thursday 13:00 – 16:30  
Sede Boqer Campus

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**Course Description and Objectives:**  
This research seminar sheds light on the unheard voices of Israeli history. Individuals and groups that acted behind the scenes and shaped the Israeli cultural and social mosaic between 1948 – 1970s. At the center stage of the course, stand people with distinct class, cultural, ethnic, religion and generational characteristics. Throughout the course these people will serve as the voices of the new Israeli society, and their actions, challenges and struggles will provide an in depth understanding of Israel's social history. Amongst the groups and individuals that will be examined we can mention: immigrants, children and youth, Arab citizens, professionals from various fields that served as mediators between the state and its marginalized groups (educators, community activists and nurses). Junctions in Israel's civic and constitutional history will be analyzed through the lens of these groups, such as – the struggle on the nature of the immigrants education, the Wadi Salib Riots, the students struggle against corruption, Al-Ard movement and the struggle for Arab rights of association, the first settlement actions in the Golan Heights and Gush-Etzion after 1967, grassroots political activism, in the radical left and right – Mazpen and the Jewish Defense League in Israel, the Israeli Black Panthers, the events and background the Land Day and more.
**Course Structure:**
Each course meeting will include a lecture, and archive/library exercise and a discussion based on students' findings.

**Total # of Credits:** 4

**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. In addition to these readings, students will read and analyze primary sources, films, documentary movies, and personal memoirs of individuals and groups that constitute Israel's "History from Below". These additional sources will be analyzed by students and presented in class, setting the ground for class discussions, in addition to the scholarly works on each course item.

**Course Requirements**
Compulsory attendance **YES**; Pre-requisites: open for MA students only

**Structure of Final Course Grade**
1. Active Participation (including weekly class presentations according to weekly theme) 40%
2. Research Paper 60%

**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:**

**Week 1**
[Introduction]: History from Below, Subaltern Studies/life communities, flash and blood persons, Social History – Mapping the Terms (Social History: history from below/voices/subaltern/minorities/gender; social education, history of education, civil society, History of youth, the autobiographical turn); Suggesting Some Theories, and Contextualizing it in the Israeli Context

**Workshop**
Preliminary Encounter with the Relevant Methodology
- Oral history/testimonies
- Personal memoirs
- Cinematic sources (documentary + fiction)
- Written Media ("Social Sections and readers letters")

**Reading:**
Macrailld, Donald M & Taylor, Avram (2004). *Social Theory and Social History*. Ch. Introduction; 1: 4 (100-117)
The 1950s

Week 2
Center and Periphery - Old Timers and New Comers
The massive Wave of Immigration and the Inter-Relations between Old Timers and New Comers

Reading:

Workshop:
- Statistics
- Hadassah Newsletter
- Oral Testimonies

Week 3
Center and Periphery - Youth and Young Adults, the Nations' Future or Indoctrinated Masses?
- The shaping of an Israeli citizen
- Israel's youth between national idealism and individualistic aspirations

Reading:

Workshop:
- Noa at 17 [film]
- Youth letters to DBG [translated from Hebrew]

Week 4
Arab Minority in a Jewish State: The Military Regime; The Shaping of Arab Educational System; The Kafr Qasim Trauma and its short term implications

Reading:

**Workshop:**
Gale data base
London Times
UN reports
Museum in Kafr Qasim – visual sources and oral history

**Week 5**

**Anonymous Women in the Front**: Women's Equal rights Law; The Gender aspects of the Austerity Policy: When traditional societies meet secularism and modernity – the special experience of immigrant women

**Reading:**

**Workshop:**
- Women's Equal rights Law (from Berkowitz)
- Written Media – Women Sections
- Women in Beer Seva – Personal Evidence

**1960s**

**Week 6**

**Broadening Educational Opportunities** – the Comprehensive Schools, the 'Spiral' System and its Impact on Center-Periphery Relations and Images

**Reading:**

**Workshop:**
- Turn left at the end of the world
- Statistics
- Articles by contemporaries
Week 7

Reading:
- Troen, Ilan. (2003). Imagining Zion: Dreams, Designs and Realities in a Century of Jewish of Jewish Settlement (Ch. 9: from new towns to development Towns) pp. 184-207

Workshop:
- Spielberg virtual library : Documentaries on Development Towns

Week 8
The Evolution of an Arab-Israeli Citizen: First Attempts of an Independent Political Action, the Al Ard Case and more

Reading:

Workshop:
- Al-Ard in the written media
- Al-Ard court rulings
- Gale data base

Week 9
The Growth of Israel's Civic Activism– Youth and Young Adults in Protest and Critical Movements
- The Case of Shurat Hamitnadvim in the Higher Court
- Mazpen and Siach
- The first settlements beyond the green line : Hebron, Gush Etzion and the Golan heights

Reading :
- Sprinzak, Ehud (1999). Brother against Brother ch. 4
- Feige, Michael (2009). Settling in the Hearts. Ch.8: Gush Etzion and the Decline of Secular Zionist Mythology

Workshop:
- Film: Late Summer Blues
- Documentary – Gush Etzion and Golan Heights


1970s

Week 10
The Mizrachi Revolt
Israeli Black Panthers Confronting Public Opinion
Reading:
- Bernstein Deborah, *The Black Panthers of Israel 1971-1972: contradictions and protest in the process of nation-building*
Workshop:
- Film: שמעת על הפנתרים (במאי: ניסים מוסק) Have you Heard about the Panthers?
- Article: Lea Ben-Dor (May, 1971). 'a Dream of Panthers'. Jerusalem Post Weekend Magazine
- Written Media

Week 11
Reform and Integration in Israel's Educational System
Reading:
Workshop:
- Statistic

Week 12
The Land Day: Arabs in Israel Draw the Lines
Reading :
- Ghanem, As'ad (2001). *The Palestinian Arab Minority in Israel, 1948-2000.* Ch.7: Local Politics
- Stendel, Ori (1996). *The Arabs in Israel.* Ch. 3: The Political Arena
Workshop:
Guest lecturer / Documentary

Week 13
The Israeli Feminist Movement – Why Now?
Reading:
- Yael Yishai (2005). 'Between the Flag and Banner' In; *Israeli's Women Studies: A Reader*
Workshop:
1977

Week 14
Watershed Line – Redefining the Border Lines Between Center and Periphery – the Rise of New Elites?

Reading:
Vaits, Yehi'am (2005). 'The Road to "Upheaval": A Capsulate History of the Herut Movement'. Israel Studies, 10:3, pp. 54-86
• Updated political science article on the mahapach

Workshop:
Documentaries and 1977 election campaign