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

Israel in the Jewish World - Past, Present and Future Trends

Spring Semester 2024
Tuesdays, 10:30-12:00
Sede Boqer Campus

Dr. Aviad Moreno
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Office hours: Room 035, Thursdays, 18:00-19:00
(please email me in advance)

Course Description
The aim of this course is to acquaint the students with a variety of Jewish perspectives regarding the state of Israel and its role within Jewish discourses: to what extent Israel is viewed by Jews worldwide as a center and/or as a challenge to their Jewish identities.

Course Assignments and Evaluation
This course is designed to facilitate class discussions. Course assignments and final grades are all based on that requirement.

Class Participation (10%): Although class attendance is not mandatory, participation in class will constitute ten percent of your final grade, and you will be expected to address issues discussed in class in your final essay.

Presentation (20%): Each student is expected to choose topic for presentation, based on the reading list below, or on another topic of particular interest to you. Students are encouraged to use office hours to discuss their choices with me.

By May 20, each student is expected to schedule a day to present his/her topic in class. Students are also expected to discuss with me the reading material they will pre-circulate prior to their presentation in class. Class presentations should run about 15 minutes. PowerPoints are welcomed.
**Final home-exam (70%):** the exam will be based on class discussion, including students’ presentations, and the assigned reading.

Course Layout, Schedule and Assigned Readings

1. **Introduction** (30.4)
   
   Course requirements and themes

2. **Zionist Perspectives** (7.5)


   *Globalizing the 1948 War*, a presentation by Prof. Derek Penslar at the BGRI weekly seminar (12:30-14:00).

3. **Is Israel The Center?** (21.5)

   ***Presentations start here***


4. **North American Perspectives** (28.5)

   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvpBExU9x_s


Shiff, Ofer. "Reform Jewish Prophet or Zionist Leader?" The Downfall of Abba Hillel Silver and the Foundation of Israel, Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2014. 245-270.

5. East European/Soviet Perspectives (4.6)


6. Between Iran and Zion (18.6)

Sternfeld, Lior B. Between Iran and Zion: Jewish Histories of Twentieth-Century Iran. Stanford University Press, 2018, 63-91

7. (New) North African Perspectives (25.6)


General Pinochet, Israel, and the Jews: A Global Story, a Lecture by Gustavo Guzmán (at the BGRI weekly seminar (12:30-14:00).

8. Israel's Social Divides Seen from Afar (2.7)


9. Traveling home? Jewish tourism to Israel (9.7)


10. Is Zionism only for Jews? (16.7)
