

A case study in Nation Building: Israel

Course number:

Course hours and location:

Emory Institute for the Study of Modern Israel

Instructor: Dr. Nachman Shai

Email: Nachmanshai@Gmail.com

Office hours:

Course description

The Nation Building experiment materialized in a variety of fields, from military defense, economy, agriculture, high tech, new immigrants absorption, as well as building up the social fabric of a new state. With the help of twelve specific case studies of leaders, values, events and challenges in modern history, the course will focus on the key moments that shaped contemporary Israel. Each of the case studies will demonstrate ingredients of Israel's current make up. From the Ben Gurion era, through the Six-Day War, the Camp David accords, internal disputes and controversies such as the Israeli-Jewish Democracy and the functioning of a Multi-Ethnic society. The course is comprised of three divisions; "Foundations" (classes 2-6), "Between War and Peace" (classes 7-9) and "From Past to Future" (classes 10-14). The lecturer will utilize his experience in the media, the military, diplomacy, and politics, and offer perspectives into the regional culture, media, and politics.

Goals

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Recognize the fundamental historic and modern issues in Israeli politics and society.
- Understand the complexity of the Israeli journey through times of war and peace and its distinct political reality.
- Analyze and interpret Israel's current affairs and future objectives in an ever changing environment.
- Apply acquired knowledge in similar academic research, and in further non- academic fields.

Course Methods

This course will make use of different methods of study: lectures, electronic media inserts, group discussions and simulations, student presentations and writing assignments. We have flexibility in our schedule and can take time to discuss issues you may raise. I welcome any ideas and initiatives from the students regarding the course material and beyond.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and class participation is mandatory and vital to our learning community. Students are expected to come to class on time, having read assigned reading material.
2. Once a week, the class will open with a student presentation. Each student will be required to present a brief on Israel's current affairs. The topic of the presentation will be sent to me for approval by 12:00 of the day before.
3. The final paper will consist of 3 general questions of which the students will be required to answer 2
4. Computer policy: Students are invited to use laptops\tablets in class provided that Wi-Fi is turned off. If this permission appears to distract students from participating in the class, I may institute a no-electronics policy.
5. Accommodating disabilities: If you have any sort of condition that may require special accommodation(s) you MUST register with ADSR; please see the instructions at <http://equityandinclusion.emory.edu/index.html>. Then, please follow ADSR's steps and notify me as soon as possible so that we make the appropriate arrangements.
6. Academic conduct: Emory College has established an Honor Code outlining an appropriate code of conduct with respect to academic honesty and plagiarism. Information on Emory's Honor Code can be accessed at: <http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/conduct-code.htm>. Please familiarize yourself with the policies of this Honor Code as a violation will not be tolerated.

Grading:

1. Attendance and participation **(15%)**.
2. Student presentations- Israel and the Middle East in the news **(10%)**.
3. Class simulation and debate **(15%)**.
4. "Reflection paper" - 2 written pages (Each student or more will draft a 2-page paper double spaced, on their major conclusions and thoughts on the previous class's topic. The paper will be submitted weekly- **10%**).
5. Final exam. 10 written pages, double spaced. In class, during the exam period, date TBD **(50%)**.

I encourage creativity and academic initiative. Thus, any further ideas regarding the course framework will be welcomed warmly and if possible, rewarded in final grade credit. The grading scale is as follows:

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

Oral Presentation Rubric (10 points)

Oral Presentations	Possible	Earned
Student presents a brief of Israel's current affairs as reflected in the daily news. Information will be gathered from various news outlets and introduced in a concrete and realistic way.	4	
Presentation is well organized and easy to understand.	2	
Delivery is clear and fluid, using vocal variety and eye contact.	2	
Presentation is at least 7 minutes long and finishes within the time limit, without having to be stopped by the instructor. The presentation includes a conclusion.	2	
TOTAL	10	

After Class Flashback (10 points)

Written Paper	Possible	Earned
Paper reflects the topic and analyzes the complexity discussed in class.	2	
Paper is well organized and easy to understand.	2	
Paper addresses the topic in a professional and academic manner.	2	
Paper provides an in depth review of the previous class's topic with a focus on practical conclusions.	4	
TOTAL	10	

Office Hours: To be determined.

I will be available beyond office hours, please send me an email if you wish to meet outside these stated hours.

Required Reading

1. *Peters, J. Pinfold, R. 2018. *Understanding Israel*. London: Routledge.
2. *Shapira, A. 2012. *Israel: A history*. UPNE.
3. *Shindler, C. 2013. *A history of modern Israel*. Cambridge University Press.
4. *Ben-Rafael, E., Schopes, J. H., Sternberg, Y., & Glockner, O. (2017). *Handbook of Israel—Major Debates (2 Vols)*.

Course schedule (subject to changes):

Week 1: Course overview, Introduction (Week of Jan. 13th)

Pinfold, R. G. (2018). Introduction: Israel—a nation of contrasts and cleavages. In *Understanding Israel* (pp. 1-9). Routledge.

*Freedman, R.O. 2009. *Contemporary Israel : Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy, and Security Challenges*. Boulder, CO: Westview, Print. Pp.1-18

Shapira, A. 2012. *Israel: A history*. UPNE. pp. 208- 220.

Week 2: Ben Gurion and Begin: the great rivalry (Week of Jan. 20th)

Yanai, N. 1989. "BEN-GURION'S CONCEPT OF "MAMLAHTIUT" AND THE FORMING REALITY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL." *Jewish Political Studies Review* 1, no. 1/2: 151-77. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25834150>.

Shilon, A. 2013. Ben-Gurion: Epilogue, Tel Aviv: Am Oved. https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Avi_Shilon2/publication/330214616_Ben-Gurion_Epilogue_His_later_years_in_the_political_wilderness_Rowman_Littlefield_2016/links/5c346ef4a6fdccd6b59b0634/Ben-Gurion-Epilogue-His-later-years-in-the-political-wilderness-Rowman-Littlefield-2016.pdf

Shelef, N. G. 2004. "From "Both Banks of the Jordan" to the "Whole Land of Israel:" Ideological Change in Revisionist Zionism." *Israel Studies* 9, no. 1: 125-48. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/30245747.pdf>

Weitz, Y. 2014 "From Peace in the South to War in the North: Menachem Begin as Prime Minister, 1977–1983." *Israel Studies* 19, no. 1: 145-65. doi:10.2979/israelstudies.19.1.145.

Additional information:

David Ben-Gurion- Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <https://mfa.gov.il/mfa/aboutisrael/state/pages/david%20ben-gurion.aspx>

Menachem Begin- Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs:
<https://mfa.gov.il/mfa/aboutisrael/state/pages/menachem%20begin.aspx>

The Altalena Affair: <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-altalena-affair>

Goals:

- Become familiar with the basic ideological rivalry in Israel through the two major leaders David Ben-Gurion and Menahem Begin.
- Acquire a new perspective on the internal divide and its consequences on Israel's state policy.

Week 3: IDF - the guarantee of Israel's existence (Week of Jan 27th)

Peri, Y. 2017. Are Israel's Media Critical of the IDF and the Security Culture? in: Ben-Rafael, E., Schopes, J. H., Sternberg, Y., & Glockner, O. (2017). *Handbook of Israel—Major Debates* (2 Vols). Pp.573- 590

IDF- Who We Are:

<https://www.idf.il/en/who-we-are/>

Optional:

Kasher, A. 2010. A Moral Evaluation of the Gaza War—Operation Cast Lead. *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs Brief*, 9(18), 2009.

Kasher, A. 2015. Jewish Ethics and War. In *The Oxford Handbook of Jewish Ethics and Morality*.

Pappé, I. 2002. Donning the Uniform: The Military and the Media in Israel. *Middle East Report*, (223), 46-51. https://www.jstor.org/stable/1559465?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Goals:

- Present the first of three foundations on which Israel was incepted and operates (Security)
- Understand Israel's power components and the Spirit of the IDF

Week 4: Israeli Democracy (Week of Feb. 3rd)

Dowty, A. 1998. *The Jewish State: A Century Later* (Berkeley, CA). Read Chapter 1- The shaping of Israeli Democracy.

<https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft709nb49x;brand=ucpress>

Galnoor, I. 2018. Israeli Democracy under stress. In *Understanding Israel*. Routledge. pp.30-43.

Gavison, R. 2003. "Constitutions and Political Reconstructions: Israel's Quest for a Constitution." *International Sociology*, 18 (1), pp. 53-70.

Plesner, Y. Rahat, G. 2016. "Reforming Israel's Political System: A Plan for the Knesset", Israel Democracy Institute. <https://en.idi.org.il/publications/4222>

Optional:

Hazan, R. Friedberg, C. 2018. POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARLIAMENTARY POLITICS. In *Understanding Israel*. Routledge. pp. 62-65+70-79.

Dowty A. 1999. "Is Israel democratic? Substance and Semantics in the Ethnic Democracy Debate" *Israel Studies* vol. 4, no. 2. 1-15

Declaration of Independence in English: http://www.knesset.gov.il/docs/eng/megilat_eng.ht

Goals:

- Present the Second of three foundations on which Israel was incepted and operates (Political)
- Identify the complexity of a Democracy under siege.
- Introduction to Israel's Democracy as a whole.
- Examine the inherent tension between the "Jewish" and "Democratic"

Week 5: Majority and Minority (Week of Feb. 10th)

Nisan, M. 2010. The Druze in Israel: Questions of identity, citizenship, and patriotism. *The Middle East Journal*, 64(4), 575-596. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/400811/pdf>

Ghanem, A. 2017. Understanding the Divide: Arabs and Jews in Israel. In Ben-Rafael, E., Schopes, J. H., Sternberg, Y., & Glockner, O. *Handbook of Israel—Major Debates* (2 Vols).pp 779-793.

Schafferman, K.T. 2008. "Arab Identity in a Jewish and Democratic State" IDI, <https://en.idi.org.il/articles/10293>

Goals:

- Present the first of three foundations on which Israel was incepted and operates (Social)
- Learn about the Arab population, 20% of the Israeli population
- Introduce the story of the Galilee, where the minority composes as the majority

Week 6: Jerusalem, the heart of the conflict (Week of Feb. 17th)

*Reiter, Y. 2008. *Jerusalem and its Role in Islamic Solidarity* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan), pp. 63-91.

*Gold, D. 2007. *The Fight for Jerusalem*, Chapter 1.

Gold, D. 2011. Defending Israel's Rights to Jerusalem. In Baker, A. (Ed.). *Israel's rights as a nation-state in international diplomacy*. Jerusalem Ctr Public Affairs. Pp.97-115 <http://din-online.info/pdf/jc4.pdf>

Feldman, S. Khalil S. 2018. "Trump's Jerusalem declaration and "the ultimate deal"." Crown Center for Middle East Studies.

Bell, M. Kurtzer, D. 2009. "Old City, New Regime" *Foreign Affairs*, 88(2) [read pages 131-134.](#)

Goals:

- Analyze the religious, social and political issues of the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict: Jerusalem.
- Determine the future of Jerusalem

Week 7: The Golan Heights- Six Day War (Week of Feb. 24th)

Shapira, A. 2012. *Israel: A history*. UPNE. pp. 295-307

Karsh, E. 2017. "An Inevitable Conflict." *Middle East Quarterly*
<https://www.meforum.org/6690/an-inevitable-conflict>

BICOM Briefing, 2017. Causes and consequences of the six day war (1967)
<http://www.bicom.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/67-war-briefing.pdf>

Additional Information on The Six-Day War:
<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-six-day-war>

Optional Reading:

Oren, M. B. 2017. *Six days of war: June 1967 and the making of the modern Middle East*. Presidio Press.

Goals:

- Familiarize with the war that changed the Middle East and Israel's relationship with its neighbouring countries.
- Introduce the Golan Heights, an important region in Israel

Week 8: Peace process- Egypt and Jordan (Week of Mar. 2nd)

Shapira, A. 2012. *Israel: A history*. UPNE. pp. 357-377

Cohen, S. P., and Azar, E. 1981. "From War to Peace: The Transition between Egypt and Israel." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 25, no. 1: 87-114. <https://doi.org/10.1177/002200278102500104>

Susser A. The Jordanian-Israeli Peace Negotiations - The Geopolitical Rationale of a Bilateral Relationship. Davis Occasional Papers. 1999;73.

https://en.davis.huji.ac.il/sites/default/files/davisinsten/files/the_jordanian-israeli_peace_negotiations_-_the_geopolitical_rationale_of_a_bilateral_relationship.pdf

Golan, G. 2018. The challenge of Peace. In Peters, J. Pinfeld, R. *Understanding Israel*. London: Routledge.

Additional information on peace process with Egypt from Israel State Archives:

<https://www.archives.gov.il/en/chapter/making-peace-egypt-list-documents-summaries/>

Goals:

- Evaluate the circumstances that led to two successful peace treaties.
- Analyze the ingredients that allow these treaties to last.

- **Spring Break**

Week 9: Israel Foreign Relations (Week of Mar. 16th)

Dershowitz, A. 2011. Countering Challenges to Israel's Legitimacy In: *Israel's rights as a nation-state in international diplomacy*. Jerusalem Ctr Public Affairs. Pp.159-169 <http://dionline.info/pdf/jc4.pdf>

Podeh, Elie. 1999. "The Desire to Belong Syndrome: Israel and Middle-Eastern Defense, 1948-1954." *Israel Studies* 4, no. 121-49. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30245513>

Peters, J. 2018. Israel in the world the quest for legitimacy. In Peters, J. (Ed.), Pinfeld, R. (Ed.). *Understanding Israel*. London: Routledge. pp. 247- 263.

Eytan Gilboa (2006) Public Diplomacy: The Missing Component in Israel's Foreign Policy, *Israel Affairs*, 12:4, 715-747 <https://doi.org/10.1080/13533310600890067>

Goals:

- Dive into the Israeli battle over legitimacy
- Explain the organizational and functional structure of Israel's Foreign Policy.

Week 10: Izrael Valley- New Agriculture (Week of Mar. 23rd)

Shapira, A. 2012. *Israel: A history*. UPNE. pp. 27-62

Shatil, J. (1956). Communal Farming in Israel. *Land Economics*, 32(2), 118-126.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3159754>

Optional:

Mott, Stephen Charles. "The Kibbutz's Adjustment to Industrialization and Ideological Decline: Alternatives for Economic Organization." *The Journal of Religious Ethics* 19, no. 1 (1991): 151-73.

Near, Henry. "Paths to Utopia: The Kibbutz as a Movement for Social Change." In *Where Community Happens: The Kibbutz and the Philosophy of Communalism*, 197-218. Bern: Peter Lang AG, 2011.

Clawson, M. (1955). Israel Agriculture in Recent Years. *Agricultural History*, 29(2), 49-65. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3740788>

Clawson, M. (1961). Man and Land in Israel. *Agricultural History*, 35(4), 189-192. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3739825>

Goals:

- Demonstrate the roots of the flourishing Israeli agro-tech sector.
- Identify the original social structures that Israel developed in the agriculture sector

Week 11: Tel-Aviv—"Israel's beating heart" (Week of Mar. 30th)

Kipnis, B. 2004. "Tel Aviv, Israel—a world city in evolution: urban development at a dead end of the global economy." *Dela* 21: 183-193. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/26460292_Tel_Aviv_Israel_-_A_world_city_in_evolution_Urban_development_at_a_dead-end_of_the_global_economy

Gonen, A. 2009. "How Tel Aviv Evolved as the Main Urban Center in Eretz Israel?" In Kipnis (Ed.) *Tel Aviv-Yaffo From a Garden Neighborhood to a World City*. Haifa: Pardes: 154-173 <https://www.tel-aviv.gov.il/About/DocLib4/Greater%20Tel%20Aviv%20as%20a%20Global%20City.pdf>

Alfasi, N. and Fenster, T. 2005. "A tale of two cities: Jerusalem and Tel Aviv in an age of globalization." *Cities* 22, no. 5: 351-363. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2005.05.006>

Optional:

Azaryahu, M. 2008. Tel Aviv: center, periphery and the cultural geographies of an aspiring metropolis, *Social & Cultural Geography*, 9:3, 303-318, DOI: [10.1080/14649360801990512](https://doi.org/10.1080/14649360801990512)

Ben-Rafael, E., Schopes, J. H., Sternberg, Y., & Glockner, O. (2017). *Handbook of Israel—Major Debates* (2 Vols). Pp.22-39

Goals:

- Familiarize the students with the origins of Tel-Aviv the first modern Hebrew city.

- Research the Israeli Culture formed in Tel- Aviv.

Week 12: Start-up Nation (Week of Apr. 6th)

*Senor, D. Singer, S. 2009. *Start-up nation: The story of Israel's economic miracle*, Council of Foreign Relations, Hachette Book Group, New York, NY. pp 41-51

Senor, D. Singer, S. 2010. "What Next for the Start-Up Nation?" *The Wilson Quarterly* 34, no. 3: 62-66. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41000958>.

*Rosenberg, D. 2018. *Israel's Technology Economy: Origins and Impact*. pp. 17-37

Tawil, Y., 2015. A "Start-Up Nation". On Performance and Creativity in Israel. *Ethnologie française*, 45(2), pp.223-233.

https://www.cairn-int.info/article-E_ETHN_152_0223--a-start-up-nation-on-performance.htm

Bard, M. 2011. Israeli Economy Strong Despite Conflict.

<https://thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=5>

Goals:

- Answer the questions of "how" and "why" Israel has become a Start-up Nation.
- Examine Israel's successful model.

Week 13: Simulation and Debate (Week of Apr. 13th)

Week 13 will be devoted for a class simulation allowing the students to implement the knowledge and tools they have accumulated during the course. The simulation will focus on a hypothetical issue which demands implementation of the course syllabus by the students. Students will research and represent different regional actors and will conduct a class debate. It will take place during two class meetings in week 13. The simulation and debate will be graded.

Guidelines for the simulation:

- The simulation is based on three rounds of discussions and consultations:
- The first round is aimed to present the actors initial demands and positions regarding the situation, and to showcase agreements and disagreements between them. (50 Minutes)
- At this stage, the instructor will intervene and present a new case that will alter the basic conditions.
- The second round is aimed to assess the situation and begin class negotiations. (50 Minutes)
- The third round is aimed to present post-negotiations solutions. (30 Minutes)

Actors: Israel, Egypt, USA, EU, Palestinian Authority, UN, Russia, Saud Arabia

Goals:

- Exercise the knowledge acquired during the semester by way of class simulation and debate.
- Evaluate the ability to implement class material.

Simulation and Debate Rubric (15 points)

Simulation	Possible	Earned
S&D (Simulation and debate) display knowledge and understanding of the issues and challenges discussed in class.	5	
S&D implements the diplomatic and practical tools and showcases flexibility and adaptation to circumstances. The presented stances and solutions are practical and can be materialized.	5	
S&D are done in a professional matter, and provide information displayed in a fluent and coherent manner.	5	
TOTAL	15	

Week 14: Course Summary

Part 1: Visiting Lecturer (Option for a visit to Israel’s Consulate General in Atlanta)

Part 2: Course summary and a look to the future

Final Paper Rubric (50 points)

Criteria	Value	Points
Paper provides a strategic approach and overview of an issue based on the course material.	0 – 10	
Paper is based on syllabus bibliography.	0 – 10	

Paper is based on additional bibliography and academic and non-academic sources.	0 – 10	
Paper contains examples, new ideas and displays creative thought.	0 – 10	
Paper is well written, organized and informative	0 – 10	
Total	50	

Optional Reading:

- Haber, Eitan. *Menahem Begin: The Legend and the Man*. Translated by Louis Williams: New York: Delacorte, 1978. (An admiring biography.)
- Dowty, A. 1998. *The Jewish State: A Century Later* (Berkeley, CA) <https://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft709nb49x&brand=ucpress>
- Kabalo, P. 2017. “David Ben-Gurion’s Leadership as a ‘Two-Way Interaction Process.’” *Leadership* 13, no. 3: 320–42. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1742715015589645>
- Begin, M. 1951. *The Revolt*. Tel Aviv: Steimatzky’s Agency Ltd. Chapter XI, ‘The Altalena Affair’.
- Shilon, A. 2016. *Ben-Gurion: His Later Years in the Political Wilderness* (Lanham Rowman and Littlefield), chapter 1.
- Horiuchi, Y and Mayerson A. 2015. "The opportunity cost of conflict: statistically comparing Israel and synthetic Israel." *Political Science Research and Methods* 3, no. 3: 609-618.
- Lavie, E. 2010. "Arabs in Israel: Between Integration and Alienation." *Strategic Survey for Israel*. Tel Aviv: INSS pp. 37-58.
- Soen, D. 2002. *A Binational Society: The Jewish-Arab Cleavage and Tolerance Education in the State of Israel*, *Israel Affairs*, 9:1-2, 97-120. <https://doi.org/10.1080/714003469>
- Neuberger, B. 1993. “The Arab Minority in Israeli Politics 1948-1992 – From Marginality to Influence”, *Asian and African Studies*, 27, 1-2, pp. 149-169.
- Zameret, Z. and Tlamim, M. 1999. "Judaism in Israel: Ben-Gurion's Private Beliefs and Public Policy." *Israel Studies* 4, no. 2. Pp. 64-89. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/30245511.pdf>

- Landau, P. 2018. "The Israeli economy: Success as the new normal." In *Understanding Israel*, pp. 99-118. Routledge.
- Rudnitzky, A. 2015. "Arab Citizens of Israel Early in the Twenty-First Century", INSS memo 150.

[https://www.inss.org.il/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/systemfiles/SystemFiles/memo150%20\(6\).pdf](https://www.inss.org.il/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/systemfiles/SystemFiles/memo150%20(6).pdf)

- Gilbert, The Routledge Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict

https://www.e-reading.club/bookreader.php/135882/The_Routledge_Atlas_of_the_Arab-Israeli_conflict.pdf

- Russell, L. E. 2004. "Jordan: the death of normalization with Israel." *The Middle East Journal* 58, no. 1. pp. 93-111.

- Rabinovich, I. 2011. "Israel faces the Palestinians". In Alfred Wittstock, ed. *The World Facing Israel – Israel Facing the World*. Berlin: Frank & Timme: pp. 79-86.

<https://www.israel21c.org/the-best-books-youll-want-to-read-about-israel/>

- Gordis, D. 2016. *Israel: a concise history of a nation Reborn*. HarperCollins.
- Shavit, A. 2015. *My promised land: The triumph and tragedy of Israel*. Spiegel & Grau.
- Bar-Joseph, U. 2014. *Israel's national security towards the 21st century*. Routledge.
- Shindler, C. 2013. *A history of modern Israel*. Cambridge University Press. page 10-37