Course Description:
The years preceding and following the founding of Israel were dominated by intense events, which had an impact on all spheres of life. The course follows the history of Israel from the 1930s until the late 1960s, throughout the main junctions that affected the establishment of Israel and its social, cultural and political characteristics. The course relies on the Ben-Gurion 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. David 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 an introductory course that serves as a primary stage for any further inquiry 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, while analyzing historical records, including correspondence, minutes from formal meetings, memoranda, and items of popular culture. This methodology offers a multifaceted approach, one that doesn't simply provide a narrative but rather offers a joint reconstruction of various 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
Optional: internship, based on qualifications, two extra credits [for OSP students]

Teaching Method:
The course includes lectures, small study groups and class discussions. The lectures will be based on weekly reading assignments, mostly based on the course textbooks. All readings are available on the course website. 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. The course takes place at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, BGUs Sede-Boquer Campus.

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: 40%

Note:
- Work handed in late, will not be graded!
- 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 books. Additional – recommended readings will be assigned throughout the course. One of the assignments will be based on two articles from the additional reading list.

Text Books:


Primary sources will be tracked and revealed by the students during the course.
Weeks 1+2 [October 3rd; October 10th]

Background – the Emergence of the Yishuv Community - Political and Ideological Setting:
- Jewish national revival in a nutshell...
- Elevating international support - Balfour Declaration and its short term consequences
- The post WW1 changing map - The constitution of the British Mandate on Palestine

Reading
- Reading for week 1, October 3rd 2013 – Shapira, 2012: Ch. 1
- Reading for week 2, October 10th 2013:
  - Edelheit, Ch. 5
  - Shapira, Ch. 2 [sub-titles: the second Aliyah and the Birth of the Pioneering ethos]
  - Shapira, Ch. 3 [sub-titles: Introduction; The Balfour Declaration; 1918-1929]

Week 3 [October 17th]
1930s - The Evolution of 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

Reading
- Sachar, Ch. VIII – sub title: the Fifth Aliyah – The Growth of the Capitalist Sector; the Growth of Zionism Ch. IX [full chapter]

Week 4 [October 24th]
The 1940s – Struggle and Diplomacy
- Struggle for statehood - Internal disputes (the Haganah vs. IZL and Lehi)
- The Yishuv faces the destruction of European Jewry
- Struggle for statehood - The International Scene (AA Committee; Morison-Grady plan)
- Struggle for statehood, the DPs and impact of illegal immigration (the Exodus affair)

Reading
- Shapira, Ch. 3 [sub-title, 1939-1948] Sachar, Ch. X (sub-title, The Rise of Jewish Militancy - pp. 243-248)
- Sachar, Ch. XI
Week 5 [October 31\textsuperscript{st} ]

Unscop and Resolution 181
- Unfolding the international arena and its roles re: Palestine
- Unscop and Resolution 181 – the principle of partition and recognition of a Jewish state : Interests and Lobbying ; interpreting the document; analyzing the reactions

Reading
- Shapira, Ch. 3 [sub-title, 1939-1948]
- Sachar, ch. XII  [pp. 279-301]

Weeks 6 +7 [ November 7\textsuperscript{th} + November 14\textsuperscript{th} ]

1948 – The Israeli War of Independence; the First Arab-Israel War
- Conflicting narratives and narratives of conflict – remarks on historiography
- The inter-communal war - characteristics, main events, consequences
- 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

Reading

Reading for week 6, November 7\textsuperscript{th}:

Reading for week 7, November 14\textsuperscript{th}
- Sachar, ch. XII [301-314]
- Shapira, Ch. 7

Week 8 - November 21\textsuperscript{st} [no instruction]
Week 9 [November 28th]

**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

**Reading**
- Sachar, ch. XIV
- Shapira, Ch.9 , 10

Week 10 [December 5th]

**The "Second Decade" – a Fool's Paradise?**
- End of BGs era and the challenge of transferring leadership
- 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

**Reading**
- Sachar, Ch. XIX; XX
- Shapira, Ch. 8

Week 11 [December 12th]

**1967 or "the Six Day War"**
- The 1967 war – Remarks on a "Young Historiography"
- 1967 – explaining the causes for War
- 1967 as an earth quake - The emergence of the Greater land of Israel movement (the burst of religious sentiments following the 1967 territorial changes)
- 1967 – the Arab response

**Reading**
- Shapira, Ch. 13-14
Week 12 [December 19th ]
Final exam.

Tour: Sede Boqer Campus and BG Desert Home (Optional)

The Beginning of a "Post Nation-Building" Era (optional)

- The Military Bands and the emergence of a "Zionist Rock"
- War of Attrition and its cultural reflections - *Late summer Blues*; The Bathtub Queen – popular protest and anti war movements

Readings

Additional recommended Bibliography

- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 – bring the hardcopies of this document to class on October 16th