


Touro Institute  מכור טרו

*In Conjunction with*



## History of Modern Israel

**Instructor:** Dr. Kenneth W. Stein

### Course Description

This undergraduate lecture course 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 (to 1948), 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, Arab-Israel wars, relationships with the great powers, sociological associations and cleavages, Israeli literature, Israel-Diaspora relations, religion and state policy interaction, the political and economic systems, constitutional issues, Arab-Israeli wars and the peace process with Arab neighbors.

### Requirements

There will be a final examination.

Students are expected to do all the readings assigned here, both the required texts and reserve readings.

For your interest and individual viewing, *Tkuma*, a six part video (VCR) produced for Israel's 50th anniversary celebration provides the best pictorial history of Israel's origins, evolution, and present state of affairs. Each video is 55 minutes in length.

### Required texts

Alter, Robert, *Modern Hebrew Literature*, Behrman House, 1975.

Arian, Asher. *The Second Republic Politics in Israel*, Chatham, New Jersey: Chatham House Publishers, 1998.

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel: A History*, New York : Morrow, 1998.  
Horowitz, Dan and Moshe Lissak, *Trouble in Utopia The Overburdened Polity of Israel*, Albany: New York: State University of New York Press, 1988.  
Laqueur, Walter B. *A History of Zionism from the French Revolution to the Establishment of Israel*, New York, MJF Books, 1972.

Assignments: (\* denotes recommended outside readings)

### **Week 1 - Origins of Zionism and the Old Yishuv in Eretz Yisrael**

Laqueur, Walter B. *A History of Zionism From the French Revolution to the Establishment of Israel*, pp. xi-209; 384-437.

\*Avineri, Shlomo, "Zionism as a National Liberation Movement" *Jerusalem Quarterly*, Winter 1979, pp. 133-144.

\*Kolatt, Israel, "The Organization of the Jewish Population of Palestine and the Development of its Political Consciousness Before World War I" in Moshe Ma'oz (ed.) *Studies in Palestine during Pre-Ottoman Period*, Jerusalem, Magnes Press, 1975, pp. 211-245.

\*Kolatt, Israel, "The Zionist Movement and the Arabs," *Studies in Zionism*, No. 5, April 1982, pp. 129-157.

\*Katz, Jacob, "The Forerunners of Zionism," *Jerusalem Quarterly*, 7, Spring 1978, pp. 10-21.

\*Landes, David S., "Palestine Before the Zionists," *Commentary*, February 1976, pp. 47-56.

### **Week 2 - Zionists, the Balfour Declaration and World War I**

Laqueur, Walter B. *A History of Zionism from the French Revolution to the Establishment of Israel*, pp. 209-269.

\*Verete, Mayir, "The Balfour Declaration and Its Makers," *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 4, 1970, pp. 48-76.

### **Week 3 - The Palestine Mandate and the New Yishuv - 1920-1939**

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel : A History*, pp. 3-81.

Laqueur, Walter B. *A History of Zionism from the French Revolution to the Establishment of Israel*, pp. 270-337; 441-504.

\*Berkson, Isaac B., "Jewish Education in Palestine," in Harry Vitteles and Khalil Totah (eds.) *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 164, Philadelphia, November 1932, pp. 139-154.

\*Kedourie, Elie, "Sir Herbert Samuel and the Government of Palestine," *Middle East Studies*, 5, 1969, pp. 44-68.

\*Stein, Kenneth W., "Palestine's Rural Economy, 1917-1939," *Studies in Zionism*, Vol. 8, No. 1, 1987, pp. 25-49.

\*Wasserstein, Bernard, "Patterns of Communal Conflict in Palestine," in Ada Rapoport- Albert and Steven J. Zipperstein (editors), *Jewish History: Essays in Honor of Chime Abramsky*, 1988, pp. 611-628.

\*Wasserstein, Bernard, "Clipping the Claws of the Colonizers", *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 13, No. 2, May 1977, pp. 171-194.

### **Week 4 - The Palestine Mandate, the British, and the Arabs - 1939-1945**

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel : A History*, pp. 82-120.

Laqueur, Walter B. *A History of Zionism from the French Revolution to the Establishment of Israel*, pp. 338-383; 505-563,

\*Stein, Kenneth W., "Conclusions," *The Land Question in Palestine*, (Chapel Hill: The

University of North Carolina Press), 1984, pp. 212-221.

**Week 5 - The end of the Mandate: illegal immigration, the United Nations, Israel's establishment and war of independence, 1945-1949**

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel : A History*, pp. 121-249.

Laqueur, Walter B. *A History of Zionism from the French Revolution to the Establishment of Israel*, pp. 564-600.

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

\*Shapira, Anita, *Conclusion: The Birth of the State, @ Land and Power The Zionist Resort to Force 1881-1948*, Oxford University Press, 1992, pp. 355-370.

\*Stein, Kenneth W., "One Hundred Years of Social Change: The Creation of the Palestinian Refugee Problem," in Laurence J. Silberstein (ed.) *New Perspectives on Israeli History*, New York, pp. 57-81.

\*Sternhell, Zeev, "Epilogue: From the State-in-the-Making to the Nation-State," *The Founding Myths of Israel*, Princeton University Press, 1998, pp. 318-345.

**Week 6 - The Israeli Political System**

Arian, Asher. *The Second Republic Politics in Israel*, Chatham, New Jersey: Chatham House Publishers, 1998 (all).

**Week 7 - Israeli Foreign Affairs, 1949-1967**

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel : A History*, pp. 250-383.

\*Brecher, Michael, "Jerusalem: Israel's Political Decisions, 1947-1977," *The Middle East Journal*, Vol. 32 No. 1 Winter 1978, pp. 13-34.

**Week 8 - Israeli Foreign Affairs, 1967 - 1977.**

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel : A History*, pp. 384-495.

\*Safran, Nadav, "America's Israel Connection," *Jerusalem Quarterly*, Summer 1977, pp. 3-30.

**Week 9 - Israeli society and culture I**

Horowitz, Dan and Moshe Lissak, *Trouble in Utopia The Overburdened Polity of Israel*, Albany: New York: State University of New York Press, 1988. (all)

\*Avruch, Kevin, "The Emergence of Ethnicity in Israel," *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 14 No. 2, May 1987, pp. 327-339.

\*Don-Yehiya, Eliezer, "Religious Leaders in Political Arena: Case of Israel," *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 2, April 1984, pp. 154-171.

\*Eisenstadt, S.N., "Change and Continuity in Israeli Society II. Dynamic Conservatism vs. Innovation," *The Jerusalem Quarterly*, No. 2, Winter 1977, pp. 3-11.

\*Eisenstadt, S.N., "Israeli Society -- Major Features and Problems," *The Jerusalem Quarterly*, No. 1, Fall 1976, pp. 28-35.

\*Peres, Yochanan, "Ethnic Relations in Israel," *American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 76, No. 6, July 1970-May 1971, pp. 1021-1047.

**Week 10 - Israeli society and culture II**

\* Shalom Goldman, "Modern Israeli Literature: Trends and Reflections."

Alter, Robert, *Modern Hebrew Literature*, Behrman House, 1975. (all)

**Week 11 - Israeli Foreign Affairs, 1977-1999 - Patterns of Normalization**

Gilbert, Martin. *Israel : A History*, pp. 496-619.

\*Eisenberg, Laura Zittrain, "Passive Belligerency: Israel and the 1991 Gulf War," *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 15, No. 3, September 1992, pp. 304-329.

\*Stein, Kenneth W., "Continuity and Change in Egyptian-Israeli Relations, 1973-1997," *Israel*

Affairs, (vol. 3, nos. 3 & 4), Spring/Summer 1997, pp. 296-320.

**Final Examination**