



Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism
The Woodman Scheller Israel Studies International MA Program
Spring Semester 2023

Israeli History "From Below" 1960s – 1990s

Prof. Paula Kabalo

Course Description and Objectives :

This research seminar sheds light on less heard voices of Israeli history. Individuals and groups that acted behind the scenes and shaped the Israeli cultural and social mosaic between 1960s – 1990s. 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 Israeli society. 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). Junctions in Israel's civic and constitutional history will be analyzed through the lens of these groups, following a chronological outline.

Beginning in the 1960s, the course will shed light on the Eichman Trial and the emergence of the Holocaust survival's public voice; the social roles of the IDF as were realized by female soldiers and the army ensembles; Al-Ard movement and the struggle for Arab rights of association; the generational aspects of post Six Day War reactions – the settlers of the Golan Heights and Gush-Etzion, grassroots political activism, and the soul searching of the kibbutz young adults following the war.

Moving on to the 1970s, an overview of the educational reform and its triggers will be presented. Thereafter the course will keep track of Israeli civic activism as it emerged within a broad spectrum of social sectors in the 1970s – 1990s : The (Israeli) Black Panthers, the public protest after the Yom Kippur War, the events and background the Land Day, the protest against the first Lebanon War in 1982 and the collective mourning and trauma of Rabin's assassination in 1995.

These decades also witnessed the political upheaval - one that will be studied through the lens of its in depth socio-economic dimensions – the center periphery rifts. As the final accord of the course – the higher education reform and revolution of the 1990s will be presented and discussed – suggesting that it has served as a point of departure to future developments in Israeli society and economy.

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 consist 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)	30%
2. Research Proposal	15%
3. Research Paper	55%

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)
-