Content: This undergraduate freshmen seminar will review the history of modern Israel from the biblical formation of Jewish identity to the present. Four periods of study will be addressed: historical and ideological foundations to 1917 (state-seeking); autonomous geo-political and institutional development to 1949 (state-making); the problems and successes of sovereignty to 1979 (state-keeping); and the quest for identity and normalization to the present (state-growth). Issues to be discussed will include the social and administrative structure of Ottoman Palestine that allowed Zionism to evolve, World War I diplomacy, the process of linking people to land, British rule in Palestine, Arab opposition to Zionism and Israel, Zionist and Israeli relationships with the Great Powers, developing a Jewish and democratic state, an economy, a political system, religion and state issues, Israeli-Arab wars, Arab-Israeli negotiations, Israel and international relations (Africa, Cold War, inter-Arab politics), and the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

Required and Suggested Texts:

All reading assignments are required, unless otherwise noted as “suggested.” Readings and primary source material may be found on a special reserve list to be provided as the semester progresses.

Particulars: There will be a mid-term examination and a final examination. Students will write a 10-page paper to satisfy the writing requirement. Papers are due **February 29, 2016** in class. Each student will choose a Zionist/Israeli leader as the topic of their paper. Discussion of the paper topic, its contents, and final decision about the leader chosen will take place in class on January 25. Common criteria for all students in evaluating the leader and leadership of the paper’s focus will also take place in class that day.

The mid-term and paper will each count 25% of the grade, in-class participation 10%, and the final 40%. Several films and guest speakers will be part of the learning process in the course. The first examination will
cover the period up to Israel’s establishment in 1948; the final examination will focus primarily on the period from 1948 to the present. The mid-term examination will be held in class on **March 21, 2016**. You will have the entire class period to write both your mid-term and final examinations.

The final examination will be May 3, 2016 at 2pm. **No makeup examinations will be given for the mid-term or final.** For the mid-term and final examinations, please bring two (2) large blue books to class; please do not write in or on the blue books before the examination. If you would like your final examination paper returned to you by mail, please provide me with a self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, your final examinations will appear in a box outside my office door at 121 Bowden Hall until August 31, 2016, after which time they will be discarded.

Students are expected to do all the readings assigned. Most readings are required, there are others that are suggested for those who wish to read further or go deeper into a topic. If you wish more reading on a particular topic, please ask. Students should complete the readings for a particular week prior to meeting each Tuesday.

**Each week, students are required to write and submit for collection, a two page summation of all the required readings for that week.** In other words, for every assignment for the week coming, please write a paragraph or two about each article, with the total length for one week, never more than two type-written pages (12 font). Please extract the most important concepts from each reading. This exercise will allow you to organize your readings, keep you abreast of class topics, and provide you convenient study tools for both the mid-term and final examinations. Students are expected to attend every class. Missing class could generate a lower class grade.

**CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

**January 18: No Class, MLK Day**

**January 25: Course orientation and syllabus distribution - Jewish history, peoplehood, and political culture “Origins of Zionism and its variations: Early Zionist philosophies; Why in the 18th and 19th century and not earlier and why in Ottoman Palestine to 1914.” Questions to guide the first class session**

What were the components of Jewish identity before the 19th century? What were the religious, historical, ideological, sociological, intellectual elements--?

What prompted the rise of Zionism, Jewish nationalism and what did it evolve in the 19th century and not earlier?

Who was Herzl and what transpired at the First Zionist Congress? Was he an innovator or merely a choreographer? What did have to say in this pamphlet, The Jewish State?

Choose the Zionist leader for your short paper – see end of this syllabus.
Readings: Dowty, *The Jewish State*, pp. 1-60. (required); Mahler, pp. 117-183. (required)


Herztberg, *The Zionist Idea*, Introduction, pp.15-100. (required)


Jewish Encyclopedia, “Zionism” entry. (suggested) ismi.emory.edu/PrimarySource/Jewish%20Encyclopedia%20entry%20on%20Zionism,%201906.pdf


February 1: 1914-1939—

“World War I Promises and the Making of the Mandate to 1939: the Unequal Dual Obligation”

Discussion and assignment of Zionism/Israeli leadership papers- no additional preparation is required.

Film: *Herzl* and *Walls of Jerusalem*

Readings:


“The Zionist Movement.” *Israel Yearbook*, 1950-51, Tel Aviv, 1952. (required) ismi.emory.edu/home/resources/primary-source-docs/Israelyearbook.pdf
February 8: 1914-1939—II
“The British Mandate, 1920-1939: Arab Society and the Zionist Community”


Document: HMG 1939 White Paper: Statement of Policy

Mufti Hajj Amin Al Husayni’s Decision to Reject 1939 White Paper
[https://israeled.org/7534-2/](https://israeled.org/7534-2/)

February 15 - 1939-1949: The British, Arab and Zionist Triangle—I

Readings:


- Cohen, Michael J. “Truman, the Holocaust and the Establishment of the State of Israel,” *The Jerusalem Quarterly*, No. 23, spring 1982, pp. 79-94. *(required)*


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February 22: 1939-1949—I
“Reading and Writing History or Narratives - Israel’s Independence War or the Arabs’ “Nakbah;” How is 1948 remembered and used?
Readings:


February 29: Israel and the Palestinian Issue in the Context of Israeli Foreign Policy to November 1967:
Readings: Mahler, pp. 237-267. (required)


March 7: No class, Spring break

March 14: The 1956 and 1967 Wars and the Associated Diplomacy with Each—How the June War and UNSC 242 Altered the Conflict
Film: Six Days in June  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8jLKyHZTFM

Readings: Stein, pp. 46-116 (required)


March 21: Mid Term Examination
Bring two large unmarked blue books

March 28: Building the State: Political System, as Democracy, and Identity - I
Readings: Mahler, pp. 1-114 (required); Dowty, The Jewish State, pp. 61-102 (required)

Herman, Tamar. The Israel Democracy Index 2015 Israel Democracy Institute, Jerusalem Israel, 2015 (How do Israelis view themselves in governance, social realm, status of Arab citizens, place internationally and in the Middle East) (required) http://en idi org il/media/4256544/ democracy_index_2015_eng pdf

Rivlin, The Israeli Economy, pp. 34-68 and 118-142. (required)

Taub, Y.J. “Israel's Economy: The Challenge of Peace,” Jerusalem Quarterly, Fall 1979, pp.18 - 32. (suggested)

April 4: Building the State: Economy, Society, Religion, and Ethnicity
Readings: Dowty, The Jewish State, pp. 61-215 (required); Rivlin, The Israeli Economy, pp. 166-250. (required)


**April 11: Foreign Policy, Defense, and the U.S-Israeli Relationship (Kennan, U.S. Bureaucrats and Israel)**

**Media:** Address of Secretary of State Hilary Clinton at Saban Center for Middle Eastern Affairs, November 30, 2012. *(required)  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rD5adBcsAEk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rD5adBcsAEk)*


Safran, Nadav. “America’s Israel Connection,” *Jerusalem Quarterly*, Summer 1977, pp. 3-30. *(required)*


April 18: Israeli-Arab negotiations: 1967 – Present
Readings: Mahler, Politics and Government in Israel, pp. 237-301 (required)
    Stein, Heroic Diplomacy, pp. 187-268 (required).

    Dowty, The Jewish State, pp. 216-248. (required)


    Rivlin, The Israeli Economy, pp. 118-165. (required)


April 25: Israel in the Middle East- Egypt, Iran and the Arab ‘Spring’
Readings: Dowty, The Jewish State, pp. 249-255 (required)


    (suggested)

Final Exam
129 Ignatius Few
Please bring two large unmarked blue books.

If you wish to receive your final examination mailed to you, please provide a large manila envelope, with five first class stamps affixed, and self-addressed.

Otherwise, final examinations will be in a box outside of my office until May 15, after which time they will be discarded.

Zionist/Israeli leaders:
Ahad Ha’am, Yigal Allon, Aharon Barak, Menachem Begin, David Ben-Gurion, Moshe Dayan, Abba Eban, Levi Eshkol, Theodor Herzl, Moses Hess, Vladimir Jabotinsky, Berl Katznelson, Abraham Issac Kook, Golda Meir, Benjamin Netanyahu, Max Nordau, Shimon Peres, Yitzhak Rabin, Moshe Sharett, Ariel Sharon, Abba Hillel Silver, Menachem Ussishkin, Chaim Weizmann, and Ezer Weizman