

Syllabus: History 334
History of Zionism and Modern Israel

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Course Description

This course will deal with the history of the Zionist movement from its inception until the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, and the history of Israel from 1948 until the present. It will cover topics such as the nationalist, socialist, and religious impulses that influenced Zionism; the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities of Palestine in the Ottoman period; the British Mandate; the creation of Israel by the United Nations in 1948; the wars between Israel and its neighbors; the influx of Jews to the new state; Palestinian Arab nationalism; economic, social, and religious issues facing Israel; the Israeli political system; and issues in international diplomacy concerning Israel.

Course Objectives

When this course is over, students should come away with the following:

- An understanding of the major issues in the history of Zionism and Israel
- Deeper insight into the contemporary problems of the Middle East that appear in the news
- An appreciation for diverse perspectives on perplexing subject matter
- Better critical tools for evaluating any complex political, social, and religious conflict
- An ability to identify and evaluate the key points in primary and secondary texts
- Improved ability to organize and communicate ideas in discussion and writing

GEC Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students acquire a perspective on history and an understanding of the factors that shape human activity.
2. Students display knowledge about the origins and nature of contemporary issues and develop a foundation for future comparative understanding.
3. Students think, speak, and write critically about primary and secondary historical sources by examining diverse interpretations of past events and ideas in their historical contexts.

GEC and History Categories

This course fulfills half of the GEC Category 3: Historical Study requirement. In the history major, it is a Group A, Area 4 course, dealing with the post-1750 period.

Course Material

Brenner, Michael. *Zionism: A Brief History* (Princeton: Markus Wiener, 2003)

Dowty, Alan. *The Jewish State: A Century Later*, 2nd ed. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001) [available online as a web e-book through OSU Libraries]

Israel and the Middle East, 2nd ed., ed. I. Rabinovich and J. Reinharz. (Waltham, Mass.: Brandeis University Press/UPA, 2008)

Morris, Benny. *One State, Two States* (New Haven: Yale University Press, forthcoming in 2009)

Enrollment

All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the Chair of the Department after that time. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of the student.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Grading

Quizzes	40% (best 8 of 10)
Paper	40%
Final exam	20%

I reserve the right to take improvement into account when calculating final grades.

Grading Scale:

A: 92.6 and above; A-: 89.6-92.5; B+: 87.6-89.5; B: 82.6-87.5; B-: 79.6-82.5; C+: 77.6-79.5; C: 72.6-77.5; C-: 69.6-72.5; D+: 67.6-69.5; D: 62-67.5; E: below 62

Quizzes will consist of five short answer or multiple-choice questions. Their purpose is to keep students motivated to do the reading on time, so we can have meaningful discussions in class. If you miss a quiz because of illness or any other reason, it will count as one of your two low grades and will drop out of the grade calculation. That is the essential purpose of counting only 8 of 10.

The paper will give students the opportunity to explore one aspect of our course material in more depth. It will also sharpen their skills in constructing document-based arguments designed to support a thesis. I will explain issues of thesis selection, structure, scope, argumentation, documentation, and grading in a separate sheet.

The final exam will be given on the standard final exam date and time for this course designated by the university. It will consist of short answer, short essay, and/or essay questions.

The Paper

The paper will be based on primary documents taken either from our text reader, *Israel in the Middle East*; or a reader on Zionism, *The Zionist Idea*, ed. A. Hertzberg, which will be on reserve in the Main Library. Each student, in consultation with the instructor, will select a document (a portion of a document if it is a long piece) to explain in historical context. The paper will open with a paragraph or two about the author, place and time of composition, genre, intended audience, and purpose of the document. It will go on to explain the political, religious, economic, social, gender, racial, ecological, geographical, and/or ideological background—as applicable—by using information gathered from other documents in these collections as well as secondary works.

The paper will consist of 10-12 pages double spaced with one-inch margins and 12-point font. This length will include endnotes, which will be formatted in Chicago Manual style and used to document every quotation, paraphrase, and use of ideas or information from the works of others. It will be due in class one week before the end of the quarter.

A Comment on the Reading and Syllabus

We will use about half secondary studies and half primary texts in this course. Brenner's *Zionism* is a short, synthetic history of the Zionist movement and its origins up to the creation of Israel. Dowty's *Jewish State* is a study of the institutions comprising the Israeli state and society, and the conflicts that have arisen over those institutions. *Israel and the Middle East* is in many ways at the core of this course. It is a primary source reader that follows the State of Israel historically, incorporating political, social, diplomatic, and military documents from both Jewish and Arab sources. Some of these documents will be analyzed in each class meeting and placed in their larger historical context. Benny Morris, a controversial "revisionist" historian of Israel, is the author of our last book, *One State, Two States*. He offers his reading of the possibilities for peace in the current atmosphere. We will progress chronologically, with a break for Dowty's analysis of Israeli institutions. *Israel in the Middle East* will be the spine of our studies, with the secondary sources appended as they become relevant or helpful.

Week 1: The "Old Yishuv" and Rise of Zionism

Reading: Brenner, *Zionism*, Chapters 1-3; *Israel in the Middle East*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 2: From Zionist Ideology to the State of Israel; the Sinai Campaign

Reading: Brenner, *Zionism*, Chapters 4-5 and Epilogue; *Israel in the Middle East*, Chapter 2

Week 3: Building the Israeli State: Internal and External Issues

Reading: Dowty, *Jewish State*, Part I: The Shaping of Israeli Democracy

Week 4: Building the Israeli State: Conflicts Within Israeli Society

Reading: Dowty, *Jewish State*, Part II: Challenges to Israeli Democracy

Week 5: From the Sinai Campaign to the Six Day War

Reading: *Israel in the Middle East*, Chapter 3

Week 6: From the Six Day War to the Yom Kippur War
Reading: *Israel in the Middle East*, Chapter 4

Week 7: From the Yom Kippur War to the Lebanon War
Reading: *Israel in the Middle East*, Chapter 5

Week 8: From the Lebanon War to the Mitchell Report
Reading: *Israel in the Middle East*, Chapters 6-7

Week 9: Making Peace in the Twenty-First Century **Paper Due**
Reading: *Israel in the Middle East*, Postscript; Morris, *One State*, First Section

Week 10: One-State and Two-State Peace Plans and their Problems
Reading: Morris, *One State*, Second Section