

## **"Israel: Religion, Society, Culture, and Identity"**

**Emory University**

**Fall Semester 2017**

**JS 370/SOC 389**

Dr. Reda Mansour

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Monday-Wednesday 1:00-2:15PM

Course held in **Candler Library 101**

This course explores the issues of religion, society, culture and identity in Israel. Israel is an emergent society composed of Jewish immigrants that arrived from more than 70 different countries. It is also a country that defines itself as "Jewish and Democratic" with a large minority containing 20% Arab citizens and other ethnic-religious groups. This course will present these different groups, discussing the interactions between them and the communities of their origin. It will likewise explore the changes in the culture and identity of these groups.

This course will present the "The Four Tribes" dynamics of Israeli society. This model, outlined by President Reuven Rivlin in 2015 posited that "secular" Jewish-Israelis, once the dominant group in the country, and especially amongst the elite, would no longer be a clear majority. Israel is rapidly moving towards being a minority-dominated society, comprised of four tribes: Ultra-Orthodox Jews, Religious Jews, Secular Jews, and Arabs.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Develop a deeper understanding of the complexities within Israeli society.
2. Understand Israeli society beyond the Middle East conflict.
3. Learn about the connections between Israeli minorities and other countries and societies in the region.
4. Engage in critical thinking, discussion, and analysis of the Multilayer Identities in Israel and the Middle East.

### **Text:**

Fania Oz-Salzberger & Yedidia Z. Stern (Ed.), *The Israeli Nation-State: Political, Constitutional, and Cultural Challenges*, Academic Studies Press June 2014.

Calvin Goldscheider, *Israeli Society in the Twenty-First Century: Immigration, Inequality, and Religious Conflict*, Brandies University Press 2015.

Mordechai Nisan, *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression* 2nd Edition, McFarland & Co. 2002.

Donna Rosenthal, *The Israelis – ordinary People in Extraordinary Land*, Free Press 2003.

### **Particulars:**

Students will be graded on a mid-term exam (30%), a final examination (50%), and in class participation (20%). Students are expected to follow the Israeli daily news. In-class discussions will reference current events.

### **Week 1: Course Overview and Introduction - August 23**

#### **Objectives:**

- Syllabus and course introduction.
- Introduction of students and lecturer.
- Israeli society in the founders' vision.

Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel 14 May 1948.

<http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/ForeignPolicy/Peace/Guide/Pages/Declaration%20of%20Establishment%20of%20State%20of%20Israel.aspx>

### **Week 2: Nation Building and Emigration - August 28, 30**

#### **Focal issues:**

- Pioneers from Kibbutz and Moshav to urban middle class.
- Building science and cultural institutions.
- From old pioneers to new emigration: Russians, Ethiopians - White, and Black.

2015 Cary Nelson, Rachel Harris and Kenneth W. Stein. *A Concise History of Israel*, 2015

[http://ismi.emory.edu/home/documents/A\\_Concise\\_History\\_of\\_Israel\\_2015.pdf](http://ismi.emory.edu/home/documents/A_Concise_History_of_Israel_2015.pdf)

Rebhun, Uzi and Chaim I. Waxman. *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Pattern*. Hanover, NH: Brandeis University Press, published by University Press of New England. 2004. Pp. 81-149.

Donna Rosenthal, *The Israelis – ordinary People in Extraordinary Land*, Free Press 2003. Pp. 113-148.

Colonial Office, and Foreign Office. "Palestine: Termination of the Mandate." 1920-1948 Palestine: His Majesty's Government's History of the Palestine Mandate, May 15, 1948. <http://ismi.emory.edu/home/resources/primary->

[source-docs/1948%20-%20PALESTINE-HMG%20termination%20of%20Mandate%201948.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cmep_20170331_tribes-of-israel.pdf)

### **Week 3: Jews and Religion** – September 6, 11

#### **Focal issues:**

- Orthodox, Ultra-Orthodox, Masorati, Dati, Dati Leomi, Secular, and Reform.
- Religious services and courts.

Calvin Goldscheider, *Israeli Society in the Twenty-First Century: Immigration, Inequality, and Religious Conflict*, Brandeis University Press 2015. Pp.111-133.

Mordechai Nisan, *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression* 2nd Edition, McFarland & Co. 2002. Chapter 12, pp. 249-268.

Natan Sachs and Brian Reeves, "Tribes, identity, and individual freedom in Israel", Center for Middle East Policy, the Brookings Institute, March 2017.

[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cmep\\_20170331\\_tribes-of-israel.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cmep_20170331_tribes-of-israel.pdf)

Yair Ettinger, "Privatizing religion: The transformation of Israel's Religious-Zionist community". Center for Middle East Policy, the Brookings Institute, March 2017.

[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cmep\\_20170331\\_privatizing-religion.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cmep_20170331_privatizing-religion.pdf)

Gilad Malach, "Who are Israel's Haredim?", IDI, March 07, 2017.

<https://en.idi.org.il/galleries/14187>

### **Week 4: Arabs and Religion** – September 13, 18

#### **Focal issues:**

- Muslims - Sunni and Sufi.
- Religious services and courts.
- Diplomatic status.

Calvin Goldscheider, *Israeli Society in the Twenty-First Century: Immigration, Inequality, and Religious Conflict*, Brandeis University Press 2015. Pp.62-61.

Ephraim Lavie, "Arabs in Israel: Between Integration and Alienation", INSS

[http://www.inss.org.il/uploadimages/Import/\(FILE\)1283331796.pdf](http://www.inss.org.il/uploadimages/Import/(FILE)1283331796.pdf)

Sammy Smooha, "Still Playing by the Rules: The Index of Arab-Jewish Relations in Israel 2012," The Guttman Center for Surveys Arab Jewish Relations. Israel

Democracy Institute, Jerusalem, Israel, June 2013,  
<http://en.idi.org.il/media/2522696/Arab-Jewish-Index-2012-ENG.pdf>

Reda Mansour, Where's Israel's Dr. King?, Ynet 20/8/2009  
<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3764843,00.html>

World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples, Middle East overview -  
Overview of Middle East, September 2012.  
<http://minorityrights.org/minorities/overview-of-middle-east/>

## **Week 5: The Christian communities – September 20, 25**

### **Focal issues:**

- Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Armenian, Maronite, and Russian Orthodox.
- Religious services and courts.
- Diplomatic status.

Mordechai Nisan, *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression* 2nd Edition, McFarland & Co. 2002. Chapter 10, pp. 195-220.

Donna Rosenthal, *The Israelis – ordinary People in Extraordinary Land*, Free Press 2003. Pp. 305-327

Lev Weitz, "Religious Minorities in the Modern Middle East," Butcher History Institute, Foot Notes, November 20, 2015. [http://www.fpri.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/weitz\\_hi\\_religious\\_minorities.pdf](http://www.fpri.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/weitz_hi_religious_minorities.pdf)

## **Week 6: The Druze – September 27, October 2**

### **Focal issues:**

- History, 1017 until today
- Religion, Secret faith.
- Identity, across the divide.

Mordechai Nisan, *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression* 2nd Edition, McFarland & Co. 2002. Chapter 5, pp. 93-112.

Mordechai Nisan, "The Druze in Israel: Questions of Identity, Citizenship, and Patriotism," [The Middle East Journal](#), Volume 64, Number 4, Autumn 2010, pp. 575-596.

Reda Mansour, "What do Israel's Druze want?" Ynet, 3.6.2015  
<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4674488,00.html>

## **Mid-term exam - October 4**

## **Fall Break – October 9**

## **Week 7: Nomads, Not Arabs and Not Jewish – October 11**

### **Focal issues:**

- The Bedouins of the north.
- The Bedouins of the south.
- Nomads, Territory and borders.

Yosef Ben-David, "The Bedouins in Israel," Jewish virtual library, 2016.

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-bedouin-in-israel>

Mordechai Nisan, "The Minority Plight," *Middle East Quarterly*, September 1996, pp. 25-34. <http://www.meforum.org/313/the-minority-plight>

Ehud Yaari, "Sinai: A New Front", The Washington Institute for Near East Policy • No. 9 • January 2012

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/pubs/PolicyNote09.pdf>

## **Week 8: Ethnic and Religious Intersections – October 16, 18**

### **Focal issues:**

- Baha'i.
- Circassians.
- Alawaites.
- Ahmadis.

Mordechai Nisan, *Minorities in the Middle East: A History of Struggle and Self-Expression 2nd Edition*, McFarland & Co. 2002. Chapter 6, 114-128.

Donna Rosenthal, *The Israelis – ordinary People in Extraordinary Land*, Free Press 2003. 278-292.

"The Bahai faith" <http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2017/04/economist-explains-7?fsrc=scn/tw/te/bl/ed/>

Ammar Abdulhamid, "When Minorities Rule in the Middle East (Part I): Syria." The Washington Institute, Policy #933, December 22, 2004.

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/view/when-minorities-rule-in-the-middle-east-part-i-syria>

Video: AHMADIYYA IN ISRAEL (ISLAM AHMADIYYA)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S58L6Myqb6o>

Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, Barahin el Ahmadiyya (Parts I & II) -

<https://www.alislam.org/library/books/Barahin-e-Ahmadiyya-Parts1-2.pdf>

### **Week 9: From Milting pot to Multiculturalism – October 23, 25**

#### **Focal issues:**

- Ashkenazim V. Mizrachim.
- Changing visions of integration.
- Geographical and socio-economic dimensions.
- Political dimensions.

President Reuven Rivlin Address to the 15th Annual Herzliya Conference, 07/06/2015. [http://www.president.gov.il/English/ThePresident/Speeches/Pages/news\\_070615\\_01.aspx](http://www.president.gov.il/English/ThePresident/Speeches/Pages/news_070615_01.aspx)

Shlomo Swirski, Ety Konor-Atias, Rotem Zelingher, "Israel: Social Report 2015," ADVA Center, December 31, 2015. <http://adva.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/SocialReport2016-EN.pdf>

YOSSI DAHAN and GAL LEVY, Multicultural Education in the Zionist State – The Mizrahi Challenge, *Studies in Philosophy and Education* 19: 423–444, 2000. Ilan Gur-Ze'ev (Ed.), *Conflicting Philosophies of Education in Israel/Palestine*. © 2000 Kluwer Academic Publishers. Printed in the Netherlands.

[http://www.openu.ac.il/personal\\_sites/galley/download/2000\\_DahanLevy.pdf](http://www.openu.ac.il/personal_sites/galley/download/2000_DahanLevy.pdf)

Avi Shilon, "What Ashkenazi Jews still don't get about the Mizrahim," *Haaretz*, May 27, 2016. <http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.721857>

### **Week 10: Gender Issues – October 30, November 1**

#### **Focal issues:**

- Western and Eastern Jewish visions.
- Religious and secular Jewish visions.
- Arab visions.

Rebhun, Uzi and Chaim I. Waxman. *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Pattern*. Hanover, NH: Brandies University Press, published by University Press of New England. 2004. Pp. 195-221.

Calvin Goldscheider, *Israeli Society in the Twenty-First Century: Immigration, Inequality, and Religious Conflict*, Brandeis University Press 2015. Pp. 134-153.

Noga Dagan-Buzaglo, Yael Hasson, Ariane Ophir. Gender Salary Gaps in Israel 2014, ADVA Center, July 14, 2014.

[http://adva.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/EqualPay\\_English\\_mail1.pdf](http://adva.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/EqualPay_English_mail1.pdf)

Hagar Tzameret-Kertcher Hanna Herzog Naomi Chazan, "The Gender Index: Gender Inequality in Israel 2015," The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute.

<http://www.vanleer.org.il/sites/files/product-pdf/%D7%9E%D7%93%D7%93%20%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%92%D7%93%D7%A8%202015%20%D7%90%D7%A0%D7%92%D7%9C%D7%99%D7%AA%20-%20%D7%98%D7%A7%D7%A1%D7%98%20%D7%9E%D7%9C%D7%90.pdf>

### **Week 11: Military service - November 6, 8**

#### **Focal issues:**

- The Draft.
- Exemptions.
- Yeshiva track.
- Women's service.

Rebhun, Uzi and Chaim I. Waxman. *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Pattern*. Hanover, NH: Brandeis University Press, published by University Press of New England. 2004. Pp. 329-325.

Evelyn Gaiser, "THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND SOCIETY IN ISRAEL THE ENTIRE NATION IS AN ARMY, THE ENTIRE COUNTRY THE FRONT", KAS INTERNATIONAL REPORTS 8|2014.

[http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas\\_38621-544-2-30.pdf?140826150837](http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_38621-544-2-30.pdf?140826150837)

Ze'ev Drory , "The 'Religionizing' of the Israel Defence Force: Its Impact on Military Culture and Professionalism", Res Militaris, vol.5, n°1, Winter-Spring/Hiver-Printemps 2015.

[http://www.kinneret.ac.il/Items/11104/Res\\_Militaris\\_.pdf](http://www.kinneret.ac.il/Items/11104/Res_Militaris_.pdf)

Yagil Levy, "Who Controls the IDF? Between an "Over-Subordinate Army" and "a Military that has a State", Open Unevirsity, No. 23, 2012.

<http://www.openu.ac.il/policy/download/maamar-23.pdf>

### **Week 12: Galut (Diaspora) - Yerida (Israeli emigration) – November 13, 15**

#### **Focal issues:**

- Relations with world Jewry: exile or diaspora?
- Relations with Israeli emigrants: deserters or expatriates?

Rebhun, Uzi and Chaim I. Waxman. *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Pattern*. Hanover, NH: Brandeis University Press, published by University Press of New England. 2004. Pp. 419-465.

"ISRAEL'S RELIGIOUSLY DIVIDED SOCIETY, Comparisons between Jews in Israel and the U.S. Pew Research Center," MARCH 8, 2016.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2016/03/08/comparisons-between-jews-in-israel-and-the-u-s/>

BRUCE STOKESMARCH, "Are American Jews Turning Away from Israel? Recent polling shows a growing divide" *Foreign Policy*, 10. 3.2016

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/03/10/are-american-jews-turning-away-from-israel/>

### **Week 13: Religion and state – November 20, 22**

#### **Focal issues:**

- Religious vs. Secular.
- Jerusalem – Tel Aviv.
- Religion in the institution.
- Religion in the public space.

Rebhun, Uzi and Chaim I. Waxman. *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Pattern*. Hanover, NH: Brandeis University Press, published by University Press of New England. 2004. Pp. 221-241.

Yedidia Z. Stern, "Religion, state, and the Jewish identity crisis in Israel", Center for Middle East Policy, the Brookings Institute, 2017.

[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cmep\\_20170331\\_jewish-identity-crisis.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cmep_20170331_jewish-identity-crisis.pdf)

Shuki Friedman, "The Shabbat Wars: A Guide for the Perplexed on the 'Status Quo' and a Possible Solution", IDI, March 02, 2017

<https://en.idi.org.il/articles/14015>

Eyal Lewin, "The Clash of Civil Religions: A Paradigm for Understanding Israeli Politics," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, December 2013,

<http://jcpa.org/article/understandingisraeli-politics/>

Donna Rosenthal, *The Israelis – ordinary People in Extraordinary Land*, Free Press 2003. Pp. 137-221.

### **Week 14: Democratic and Jewish - November 27, 29**

#### **Focal issues:**



- National or Binational.
- Israel and Palestine.
- Western liberal or Middle Eastern conservative.
- The LGBTQ community.

Arik Rudnitzky, "Arab Citizens of Israel Early in the Twenty-First Century", INSS memo 150, October 2015.

[http://www.inss.org.il/uploadImages/systemFiles/memo150%20\(6\).pdf](http://www.inss.org.il/uploadImages/systemFiles/memo150%20(6).pdf)

Ephraim Lavie, "Arabs in Israel: Between Integration and Alienation", INSS

[http://www.inss.org.il/uploadimages/Import/\(FILE\)1283331796.pdf](http://www.inss.org.il/uploadimages/Import/(FILE)1283331796.pdf)

Tal Becker, The Claim for Recognition of Israel as a Jewish State, The Washington Institute, Policy Focus #108 , February 2011.

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/pubs/PolicyFocus108.pdf>

Karin Tamar Schafferman, "Arab Identity in a Jewish and Democratic State" IDI, May 04, 2008 | <https://en.idi.org.il/articles/10293>

**Final examination – December 4, 2017**