Jews, Judaism and Jewish Nationalism in Modern Times
Spring Semester 2020

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 08:30-09:30 and by appointment

Short Description
In the course, we will read texts dealing with the meaning of “Jewish nation”. The first part of the course will focus on Zionist thinks (Bialik, Ha’ad Ha’am, Klatzkin and Ha’rav Kuk); the second part will focus on Israeli intellectuals (A.B. Yehoshua, Leibowitz, Ratosh and Yovel).

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to participate actively. At the end of the semester, students will submit a paper exploring in greater depth one of the topics covered in the class, or a topic related to the course but which was not examined directly over the course of the semester.

The Topics
The Meaning of Judaism according to Ahad Ha’am
Bialik’s View on Culture
Negation of Galut according to Klatzkin
The Meaning of the Zionism according to Ha’rav Kuk
Negation of the Diaspora from an Israeli Perspective: the Case of A. B. Yehoshua
The “Canaanite” Critique of Israel
Qibya Incident: Idolatry and War Crimes in the Eyes of Leibowitz
A Zionist Answer to the Post-Zionism: Yovel on Spinoza as proto-Zionist

Bibliography
1. Arthur Herzberg, The Zionist Idea, Atheneum, 1977