The state of Israel was founded based on the notion that the Jews worldwide constitute a nation, and that they are hence deserving of a nation-state. This was not necessarily a self-evident proposition to all. Modern Zionism—the Jewish national movement that sought the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine—emerged in the nineteenth century as one among a wide array of Jewish responses to the challenges of modernity. Some of these responses understood Judaism, or Jewishness, to be based in a common nationhood. Zionism, in other words, was for many years one among a variety of Jewish national ideas and projects. Other Jewish responses to modernity understood (and sought to recast) the essence of Judaism, or Jewishness, in different terms—as based in religion, class, or civilization, for example. Some of these movements and ideas evinced differing degrees of sympathy or indifference to the idea of Jewish nationhood; others were passionately opposed, and even hostile, to such notions.

This course seeks to understand the emergence of the idea (or ideas) of Jewish nationalism, how it understood its relationship to the Jewish past, and its vision of a Jewish future. Moreover, it will attempt to chart the ways in which Jewish national activists of various stripes sought to construct an actual Jewish nation and grant the Jews a national life.

Course Requirements:

- Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend class regularly and to participate actively. Participation, of course, must be based on consistent reading of the relevant materials for each given meeting. The class will be conducted seminar-style, and all students are
expected to be active participants and to prepare points for discussion of
the reading material.

- Midterm paper (30%): A midterm paper based on questions that I will
provide will be due May 23.
The Midterm paper will count for 30% of the final grade for the class.

- Final Written Assignment (70%): 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. In either case, the paper should examine
some aspect of:
  - notions of Jewish nationhood;
  - Jewish nationalism and/or anti-nationalism;
  - efforts to create or conceptualize Jewish national attributes or
    life.

The final paper will constitute 70% of the final grade.

Due Date: July 31

| Some General Guidelines for Writing papers (we will discuss more specific
guidelines over the course of the semester): |
|---------------------------------------------|
| Begin with a clearly articulated research question—all writing begins with
  questions! |
| Make sure to consider all of the sources related to the question. |
| Read those sources carefully and critically; ask them questions, and
  confront them with one another. Careful, active, and creative reading is
  one of the most important pieces of serious research and writing. |
| Explain in clear language what the central issues are that the sources
  address. When doing so, give examples and evidence by providing brief
  quotes. |
| Remember: You job is to make an argument, to present a case. Make sure
  to know what you are arguing, to articulate it clearly, and to back it up
  with evidence. |
| CITE!—never forget to tell your reader where you are quoting from. |
Class Schedule and Readings:

March 14: General Introduction

March 21: Who and What are the Jews?—Identity Crises and the Origins of Jewish Nationalism

Reading:
- Shlomo Sand, *The Invention of the Jewish People*
- Leora Batnitzky, *How Judaism Became a Religion*

March 28—No Class

April 4: Origins of the Dilemma: The Jewish Encounter with Modernity

Reading:

April 18: Shaping responses: Jewish and non-Jewish

Reading:

May 2: Preconditions to the rise of Jewish nationalism:

a. The Rise of Nationalism


b. The Emergence of Modern Antisemitism


c. Europe's Rediscovery of the Holy Land

May 9: Forerunners of Zionism

Reading:
- Alkalai, Kalischer and Hess in Hertzberg, 103-139.

May 16: Turmoil in Europe and the Emergence of Zionism

Reading:
- Engel, ch. 2.

May 23: Midterm Paper due

May 23: The Problem of the Jews or a Jewish Problem: Between Herzl’s Political Zionism and Ahad Ha’am’s “Spiritual Zionism”

Reading:
- Ahad Ha’am in Herzberg, 249-51; 262-77.

May 30: Nation and Territory in Jewish Nationalism:

Reading:
- Shmuel Almog, "People and Land in Modern Jewish Nationalism", in Essential Papers, 46-62

June 6: The Jewish Nation and Its Others—Zionism and the Arabs of Palestine

Reading:

Reading:
- Hayyim Nahman Bialik on the Hebrew University, Hertzberg, 279-288.

June 20: Crises, Revolts and Independence: Implications and Challenges

Reading:
- Engel, ch. 5.