

WR/REL 315
MODERN ISRAEL
IN HISTORICAL AND THEOLOGICAL
PERSPECTIVE

Marvin A. Sweeney

Spring 2006

CONTENTS OF THE COURSE

This course is a study of modern Israel from the perspectives of historical and theological reflection. The course begins with consideration of the ancient and medieval periods in the history of Judaism in order to place the questions of Jewish statehood and social cohesion in relation to the loss of state to the Assyrians, Babylonians and Romans and nearly two millennia of exile under Christian and Muslim rule. A major question for this portion of the course is the extent to which Christianity and Islam identify with imperial power in their rule of the Jewish people. The course then turns to a study of the emergence of modern European nationalism during the age of Enlightenment and its impact on the formation of Jewish nationalism or the modern Zionist movement within Judaism. Following examination of the works of the foundational Zionist thinkers, the course examines early Zionist settlement of Turkish and British Mandate Palestine, the establishment of the modern state of Israel in the aftermath of the Shoah (Holocaust) and World War II, the subsequent history of modern Israel, the development of modern religious Zionism and Palestinian nationalism. The course concludes with consideration of the Oslo peace agreements, the 1987 and 2000 intifadas, and the emergence of post-Zionist thought.

TEXTBOOKS

Howard M. Sachar, *A History of Israel from the Rise of Zionism to Our Times* (New York: Knopf, 2000);

Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1997);

Mark Cohen, *Under Crescent and Cross: The Jews in the Middle Ages* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994);

Abraham Joshua Heschel, *Israel: An Echo of Eternity* (Woodstock: Jewish Lights, 1997);

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage, 1979);

Natan Sharansky, *The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny and Terror* (New York: Public Affairs, 2004).

Additional readings will be placed on reserve at the CST or Honnold Libraries.

REQUIREMENTS

Active class participation-----10% of class grade
 Take home mid-term -----45% of class grade
 Take home final -----45% of class grade

Students are expected to read assigned material prior to class and to participate constructively in class discussion based upon assigned materials. The two take-home examinations will cover lecture and assigned readings. Due dates for each are specified in the syllabus. Late papers will be penalized one grade.

OFFICE HOURS, CONTACT INFORMATION

My office hours are Fridays, 1:00-3:00 p.m., at 203 Craig Academic Building. My sign-up sheet for appointments is located in the Faculty lounge/mailroom, 2nd floor, Craig Academic Building, CST campus.

Mail, telephone, FAX, and e-mail contact:

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CLASS SCHEDULE

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|------|----|---|
| Jan. | 19 | Introduction to the course
No reading assignment |
| | 26 | National Restoration in the Hebrew Bible: Josiah; Ezra and Nehemiah
2 Kings 17; 22-23; Isaiah 5-12; 32; 49-54; Zephaniah; Jeremiah 23; 30-31; Ezekiel 37-48; Haggai; Ezra-Nehemiah
Marvin A. Sweeney, <i>King Josiah of Judah: The Lost Messiah of Israel</i> (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2001) 3-32, 170-177, 185-255, 311-323;
Klaus Koch, "Ezra and the Origins of Judaism," <i>Journal of Semitic</i> |

- Studies 19 (1974) 173-197.
- Feb. 2 The Question of National Restoration following the Revolts Against Rome: Early Christianity and Rabbinic Judaism
NT: Mark 13; Matthew 27; Romans;
Emil Schürer, *The History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ* (ed., G. Vermes et al; Edinburgh: T and T Clark, 1973), 1:484-557.
- 9 Jewish Life in Christian Europe during the Middle Ages: Constantine; Crusades; Kehillah
Mark Cohen, *Under Crescent and Cross*, 3-103
- 16 Jewish Life in Muslim Lands during the Middle Ages: Muhammad; Resh Galuta; Dhimmi
Selections from Quran on Muhammad and the Jews;
Mark Cohen, *Under Crescent and Cross*, 107-199;
Recommended: Bernard Lewis, *The Jews of Islam* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985).
- 23 The European Enlightenment and the Development of Early Political Zionism: Hess, Pinsker, Herzl; Nordau
Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, 116-139, 178-245;
Sachar, *History of Modern Israel*, 1-64;
Take-home Examination #1 distributed.
- March 2 Cultural Zionism: Ahad Ha-Am; Bialik; Berdichevski, Brenner, Klatzkin
Hertzberg, *Zionist Idea*, 247-327
Sachar, *History of Modern Israel*, 65-88.
- 9 Balfour Declaration and the Early Yishuv
Hertzberg, *Zionist Idea*, 556-570;
Sachar, *History of Modern Israel*, 89-248.
- 16 No class—Spring Break
- 23 The Shoah and the War for Independence
Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, 604-619;
Sachar, *History of Modern Israel*, 249-428;
Recommended: Zachary Braiterman, *(G-d) After Auschwitz* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1998).
Take-home Examination #1 due at beginning of class.
- 30 The 1967 and 1973 Wars against Israel
Sachar, *History of Modern Israel*, 580-787;
Heschel, *Israel: An Echo of Eternity*.

- April 6 1977 Elections, Lebanon, and the Emergence of Religious Zionism
Hertzberg, *Zionist Idea*, 416-431;
Sachar, 788-860;
Recommended: Aviezer Ravitzky, *Messianism, Zionism, and Jewish Religious Radicalism* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1996).
Take-home Examination #2 distributed.
- 13 No class—Passover
- 20 No class--Passover
- 27 The Emergence of Palestinian Nationalism
Said, *Orientalism*;
Sachar, *History of Modern Israel*, 861-920;
Recommended: Barry M. Rubin and Judith C. Rubin, *Yasir Arafat: A Political Biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003).
- May 4 Oslo, Intifada, and Post-Zionist Thought
Sachar, *History of Modern Israel*, 921-1020;
Sharansky, *The Case for Democracy*
Recommended: Yoram Hazony, *The Jewish State: The Struggle for Israel's Soul* (New York: Basic Books, 2000).
- 22 Take-home Examination #2 due in my mailbox at CST (may be postmarked by May 22)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

I. Histories of Israel

Martin Gilbert, *Israel: A History* (New York: William Morrow, 1998);
Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims: A History of the Zionist-Arab Conflict, 1881-2001* (New York: Vintage, 2001).

II. History of Judaism

H. H. Ben-Sasson, Editor, *A History of the Jewish People* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976);
S. N. Eisenstadt, *Jewish Civilization: The Jewish Historical Experience in a Comparative Perspective* (Albany: SUNY, 1992);
Robert M. Seltzer, *Jewish People, Jewish Thought: The Jewish Experience in History* (New York: MacMillan; London: Collier, 1980).

III. Histories of the Muslim Middle East

- Albert Hourani, *A History of the Arab Peoples* (New York: Warner, 1991);
Ira M. Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991);
Philip Robins, *A History of Jordan* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

IV. Other Useful Works (not listed in the syllabus)

- Shmuel Almog, *Zionism and History: The Rise of A New Jewish Consciousness* (New York: St. Martins, 1987);
Shlomo Avineri, *The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of The Jewish State* (New York: Basic Books, 1981);
Mark Ya. Azbel, *Refusenik: Trapped in the Soviet Union* (Boston: Houghten Mifflin, 1981);
Lucy S. Dawidowicz, *The War against the Jews, 1933-1945* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1975);
Shlomo Deshen et al, Editors, *Israeli Judaism: The Sociology of Religion in Israel* (New Brunswick and London: Transaction, 1995);
Alan Dowty, *The Jewish State: A Century Later* (Berkeley: University of California, 1998);
Norman G. Finkelstein, *Image and Reality of the Israel-Palestine Conflict* (London and New York: Verso, 2001);
Zev Garber, "Teaching Zionism: The Introductory Course," *Academic Approaches to the Teaching of Jewish Studies* (ed., Z. Garber; Lanham: University Press of America, 2000) 267-296.
Martin Gilbert, *The Jews of Hope: The Plight of Soviet Jewry Today* (New York: Viking, 1985);
Benjamin Ginsberg, *The Fatal Embrace: Jews and the State* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1993);
S. D. Goitein, *Jews and Arabs: Their Contacts through the Ages* (New York: Schocken, 1974);
Arthur Hertzberg, *The Fate of Zionism: A Secular Future for Israel and Palestine* (New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2003);
Jacques Kornberg, *Theodor Herzl: From Assimilation to Zionism* (Bloomington And Indianapolis: Indiana University, 1993);
Jacques Kornberg, Editor, *At the Crossroads: Essays on Ahad Ha`Am* (Albany: SUNY, 1983);
Walter Laquer and Barry Rubin, Editors, *The Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict* (New York and London: Penguin, 2001);
Walter Laquer, *A History of Zionism* (New York: Schocken, 1976);
Bernard Lewis, *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror* (New York: Modern Library, 2003);

- Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002);
- Charles S. Liebman, Editor, *Conflict and Accommodation Between Jews in Israel* (Jerusalem: Keter, 1990);
- Charles S. Liebman and Steven M. Cohen, Editors, *Two Worlds of Judaism: The Israeli and American Experiences* (New Haven and London: Yale, 1990);
- Michael L. Morgan, *Beyond Auschwitz, Post-Holocaust Jewish Thought in America* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001);
- Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem Revisited* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004);
- O'Brien, Conor Cruise, *The Siege: The Saga of Israel and Zionism* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1986);
- Michael B. Oren, *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East* (New York: Balentine, 2003);
- Joan Peters, *From Time Immemorial: The Origins of the Arab-Jewish Conflict over Palestine* (New York: Harper and Row, 1984);
- Benjamin Pinkus, *The Jews of the Soviet Union: The History of a National Minority* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989);
- Abraham Rabinovich, *The Yom Kippur War: The Epic Encounter that Transformed the Middle East* (New York: Schocken, 2004);
- Uzi Rebhun and Chaim I. Waxman, Editors, *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social And Cultural Patterns* (Hannover and London: University Press of New England, 2004);
- Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim, Editors, *The War for Palestine: Rewriting The History of 1948* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001);
- Paul L. Rose, *Revolutionary Antisemitism in Germany: From Kant to Wagner* (Princeton: Princeton University, 1990);
- Eliezer Schweid, *The Land of Israel: National Home or Land of Destiny* (London and Toronto: Associated University Presses, 1985);
- Leon Simon, Editor, *Selected Essays by Ahad Ha`Am* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1936);
- Yaaacov Shavit, *The New Hebrew Nation: A Study in Israeli Heresy and Fantasy* (London: Frank Cass, 1987);
- Pierre-André Taguieff, *Rising from the Muck: The New Anti-Semitism in Europe* (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 2004);
- S. Ilan Troen, *Imagining Zion: Dreams, Designs, and Realities in a Century of Jewish Settlement* (New Haven: Yale University, 2003);
- David Vital, *The Future of the Jews: A People at the Crossroads?* (Cambridge: Harvard, 1990);
- Clark M. Williamson, *A Guest in the House of Israel: Post-Holocaust Church Theology* (Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2003);
- Robert S. Wistrich, *Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism in the Contemporary World* (New York: New York University, 1990).