Course description:
While Israel is perhaps one of the most discussed and debated state in the world – only few onlookers actually have a strong understanding of Israel’s complex and fragmented society and politics.
This course invites the students into a journey to the historical and current Israeli politics and society by introducing the creation of the Israeli Democracy, the main political debates, different ideological visions, and the main cleavages and demographic divisions that have driven Israeli society from 1948 through the present days.
By presenting continuation and changes in Israel history and society the students will learn about the main events in Israel history with respect to military and diplomatic issues and the different groups and parties – among them, Ultra-Orthodox (Haredim), Palestinian citizens of Israel, Ethiopian Jews, Religious Zionist, Jewish settlers, Ashkenazi vs Mizrahi/Sephardic Jews – which create the fabric of the Israeli society from its formative years to the current era.
With an eye open to current developments and cleavages in the Israeli society, the course will also discuss new trends in the Israeli society.
In addition, the students will watch two films about Israeli politics and culture. At the end of the course the student will gain a better understanding of Israel and its complexities.

Course Objectives
By the end of the program students will, (1) Understand Israel’s broad and diverse social and political spectrum, with an emphasis on historical events and core issues (the peace process, religion-state dynamics, etc.)
2. Be able to discuss and write intelligently about Israel’s history, politics and culture.

Course Requirements
Class Participation
Students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive on time. Students must complete all assigned readings before the class meeting and be prepared to participate actively in discussions of the readings and current events.

Weekly Study Questions
Each week, a set of study questions pertaining to that week’s readings are posed. These questions are designed to assist students with the weekly reading assignments. Students are required to submit short answers to these questions 8 times throughout the semester.

2 Critical Response Papers
During the course the students are required to submit 2 critical papers. In each paper the students are supposed to choose one or more of the weekly reading items, and write a short critical analysis of the contents, arguments, and weaknesses of the reading/s. It is ideal to choose more than one item and bring both into debate with each other and express your own views and
thoughts. Each paper should be no more than 2 pages (double-space), and each student should be able to present his critical paper in class if needed. One of the papers should reflect the student’s impression of one of the co-curricular programming, like film review, op-ed text about one of the historical sites, etc.

**Final exam**
In the final exam the students are required to answer 5 out of 8 major questions about Israel’s history, politics and culture. The students should demonstrate their ability to analyze an original question, utilize academic sources (including media, surveys and any other primary and secondary materials) to substantiate their arguments and findings. It is important that students make critical discussion and bring their own voices and conclusions to their exam.

**Grading of Assignments**
The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments/Activities</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Study Questions</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Response Papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Week 1**

1. **War of 1948: Independence and Nakba; Creating a Jewish State: Declaration of Independence**
   - Anita Shapira, *Israel -A Biography*, Chapter. 8
   - Primary texts: Declaration of Independence

2. **Mass Immigration: Holocaust survivors, Eastern Europe, Iraq and North Africa**
   - Primary text: David Ben Gurion, “The Imperatives of Jewish Revolution”

3. **Relations with Diaspora Jewry**
   - Urofsky, M, “American Jewry and Israel: The First Decade and Its Implications for Today,” in Lucas & Troen Israel’s First Decade, chapt. 33)
   - Primary text: Ben Gurion Clarifies Relations Between Israel and American Jewry,” *JTA* (October 11, 1951).
4. Aftermath of Holocaust: German Reparations; Kastner assassination; trial of Adolf Eichmann, Kapo trials.

Lustick, Ian S. "The Holocaust in Israeli Political Culture: Four Constructions and Their Consequences: Editor's Note: This Article Is Followed by Four Comments and a Response by Ian Lustick." Contemporary Jewry 37, no. 1 (2017): 125-70.


Primary text: Menachem Begin on Whether to Accept Reparations from Germany (The Knesset, 7 January 1952)

5. The Palestinian Refugee issue and the Arab citizen of Israel

Primary text: David Ben-Gurion: Telegram to U.S. State Department on Refugee Issue (January 22, 1963)

6. Wadi Salib, the Black Panthers and Sephardi Protest Movements


7. Six Day War + Yom Kippur War

Shapira, Chapters 13 + 15 +16
Film: “Golda”

8. Arabs, Druze and Bedouin in contemporary Israeli Society

Havatzelet Yahel & Ruth Kark: Israel Negev Bedouin during the 1948 War: Departure and Return, Israel Affairs, 2014, 3-52
9. Kibbutz movement – rise and decline


10. The right-wing era

Colin Shindler, From Left to Right, Israel Studies, Fall 2018, pp. 61-67


Film “Begin”

11. Settlements and the Separation Barrier/Wall


Primary text: Tomer Persico, *The Rise and Fall of Gush-Emunim, or The Last Jewish Attempt to Annul the Secularization Process*.

12. Israel’s Economy and the “Start-Up Nation” and the Challenge of the Ultra-orthodox Community (Haredim)

(TBA)


Gilad Malach, Lee Chaner, 2019 Statistical Report on Ultra-Orthodox Society in Israel, The Israel Democracy Institute, pp 1-16
Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials
All readings are available on NYU Classes

Optional Textbooks & Materials
N/A

Resources
- Access your course materials: NYU Classes (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- Databases, journal articles, and more: Bobst Library (library.nyu.edu)
- Assistance with strengthening your writing: NYU Writing Center (nyu.mywconline.com)
- Obtain 24/7 technology assistance: IT (nyu.edu/it/ServiceDesk)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness
Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

NYU Policy on Religious Holidays
- Students who anticipate being absent because of any religious observance should, whenever possible, notify faculty and the AD/Academics in advance of such anticipated absence.
- Whenever feasible, examinations and assignment deadlines should not be scheduled on religious holidays. Any student absent from class because of his/her religious beliefs shall not be penalized for any class, examination, or assignment deadline missed on that day or days. In the event that examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on a religious holiday, any student who is unable to attend class shall be permitted the opportunity to make up any examination or to extend any assignment deadline missed on that day or days.
- No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student who avails him/ herself of the provisions of the resolution.
- A violation of these policies and principles shall permit any aggrieved student to bring forward a grievance, provided under the University Grievance Procedure.

Late Assignments
All works must be submitted on time unless you have received an explicit extension.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarism constitutes an academic offence for which you can be disciplined. Punishment may include a failing grade, suspension or expulsion. In all confirmed cases, a report will be sent to the student’s Dean at NYU or, in the case of a non-NYU student, to the home institution.

Disability Disclosure Statement
Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.

Instructor Bio

