



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

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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)

Katriel, Tamar. "The Rhetoric of Rescue: "Salvage Immigration" Narratives in Israeli Culture." *Jewish Studies at the Crossroads of Anthropology and History: Authority, Diaspora, Tradition* 2011, 413-27.

Dershowitz, Alan M. "Make Aliyah! The Israeli Solution to the Jewish Question of the Twenty-first Century", *The Vanishing American Jew – In Search of Jewish Identity for the next Century*, Boston and New York: Little Brown and Company, 1997, pp. 219-255.

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

Bokser-Liwerant, Judit. "Jewish Diaspora and Transnationalism: Awkward (Dance) Partners?." *Reconsidering Israel-Diaspora relations*. Brill, 2014. 367-404.

Alroey, Gur. "Two Historiographies: Israeli Historiography and the Mass Jewish Migration to the United States, 1881–1914." *Jewish Quarterly Review* 105.1 (2015): 99-129.

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

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

Herzog, Ben. "Symbolism and Policy: Reading the Ben-Gurion—Blaustein "Exchange" in Relation to Citizenship Laws in the United States." *Israel Studies* 25.3 (2020): 49-64.

Gorni, Yosef. (2014). "Ethnicity and state policy: The State of Israel in the intellectual and political discourse of the US Jewish press" Y. Gorni & E.B. Rafael (Eds.) in *Reconsidering Israel-Diaspora Relations*, Brill, 86-103.

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)

Cantorovich, Irena, and Nati Cantorovich. "The Impact of the Holocaust and the State of Israel on Soviet Jewish Identity." *The Jewish Movement in the Soviet Union* (2012): 96-116

Dariusz, Stola. "Anti-Zionism as a Multipurpose Policy Instrument: The Anti-Zionist Campaign in Poland, 1967–1968," *Journal of Israeli History* (2006) 25:1, 175-201, DOI: 10.1080/13531040500503021

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)

Boum, Aomar. "From 'Little Jerusalems' to the Promised Land: Zionism, Moroccan Nationalism, and Rural Jewish Emigration." *The Journal of North African Studies* 15.1 (2010): 51-69

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)

Bejarano, Margalit (2017). "Transnational Sephardi Zionism in a Historical Perspective: Salomón Garazi and the Cuban Chapter of FESELA in Miami," *Judaica Latinoamericana* VIII, Magnes Press

Moreno, Aviad. "The Ingathering of the Jewish (Moroccan) Diaspora: Zionism and Global Hometown Awareness among Spanish-Moroccan Jews in Israel." *European Judaism* 52.2 (2019): 143-155

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

Lev Ari, Lilach & David Mittelberg, *Between Authenticity and Ethnicity: Heritage Tourism and Re-ethnification Among Diaspora Jewish Youth*, *Journal of Heritage Tourism*, 3:2 (2008), 79-103.

Kelner, Shaul. "Building Diaspora", in *Tours That Bind, Diaspora, Pilgrimage and Israeli Birthright Tourism*, New York: New York University Press, 2010, 191-208.

10. Is Zionism only for Jews? (16.7)

Grin, Monica, Michel Gherman, and Leonel Caraciki. "Beyond Jordan River's Waters: Evangelicals, Jews, and the Political Context in Contemporary Brazil." *International Journal of Latin American Religions* 3.2 (2019): 253-273.

Maddy-Weitzman, Bruce. "Morocco's Pro-Israel Berbers." *Middle East Quarterly* (2011): Middle East Quarterly, P. 79-85, vol. 18, No. 1, Winter 2011, 79-85.