

HY 474
History of Modern Israel
Spring 2018

Professor: Dr. Russel Lemmons

Course Level: Advanced undergraduate

Course Type: Lecture

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Office Hours: M-F, 12:15-13:15

Course Description:

The goal of History 474 is to acquaint students with the history of modern Israel from the birth of Zionism to the present. The lectures will trace the political, economic, social and intellectual evolution of this period.

Weekly Topics:

Week One: The role of the land of Israel in Jewish history.

Week Two: The development of Zionism.

Week Three: The Jewish response to Zionism—especially among the ultra-Orthodox.

Week Four: The Jewish settlement of Palestine and the response of the local Arab population.

Week Five: The establishment of the modern state of Israel and the international—especially Arab—response. The War for Independence.

Week Six: The creation and evolution of Israel's political, constitutional, social, economic, and cultural institutions. Special attention will be given to the right of return.

Week Seven: The diversity of Israeli society, especially the problems among the Ashkenazi, Sephardim and Mizrahi, not to mention the Russian Jews. This component of the course will also deal with Islam and Christianity in Israel.

Week Eight: The political parties and religious factions within modern Israel. Israel as a secular and Jewish state.

Week Nine: The role of women and gender issues in the development of Israel.

Week Ten: Israel's foreign policy, especially regarding its Middle Eastern neighbors and the United States. Israel's relationship to the international Jewish community.

Week Eleven:

Israel's relationship to the international Jewish community.

12. Israel's military history.

13. The issues created by the conquest of Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank, including Israeli settlement of territory on the west bank of the Jordan River.

14. Contemporary Israel and Islamicist antisemitism.

Required Texts:

Shapira, *Israel – A History*.

Agnon, *Only Yesterday*.

Rabinovich, *The Yom Kippur War*.

Reading assignments are given on the schedule below.

Examinations: There will be two examinations during the course of the semester. The mid-term exam will be during the eighth week of the semester, and the final will be during finals week. Each exam will consist of three sections. On the first part of the exam, the student will take a twenty-point quiz on the supplemental reading for the exam, Agnon for the mid-term and Rabinovich for the final. The quiz will consist of ten (10) questions--a combination of true or false and multiple choice--about the supplemental reading. Each of these questions will be worth two points. Hence, the first portion of the exam will be worth twenty (20) points. The second section of the exam will consist of seven (7) terms from the lectures and readings (names, treaties, intellectual movements, book titles, etc.). Students will choose four of them and identify and explain the significance of each of the terms chosen. Each term will be worth ten points, for a total of 40 points. On the third part of the exam, the student will be given a choice of two essay questions. He or she will be expected to answer one of them. The essays will be graded on both factual content and analysis. That is, a student is expected to construct a central thesis (or theses) and argue it (them) cogently. **DO NOT EXPECT A GRADE ABOVE A C FOR A MERE LISTING OF FACTS OR AN ESSAY THAT DOES NOT CONTAIN THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO SUPPORT YOUR THESIS OR THESES.** See the handout provided concerning how properly to answer an essay question. The essay will be worth 40 points, making each exam worth 100 points, or one half of a student's grade. Grades will be assigned on the standard scale: 90%=A; 80%=B; 70%=C; 60%=D; and 59% and below=F.

Make-up Exams: All missed mid-term exams must be made up within five days of the original exam date. In order to make up an exam, a student must first submit a **written** excuse explaining why he or she missed the exam. NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE WILL BE MADE.

Final Grades: There will be a total of 200 points for the course. Final grades will be assigned on the standard scale, 90% (180)=A, 80% (160)=B, 70% (140)=C, 60% (120)=D, below 60%=F.

Graduate Students

In addition to the exams, graduate students will also write two book reviews, one on Agnon and one on Rabinovich. Students are to follow the instructions provided on the handout, "Writing an Historical Book Review," provided by the instructor. Your book reviews will be worth one-hundred points each. As a result, there will be a total of four-hundred points for graduate students. Their final grades will be determined on the standard scale: 90% (360 pts.)=A; 80% (320 pts.)=B; 70% (280 pts.)=C; 60% (240 pts.)=D; below 60% (fewer than 240 pts.)=F.

THERE WILL BE NO EXTRA CREDIT GIVEN IN THIS COURSE.

Students are encouraged to ask questions in class.

Attendance: Attendance is required and will be taken each day. In cases of borderline grades, attendance will be the determining factor.

The academic misconduct policy of the university will be followed in this course. Students are urged to consult the "Student Handbook" regarding this issue.

All requests for accommodation with the Americans With Disabilities Act, for this course or any university event, are welcome. If a student has a request of this nature, he or she is to take it to the Disabled Student Services Office.

ANY STUDENT WHO RECEIVES FAILING GRADES IN THIS COURSE IS URGED TO DISCUSS THEM WITH THE PROFESSOR.

Rules of class conduct

Students must turn off their cell phones and/or pagers before the beginning of class. Students may not send or receive text messages while class is in session. Tobacco use of any type is forbidden.

Students are NEVER to walk in front of the instructor while he is addressing the class. If you come in late, take the empty seat nearest the door. If you must leave early, sit near the door.

Students who are habitually late (more than three times) will be counted as absent for each subsequent day that they are late.

Students must pay attention in class. They may not read a newspaper or assignment for another class. They may not wear headphones. Finally, they may not sleep. Students who violate these rules, or disrupt the class in any other manner, will be asked to leave the class and will be counted as absent. In extreme cases, the instructor has the right to remove students from the class permanently.

Schedule:

Week One: Jewish history—a brief outline.

Week Two: Sacher, pp. 3-88.

Week Three: Sacher, pp.89-194.

Week Four: Sacher, pp. 195-353.

Week Five: Sacher, pp. 354-514.

Week Six: Sacher, pp. 515-614.

Week Seven: Sacher. pp. 615-713; **discussion of Morris.**

Week Eight: Sacher, pp. 714-739; **mid-term exam.**

Week Nine: Sacher, pp. 740-787.

Week Ten: Sacher, pp. 788-860; **first book review due for graduate students.**

Week Eleven: Sacher, pp. 861-920.

Week Twelve: Sacher, pp. 921-1002.

Week Thirteen: Sacher, pp. 1003-1079.

Week Fourteen: Sacher, pp. 1080-1131; **discussion of Segev; second book review due for graduate students.**

Final Exam: At the appropriate time during finals week.