History of Modern Israel
HIST190-02P/JS190-02P/MES190-01P
Spring 2006
(Course designed for Freshman)

Dr. Kenneth W. Stein  Monday 2-4pm
121 Bowden Hall  Callaway S101
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Office hours: Mondays 11:30am – 1pm
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Content:
This undergraduate freshmen seminar will review the history of modern Israel from the
inception of Zionism to the present. The four periods of study will be the ideological formations (to
1917), Zionist autonomy in Palestine and nation-building (to 1949), the problems and successes of
sovereignty (to 1977), and the quest for identity and normalization (to the present). Issues to be
discussed will include the structure of the old and new Yishuv, immigrations to Eretz Yisrael, British
rule in Palestine, relationships with the great powers, sociological associations and cleavages, Israel-
Diaspora relations, American Jewry and Israel, religion and state policy interaction, the political and
economic systems, constitutional issues, Arab-Israeli wars, American-Israeli relations, the negotiating
process, and quest for recognition from Arab neighbors. Several guest speakers will participate in the
class.

Required Texts:

Mahler, Gregory S. Politics and Government in Israel: The Maturation of a Modern State, Rowman


Dowty, Alan. The Jewish State A Century Later, University of California Press, 2001 (paperback),


Stein, Kenneth W. Heroic Diplomacy: Sadat, Kissinger, Carter, Begin, and the Quest for Arab-Israeli

Sternhell, Zev. The Founding Myths of Israel, Princeton University Press, 1999 (paperback), ISBN:
0691009678.

Grading:
There will be two examinations: a mid-term and a final. The first examination will cover the
period up to Israel’s establishment in 1948; the final examination will focus primarily on the period
from 1948 to the present. The mid-term examination will be held on March 20, 2006. The final
examination will be held on May 4, 2006, from 8:30-11:00am. For the mid-term and final examinations, please bring two (2) large blue books to class; please do not write in or on the blue books before the examination. If you would like your final examination paper returned to you by mail, please provide me with a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, your final examinations will appear in a box outside my office door at 121 Bowden Hall until September 15, 2006.

Students are expected to do all the readings assigned, both the required texts and reserved readings. Students should complete the readings for a particular week prior to meeting each Monday. Students are expected to be at every class. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, if you miss one class session, you can expect your grade to be reduced by one full grade.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

* Indicates assigned articles are on-line at Woodruff Library Reserves Direct.
A dotted line under a reading indicates assignment to particular students to lead discussion

January 23:
Course orientation and syllabus distribution
From Abraham to Haskalah: Evolution of Jewish Political Culture (Stein Lecture)

Readings:
Laqueur, pp. xi-269; 384-437.
Writings of Early Zionist Thinkers- Adler, Borochov, Ginsburg, Herzl, Nordau, Pinsker, and Herzl- The Jewish State Six Chapters


January 30:
Origins of Zionism to World War I, (Stein Lecture)

February 6:
World War I Promises and the Making of the Mandate, (Stein Lecture)

Readings:


**February 13:**
The British Mandate, 1920-1929: Jewish Institutional Development, (Stein Lecture)

**Readings:**
Dowty, pp. 3-60.
Sternhell, pp. ix-314


**February 20:**
The Palestine Mandate, 1930-1939, (Stein Lecture)

**Readings:**
Mahler, pp. 13-52.


February 27:
The Palestine Mandate, 1939-1949, (Stein Lecture)

Readings:
Laqueur, pp. 270-337; 441-600.
Sternhell, pp. 318-345.

*Cohen, Michael J. “Truman, the Holocaust and the Establishment of the State of Israel,” The Jerusalem Quarterly, No. 23, Spring 1982, pp. 79-94


March 6:
Writing the national narrative and historiography of the conflict, (Stein Lecture)

Readings:


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March 13: Spring Break - No Class

March 20:
Mid Term Examination
Bring two large unmarked blue books

March 27:
“Arab-Israeli Wars, 1956, 1967 and 1973 and Their Diplomatic Aftermath (Stein Lecture)

Readings:


April 3:
Israeli Society, Politics and Culture - Religion and Ethnicity, (Stein Lecture and the Israeli elections)

Readings:
Dowty, pp. 61-183.
Goldscheider, pp. 3-64; 109-237.
Mahler, pp. 53-250.


April 10:  
Israeli Economy, (Stein Lecture)

Readings:  


April 17:  
Israeli Foreign Affairs: Israel and the United States, 1977-2005, (Stein lecture)

Readings:  
Dowty, pp. 216-248.  
Mahler, pp. 251-367.


April 24:  
Passover -- No Class (To be made up at mutually convenient time)  
Israeli Foreign Affairs: Israel and the Arab world, 1977-2005, (Stein lecture)

Readings:  


Tuesday, May 4, 2006
Final Examination, 8:30 B 11:00am
Bring two large unmarked blue books