



**Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**  
The Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism  
Ginsburg Ingerman Overseas Students Program

**The Israel Studies International MA Program (ISIP)**

**The Israeli Mosaic**  
**An Introduction to Israeli History, Politics, Society and Culture**  
013-5-4011 ; 016-2-2011  
**Fall Semester 2013**

**Thursday, 8:15 am – 12:00 pm**  
**Sede Boqer Campus, The Ben Gurion Research Institute for the**  
**Study of Israel and Zionism**

**Dr. Paula Kabalo**

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**Office hours:** Sede-Boqer Campus, Main Building, The BG Research Institute;  
Thursday 12:30-14:00

**Course Description:**

The years preceding and following the founding of Israel were dominated by intense events, which had an impact on all spheres of life. The course follows the history of Israel from the 1930s until the late 1960s, throughout the main junctions that affected the establishment of Israel and its social, cultural and political characteristics. The course relies on the Ben-Gurion Archives as a major source of historical records for those crucial years. The students will be engaged in broad discussion and will experience individual archive inquiry on specific case studies. David Ben-Gurion's dominance as a leading politician and statesman as well as his personal engagement with various strata of society offer his archives as a natural setting for an introductory course that serves as a primary stage for any further inquiry of Israel's history politics, society and culture.

**Course Objectives:**

The aim is to provide basic knowledge on Israel's history, politics, society and culture, while analyzing historical records, including correspondence, minutes from formal meetings, memoranda, and items of popular culture. This methodology offers a multifaceted approach, one that doesn't simply provide a narrative but rather offers a joint reconstruction of various historical narratives

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## Course Structure:

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Each course meeting will include a **lecture**, and archive/library **exercise** and a **discussion** based on students' findings

**Total # of Credits: 4**

**Optional: internship, based on qualifications, two extra credits [for OSP students]**

### Teaching Method:

The course includes lectures, small study groups and class discussions. The lectures will be based on weekly reading assignments, mostly based on the course textbooks. All readings are available on the course website. In addition to these readings, primary sources will be revealed and tracked by the students during class meetings and thereafter presented and discussed in class. The course takes place at the Ben-Gurion Research Institute for the Study of Israel and Zionism, BGUs Sede-Boqer Campus.

## Course Requirements

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Compulsory attendance **YES**

Pre-requisites: **NONE**

### Structure of Final Course Grad

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1. Participation	20%
2. Two Midterm assignments	40% (20% each)
3. Final Exam	<u>40%</u>
	100%

### Note:

- Work handed in late, will not be graded!
- students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than 2 class meetings unexcused

## Course Schedule Layout:

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\* Note – readings are all based on course text books. Additional – recommended readings will be assigned throughout the course. One of the assignments will be based on two articles from the additional reading list.

### Text Books:

- Howard Sachar, *A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to Our Time*, New York: Knopf. 1996 or 2007 [2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> edition]
- Anita Shapira, *Israel: A History*. The Schusterman Series in Israel Studies, Brandeis University Press, NH (UPNE). 2012.
- Hershel & Abraham Edelheit, *History of Zionism: A Handbook and Dictionary*. Westview Press. 2000.

Primary sources will be tracked and revealed by the students during the course

## Weeks 1+2 [October 3<sup>rd</sup>; October 10<sup>th</sup> ]

### **Background – the Emergence of the *Yishuv* Community - Political and Ideological Setting:**

- Jewish national revival in a nutshell...
- Elevating international support - Balfour Declaration and its short term consequences
- The post WW1 changing map - The constitution of the British Mandate on Palestine

### Reading

- Reading for week 1, October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 – **Shapira, 2012: Ch. 1**
- Reading for week 2, October 10<sup>th</sup> 2013:
  - **Edelheit, Ch. 5**
  - **Shapira, Ch. 2** [sub-titles: the second Aliyah and the Birth of the Pioneering ethos]
  - **Shapira, Ch. 3** [sub-titles: Introduction; The Balfour Declaration; 1918-1929]

## Week 3 [October 17<sup>th</sup> ]

### **1930s - The Evolution of *Israeli* Politics:**

- The political mosaic of the *Yishuv* and its inter relations (left vs. right politics, religious vs. secular groups)
- Ben-Gurion and Weizmann – a dual leadership?
- The Arab revolt and its consequences
- Peel's partition plan – contents, significance and reactions (the meaning of partition – the religious vs. security justifications for the principle of partition or its rejection)
- British Palestine policies – the relations with the Jewish and Arab communities

### Reading

- **Sachar, Ch. VIII** – sub title: the Fifth Aliyah – The Growth of the Capitalist Sector ; the Growth of Zionism **Ch. IX [full chapter]**

## Week 4 [October 24<sup>th</sup> ]

### **The 1940s – Struggle and Diplomacy**

- Struggle for statehood - Internal disputes (the Haganah vs. IZL and Lehi)
- The *Yishuv* faces the destruction of European Jewry
- Struggle for statehood - The International Scene (AA Committee; Morison-Grady plan)
- Struggle for statehood, the DPs and impact of illegal immigration (the Exodus affair)

### Reading

- **Shapira, Ch. 3** [sub-title, 1939-1948] Sachar, Ch. X (sub-title, The Rise of Jewish Militancy - pp. 243-248)
- **Sachar, Ch. XI**

## Week 5 [October 31<sup>st</sup> ]

### **Unscop and Resolution 181**

- Unfolding the international arena and its roles re: Palestine
- Unscop and Resolution 181 – the principle of partition and recognition of a Jewish state : Interests and Lobbying ; interpreting the document; analyzing the reactions

### Reading

- **Shapira, Ch. 3** [sub-title, 1939-1948]
- **Sachar, ch. XII** [pp. 279-301]

## Weeks 6 +7 [ November 7<sup>th</sup> + November 14<sup>th</sup> ]

### **1948 – The Israeli War of Independence; the First Arab-Israel War**

- Conflicting narratives and narratives of conflict – remarks on historiography
- The inter-communal war - characteristics, main events, consequences
- The emergence of the Palestinian refugee problem
- The declaration of Independence and the extension of the conflict
- The establishment of a Unified army and the enforcement of a central authority – almost a civil war?
- The role of the Sabra generation and the war culture and myths

### Reading

#### **Reading for week 6, November 7<sup>th</sup>:**

- **Shlaim** (1995). 'The Debate About 1948'. *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* . vol 27:3 pp. 287-304
- **Bar-On** (2006). 'Conflicting Narratives or Narratives of Conflict : Can the Zionist and Palestinian Narratives of the 1948 be bridged?'. In: Robert I. Rotberg (ed). *Israeli and Palestinian Narratives of Conflict*. Indiana University Press, pp. 142-173

#### **Reading for week 7, November 14<sup>th</sup>**

- **Sachar, ch. XII** [301-314]
- **Shapira, Ch. 7**

## **Week 8 - November 21<sup>st</sup> [no instruction]**

## Week 9 [November 28<sup>th</sup> ]

### **The 1950s – the Making of Israel and the Israeli**

- Nation building – demography, economy, geography policies and the challenge of social and cultural cohesion
- The integration of Exiles – the pre-modern Jewish communities and their perception of Israel and *Israeliness* (the "messianic" immigration vs. the ideologies of modern nation building)
- The concept of *Mamlachtiyut* – statism and civil society – rivals or partners?
- Internal rifts: the Ultra Orthodox community; the Arab minority; the radical right wing and the struggle over German reparations.
- infiltration and the Israeli government refugee policy and the Arab minority in Israel
- the 1956 War – triggers, goals, consequences
- Who is a Jew? – state and religion in Israeli legislation

### Reading

- **Sachar, ch. XIV**
- **Shapira, Ch.9 , 10**

## Week 10 [December 5<sup>th</sup> ]

### **The "Second Decade" – a Fool's Paradise?**

- End of BGs era and the challenge of transferring leadership
- The contradictions of the Eshkol era – conciliatoriness and Nuclear power
- The sense of tranquility and prosperity – reality or illusion?
- Israel's regional ties – the "African Affair"
- The military government and its dismantling

### Reading

- **Sachar, Ch. XIX; XX**
- **Shapira, Ch. 8**

## Week 11 [December 12<sup>th</sup> ]

### **1967 or "the Six Day War"**

- The 1967 war – Remarks on a "Young Historiography"
- 1967 – explaining the causes for War
- 1967 as an earth quake - The emergence of the Greater land of Israel movement (the burst of religious sentiments following the 1967 territorial changes)
- 1967 – the Arab response

### Reading

- **Shapira, Ch. 13-14**

## Week 12 [December 19<sup>th</sup> ]

Final exam.

### **Tour: Sede Boqer Campus and BG Desert Home (Optional)**

### **The Beginning of a "Post Nation-Building" Era (optional )**

- The Military Bands and the emergence of a "Zionist Rock"
- War of Attrition and its cultural reflections - *Late summer Blues*; The Bathtub Queen – popular protest and anti war movements

### **Readings**

**Regev & Saroussi (2004) , *Popular Music and National Culture in Israel* pp. 90-112**

### **Additional recommended Bibliography**

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- Bar-Zohar, M. *Ben-Gurion : a Biography*. New York: Adama Books, 1986. pp. 121-124
- Bar-On (2006). 'Conflicting Narratives or Narratives of Conflict : Can the Zionist and Palestinian Narratives of the 1948 be bridged?'. In: Robert I. Rotberg (ed). *Israeli and Palestinian Narratives of Conflict*. Indiana University Press, pp. 142-173
- Begin, M. *The Revolt*. London: W.H.Allen, 1951. pp. 133-153
- Caplan, N. "Zionist-Arab Diplomacy : Patterns and Ambiguities on the Eve of Statehood". L. J. Silberstein (ed). *New Perspectives on Israeli History*, New York: New York University Press, 1991. pp. 242-257
- Cohen Michael, J. *Palestine and the Great Powers* (Princeton, 1982), pp. 260-300
- Friedman, M. "The Structural Foundation for Religio-Political Accommodation in Israel : Fallacy and Reality", I. Troen & N. Lucas (eds). *Israel - the First Decade of Independence*. New York: State University of New York Press, 1995. pp. 51-81
- Golani Motti. "Shall we go to War? And if we do, When? The Genesis of the Internal Debate in Israel on the Road to the Sinai War". *Israel Affairs*. Vol 6: 3-4 2000. pp. 22-42
- Hacoen, D. "The Law of Return as an Embodiment of the Link Between Israel and the Jews of the Diaspora", *Journal of Israeli History* 19,1 (1998) 61-89
- Halamish, A. *The Exodus Affair : Holocaust Survivors and the Struggle for Palestine*. London: V. Mitchell, 1998. pp. 75-102

- Heller, J. *The Birth of Israel, 1945-1949*, University Press of Florida, Gainesville 2000, pp. 1-17;
- Heller, J. *The Stern Gang: Ideology, Politics and Terror, 1940-1949*, Frank Cass, London 1995, pp. 137-145
- Lissak, M. "The Civilian Components of Israel's Security Doctrine: the Evolution of Civil Military Relations in the First Decade," in: *Israel: the First Decade of Independence*, pp. 575-593
- Morris, B. " The Causes and Character of the Arab Exodus from Palestine : the Israel Defence Forces Intelligence Branch Analysis of June 1948", in: Morris, *1948 And After: Israel and the Palestinians*, Oxford 1990
- Morris, B. "The Historiography of Deir Yassin", *Journal of Israeli History* 24,1 (2005) 79-107
- Oren, Michael. "Escalation to Suez: The Egyptian-Israel Border War, 1949-1956". *Journal of Contemporary History* vol. 24: 2 pp. 347-373
- Oren Michael. "Did Israel Want the Six Day War?" *Azure* 5759, 1999. pp. 47-86
- Regev & Saroussi (2004) , *Popular Music and National Culture in Israel* pp. 90-112
- Rozin, O. "The Austerity Policy and the Rule of Law : Relations Between Government and Public in Fledgling Israel" *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 4,3 (2005) 273-290
- Segev Tom. 1967. Metropolitan Books, NY. 2007. pp. 1-15; 277-287
- Shlaim (1995). 'The Debate About 1948'. *International Journal of Middle Eastern Studies* . vol 27:3 pp. 287-304
- Sprinzak, E. *Brother Against Brother : Violence and Extremism in Israeli Politics from Altalena to the Rabin assassination*, New York: The Free Press, 1999. pp. 17-50
- Sprinzak, E. *Brother Against Brother : Violence and Extremism in Israeli Politics from Altalena to the Rabin assassination*, New York: The Free Press, 1999. pp. 115-144
- Stein, Kenneth, W. "One Hundred Years of Social Change: the Creation of the Palestinian Refugee Problem", in: L. J. Silberstein (ed). *New Perspectives on Israeli History*, New York: New York University Press, 1991. pp.57-81
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 – bring the hardcopies of this document to class on October 16<sup>th</sup>