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Office hours: Wednesday 1-3 and by appt.

REL 253
T/Th 11:05-12:20
Room: RRLIB 422

Zionism and Its Discontents

Course Description

This course will explore the emergence and developments of Zionist ideologies in the 19th and 20th centuries, from precursors such as Baruch Spinoza and Moses Hess to classic theorists such as Leo Pinsker, Theodor Herzl, Ahad Ha-Am, Martin Buber, and Rav Kook.

We will then turn to consider a number of recent explorations of Zionism in practice Peter Beinart, Ruth Wisse, as well as Jewish and Palestinian critics of the Zionist project. Along the way, we will consider Zionism's attempt to forge a "new Jew" as well as the nature of Jewish power

Books and Readings

The following books have been ordered for this course and are also on reserve in the Library:

Arthur Herzberg, *The Zionist Idea*

Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity*

Edward Said, *The Question of Palestine*

Moshe Berent, *A Nation Like All Nations: Towards the Establishment of an Israeli Republic*

Peter Beinart, *The Crisis of Zionism*

Ruth Wisse, *Jews and Power*

A Note on Electronics

Laptops, tablets and other devices are to be used *only* by those who have read that week's text in a digital format. Notes, when necessary, should be taken by hand.

A Note on Attendance

Class attendance is obligatory. Because life is complicated and things come up, you are entitled to miss three class sessions without excuse or penalty. Upon a second such absence, compelling documentation for a legitimate excuse will be necessary. Each subsequent absence will result in a one-third of a grade deduction to your final grade. Miss seven sessions and you will not pass the course.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a fundamental university value. Through the honest completion of academic work, students sustain the integrity of the university while facilitating the university's imperative for the transmission of knowledge and culture based upon the generation of new and innovative ideas. For further information consult www.rochester.edu/college/honesty/ (the two quizzes there are highly informative, and I will assume you have taken them).

Grading

This is a discussion-based seminar that is geared towards conversation. To facilitate discussion, final grades will be divided as follows:

Attendance and Participation	20%
Class "quotes, notes, and questions"*	20%
Reflection Papers (x2)	60%

* Class "quotes, notes, and questions"= For each class, you are required to bring with you (typed and to hand in): three *quotes*, three *notes* and three *questions* from and about the assigned texts.

Class Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to modification

Aug. 31	<i>Introduction</i>
Sept. 05	<i>Historical Background to Zionism</i> (1) Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy "Nationalism" online at: http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nationalism/ (2) Hertzberg, <i>The Zionist Idea</i> , Introduction, 15-32 (warning: simultaneously dry and quirky!)
Sept. 07	<i>Precursors</i> Part One of <i>The Zionist Idea</i> (pp. 103-139)
Sept. 12	<i>The Russian Crisis</i> Leo Pinsker, "Auto-Emancipation," in <i>The Zionist Idea</i>
Sept. 14	<i>Forms of Zionism</i> Theodor Herzl, "The Jewish State," in <i>The Zionist Idea</i> Ahad Ha-am, in <i>The Zionist Idea</i>
Sept. 19	<i>The Radicals and Socialism</i>

Part 5 *The Zionist Idea*

- Sept. 21 Socialism
Part 6 in *The Zionist Idea*
(Hazaz, “The Sermon”—handout)
- Sept. 26 *Zionism and Judaism*
Part 7 in *The Zionist Idea* (pp. 397-431)
- Sept. 28 *Zionism and Judaism (cntd.)*
Part 7 in *The Zionist Idea* (pp. 432-463)
and Mordecai Menahem Kaplan in *The Zionist Idea* (pp. 535-544)
- Oct. 3 *The State of Israel*
Part 10 in *The Zionist Idea*
- Oct. 5 *The State of Israel (cntd.)*
Pdfs of: The Biltmore Program (May 11, 1942)
U.N. Resolution of the Future Government of Palestine [Partition
Resolution] (November 29, 1947)
State of Israel Proclamation of Independence (May 14, 1948)
The Law of Return (July 5, 1950)
United Nations Security Council: Resolution 242 (November 22,
1967)
- Oct 10 **Fall Break**
- Oct. 12 *Rethinking Israel*
Berent, pages tbd
- Oct. 17 Movie: The Gatekeepers
- Oct. 19 **No class. Work on First Reflection (due Oct 27 by 4:30)**
- Oct. 24 *The Palestinians*
Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity*, Chapters 1, 2,
- Oct. 26 *The Palestinians (cntd.)*
Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity*, Chapters 5, 8
- Oct. 30 *Palestinian Resistance*
Said, *The Question of Palestine*, Introduction, Chapter 1 and 2
- Nov. 2 *Palestinian Resistance (cntd.)*
Pdfs of: Palestinian Liberation Organization: The Palestinian
National Charter (July 17, 1968)

Al Fatah: The Seven Points (January 1969)
The Covenant of the Islamic Resistance Movement [Hamas] (August 18, 1988)

- Nov. 7 *Jews, Zionism and Power*
Wisse, *Jews and Power*, 79-184
- Nov. 9 Beinart, *The Crisis of Zionism*
Introduction, Chapters 1-4, 9, and Concl.
- Nov 14-16 No class— Annual Meeting of the AAR
- Nov. 21 Beinart, *The Crisis of Zionism*
Chapter 9, and Conclusion
- Nov. 23 **Thanksgiving**
- Nov. 28 *Binationalism: Then and Now*
Buber, *A Land of Two Peoples*, pp. 72-76; 207-215; 297-300
- Nov. 30 Tony Judt, “Israel: The Alternative,” *New York Review of Books*,
October 2003
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/16671>
- Dec. 5 and 7 Conclusions and Review