

MODERN ISRAEL
JUS/NES/HIST/POL 377
HONORS PROSEMINAR
JUS 396H /496H

The Arizona Center for Judaic Studies
The University of Arizona
Spring 2008

Professor Shlomo Aronson

Schusterman Visiting Professor of Israel Studies
On sabbatical, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
Office: Marshall Building, 845 N. Park Ave., Room 429
(520) 626-5785
Judaic Studies Office: 626-5758
Email: shlomo1@email.arizona.edu

Office hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:00noon-2:00pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course will describe and analyze Zionism as secular and as religious off springs of Jewish Civilization, as related to Jewish values, norms and historical contents in the praxis of Israel's road to independence and Israeli realities since, related as they were to other inputs such as Social-Democracy, European Right wing ideologies, the impact of the Holocaust, changes in the fabric and institutions of the Israeli society, and the role of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Course Objectives

This course is to an extent an Israeli view of Israeli history and realities, but it is based upon extensive archival research, and related primary sources. As such the course will examine current events and current polemics from broader historical points of scholarly research, including the use of Marxist, Neo-Marxist, Neo-Nazi, Iranian and Palestinian terminology describing Israel as "colonial," "imperialist," or "racist" phenomenon.

1. To describe and analyze Zionism as a renaissance, rather than a fully revolutionary, movement, including the revival of the Hebrew language and the return to the Jewish homeland.
2. To describe and analyze the actual implementation of various manifestations of the Zionist ideology on the way to independence, and the differences between them, within the givens of the British mandatory rule and Arab behavior.
3. To describe and analyze the impact of the Holocaust upon the Jewish community in Palestine and upon the newly born nation, in connection with Palestinian-Nazi collaboration, and in connection with Arab rejection of the UN Partition Plan for Palestine and the ensuing Israeli War of Independence.
4. To describe and analyze the transformation of the voluntary Jewish national liberation movement to an independent state and its institutions under Labor Zionist leadership.
5. To describe and analyze the various waves of immigration into Israel from survivors of the Holocaust all the way to former Soviet and Ethiopian Jews.
6. To describe and analyze the sources and the ramifications of Israel's wars from the Sinai Campaign of 1956 to the Second Lebanon War of 2006.
7. To describe and analyze the changes in the Israeli society and in its institutions since the early 60s to the elections of 2006.

8. To describe and analyze the attitude toward and the legal status of Israeli Arabs and of Palestinians in the occupied territories since the military rule over the former and since the “benevolent occupation” in 1967 until the disengagement from Gaza in 2005 as related to changes in Israeli behavior and to Arab behavior and outside inputs.
9. To describe and analyze the criticism of Zionism and of Israel in anti-Zionist and in Anti-Semitic terms.

Class Format

This course uses a lecture format. You are expected to complete the required reading ahead of the class, and talking points to be circulated ahead of the class, to be downloaded from the course website. Under circumstances, addenda to each class will be circulated following classes among you, and the instructor will be available for further questions during office hours, to be announced.

Attendance

- Students are required to attend all classes. If extenuating circumstances such as illness force a student to miss one or more classes, the student remains responsible for the material covered during her/his absence.
- All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students who show affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean’s designee) will be honored.

Disruptive behavior

- Students may not use cell phones or pagers during class time.
- Students may not chat, read newspapers, use computers (other than for taking class notes), listen to music or otherwise behave disruptively during class time.

Threatening behavior

- Students must abide by the UA policy concerning threatening behavior, which can be read at: <http://studpubs.web.arizona.edu/policies/cacaint.htm>
- THREATENING BEHAVIOR IS PROHIBITED. “Threatening behavior” means any statement, communication, conduct or gesture, including those in written form, directed toward any member of the University community that causes a reasonable apprehension of physical harm to a person or property. A student can be guilty of threatening behavior even if the person who is the object of the threat does not observe or receive it, so long as a reasonable person would interpret the maker’s statement, communication, conduct or gesture as a serious expression of intent to physically harm.

Students with special needs

Students with special needs who are registered with the S.A.L.T. Center or the Disability Resource Center must submit appropriate documentation to the instructor if they are requesting special accommodations.

Changes to the syllabus

The information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Academic Integrity

Students in this class comply with the University “Code of Academic Integrity.” They will not plagiarize or represent the work of others as their own, nor modify academic work for the purpose of obtaining additional credit. Plagiarism is defined as using the ideas and words of others without

indicating whose ideas and whose words they are. Do not plagiarize, even inadvertently. If you quote as few as three words (sometimes only one word, if it is a major idea developed by the writer), use quotation marks and give the reference. If you use ideas only and not the actual words, give the reference but do not use quotation marks. The penalty for cheating or plagiarism in this course is zero credit for any assignment in which it occurs, and you will be reported to the Dean of Students.

Performance Evaluation

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Examinations

A mid-term exam based on a questionnaire related to the course readings to that stage, in the last class before the Spring Break – 30% of the final grade.

Mid-term paper due: Friday, 3-14-08.

Final, take home paper based on the readings specified below, the lectures and the circulated downloads, about 5-10 pages long. Topics will be announced toward last week of term. Grading expectations: knowledge of readings and combination thereof with the lectures as related to the chosen topic. Clear-cut style. Use of sources as to be instructed. Proper citations and proper use of notes and bibliography.

Final paper due: Thursday, 5-15-08.

Final grades will be assigned according to the following percentages:

90.0 – 100.% - A

80.0-89.99 % - B

70.0-79.99% - C

60.0-69.99% – D

59.99 and below - E

Required Textbooks

Aronson, Shlomo

Hitler, the Allies, and the Jews, Cambridge Univ. Press. 2006.

Sachar, Howard

A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time, Knopf, NY 1996.

Roshwald, Aviel

The Endurance of Nationalism, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2006

Recommended Textbook

Aronson, Shlomo

Politics and Strategy of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East, SUNY Press, Albany and London 1994

Additional readings are available on reserve at the main UA Library. Journal articles are available online at <http://eres.library.arizona.edu/eres/>

Find course reserves where Instructor contains Aronson

All Ereserves are listed under JUS 377

Password is: shlomo

Lecture topics and reading assignments

Week between 1-14/1-18-08

Introduction, course methodology, terminology, requirements

Week between 1-21/1-25-08

Required readings ahead of the classes and during the week:

Sachar, Howard, A History of Israel: from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time, Knopf, New York, second edition in paperback, 2003, pp. 3-63.

Roshwald, Aviel, The Endurance of Nationalism, Cambridge University Press, New York, paper, 2006, pp. 8-22. Both books will be available in the UA bookstore

Week between 1-28/2-1-08

"So precious little time..." from the Balfour Declaration to Hitler's rise to power to the Arab-Revolt of 1937-1939, the British "White Paper" on Palestine of May 1939 and the Holocaust.

Readings:

Sachar: 89-162.

Shlomo Aronson: Hitler, The Allies and the Jews, Cambridge University Press, New York, paperback edition June 2006, pp. 3-50.

Roshwald, 58-63.

Week between 2-4/2-8-08

The Road to independence and the ensuing results - the Israeli Social-Democracy in David Ben-Gurion's Era: Israel quadruples its population, and goes to war in 1956.

Readings:

Sachar: 279-394. 472-514

Shlomo Aronson: "David Ben-Gurion and the British Constitutional Model," in Israel Studies, Vol. 3, No. 2, Fall 1998, pp. 193-214. (available on Ereserves)

Week between 2-11/2-15-08

Years of growth and change, the crisis of the political system in the early 60s', the belated impact of the Holocaust, and the road to the Six Day War.

Readings:

Sachar: 395-471, 543-580.

Ephraim Yuchtman-Yaar, Continuity and Change in Israeli Society: The

Test of the Melting Pot, Israel Studies, Vol. 10, No. 2, Summer, 2005. (downloadable on Ereserves)

Week between 2-18/2-22-08

The Six Day War and its immediate results: the paradoxes of an "enlightened occupation" and the birth of the settlement movement and failure of initial peace efforts.

Readings:

Sachar: 580-666.

Roshwald, pp. 97-104.

Week between 2-25/2-29-08

Ditto

Readings:

Sachar: 667-740.

Roshwald 134-150.

Week between 3-3/3-7-08

From the Yom Kippur War of 1973 to peace with Egypt in 1979 – the first Begin government and its domestic significance:

Readings:

Sachar: 740-845.

Recommended: Shlomo Aronson: Conflict and Bargaining in the Middle East, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London, 1978, pp. 82-134. ISBN 0801820464 (available on Ereserves)

Mid-term paper due: 3-14-08.

Week between 3-17/3-21-08 Spring Break

Week between 3-24/3-28-08

The Second Begin administration: Iraq's nuclear reactor, enhanced settlement effort, the war in Lebanon and its ramifications, the first Intifada.

Readings:

Sachar: 861-933.

Recommended: Aronson, Politics and Strategy of Nuclear Weapons in the Middle East, SUNY Press, Albany and London 1994, 167-230. ISBN 0791412083 (also available on Ereserves)

Week between 3-31/4-4-08

The twisted road to the Israeli-PLO accord of Oslo 1993 and its ensuing failure.

Readings:

Sachar: 934-1018.

Yair Hirschfeld: "The Failure of the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, 1993-2000," in *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 42 2005, pp. 719-736. (downloadable on Ereserves)

Week between 4-7/4-11-08

Ditto and discussion of Edward Said's *Orientalism*, Penguin Books, LTD, August 28, 2003. ISBN 0141187425 (available on Ereserves)

Week between 4-14/4-18-08

The rise of Islamic fundamentalism and its ramifications, the First Iraq War and Ariel Sharon's Likud government.

Readings:

Lewis, Bernard, *Semites and Anti-Semites*, WW Norton & Company, Inc, 1999. pp 236-259. ISBN 0393318397 (available on Ereserves)

Lewis, Bernard, *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response*, Oxford University Press, 2002. ISBN 0965444333 (available on Ereserves)

Week between 4-21/4-25-08

The realignment of the Israeli political map: the disengagement from Gaza in 2005 and its domestic ramifications to the 2006 general elections.

Readings:

Michael Galchinsky, *The Jewish Settlements in the West Bank*, International

Law and Israeli Jurisprudence, *Israel Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 3, Fall 2004. (downloadable on Ereserves)

Neuman, David, *From Hitnachalut (settlement) to Hitnatkut (disengagement):*

Impact of Gush Emunim and the Settlement Movement on Israeli Politics and Society, *Israel Studies*, Vol. 10, No. 3, Fall 2005. (downloadable on Ereserves)

Week between 4-28/5-2-08

The "Post-Zionist," the anti-Zionist, and the anti-Semitic discourse of Israel:

Readings:

Aronson, Shlomo, "The Post-Zionist Discourse and Critique of Israel: A Traditional Zionist Perspective," in: *Israel Studies* 8 (2003), pp 105-129. (downloadable on Ereserves)
Roshwald, 296-301.

Week between 5-5/5-9-08

The Second Lebanon War and its regional and domestic ramifications.

Final paper due: 5-15-08.