University of Toronto
Department of Political Science

POL 381 H1 (S)

Topics in Political Theory:

Zionism: Between Secular Ideology and Religious Redemption

Merom Kalie

Monday 6:00-8:00
Room WI 524

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Course description:

The course will examine different perspectives on the relationships between Zionism - the Jewish national movement - and the Jewish religion. It will discuss a range of views, from those who perceive Zionism to be a secular movement that defied tradition and religion, to those who perceive Zionism in religious and Messianic terms.

During the first half of the course, we will discuss the evolution of the subject from the origins of the Zionist movement to the establishment of the state of Israel and the Six Days War. In the second half of the course, we will discuss current views about the subject and its implications for contemporary Israeli society and the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Course requirements:

1. One short paper, in which you will be asked to analyze a primary source, due on February 27, 2012 (maximum 1250 words, 20% of the final mark).
2. One research paper, due on March 19, 2012 (maximum 2500 words, 40% of the final mark). A list of suggested topics together with detailed instructions will be posted. You are welcome to write your research paper about a topic that is not on the list, with the instructor’s approval in advance.
3. A final exam, at a date to be determined by the Faculty of Arts and Science (40% of the final mark).
Excluding documented medical reasons or very serious family emergencies, the penalties for late submissions will be 2 points for each day.

Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their essays and assignments before handing it to the department. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned.

**Plagiarism** is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto’s policy on plagiarism at http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources

From U of T's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters: "It shall be an offence for a student knowingly: (d) to represent as one’s own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism…(e) to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere."

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

If, as a student, you object to using Turnitin.com, an alternative arrangement for the submission of your written assignment will be available. You will be required to: 1) contact the instructor prior to the assignment due date, 2) submit all your rough work and notes with your assignment.

**Accessibility Needs:**
The university of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: accessibility.services@utoronto.ca or http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca

**Communication:** course announcements and information will be posted on "Blackboard," at U of T's Portal website: https://portal.utoronto.ca/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp
You are advised to visit this site frequently.
Readings:

Copies of the all the required books are available in the short-term loan room at Robarts library.

The links for the required readings that you can gain access to on-line are available on the syllabus and the course website.

The required readings that cannot be accessed online will also be available in a course reader that can be purchased at The Copy Place, 720 Spadina Ave., suite 103, tel. 416-961-2679.

You are encouraged to visit the websites of following Israeli newspapers:

- Haaretz (English edition)    www.haaretz.com
- Ynet (English edition)    www.ynetnews.com
- Arutz Sheva (English edition)   www.israelnationalnews.com

Course Topics and Readings

Lecture 1: Introduction.

Lecture 2: The background to Zionism: the pre-modern Jewish society, the Enlightenment and European nationalism

Jacob Katz, *Tradition and Crisis* (New York: New York University Press, 1993), chapters 2-4 (pp. 11-30), and chapter 18 (pp. 156-169).


Recommended:


Hedva Ben-Israel Kidron, "Zionism and European Nationalisms: Comparative Aspects" *Israel Studies* 8/1 (Spring 2003), 91-104.

Recommended article (which is relevant to the entire course):
Edward Said, “Zionism from the standpoint of its victims”, *Social Text*, No. 1, (Winter 1979), pp. 7-58

**Lecture 3: The birth of Zionism**


**Recommended:**


Lecture 4: Secular revolutionary Zionism


Recommended:


Lecture 5: Ahad Ha'am. The Canaanite movement.
The Ultra Orthodox response to Zionism.


http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/129278


Recommended:


Lecture 6: Early religious Zionism – The Mizrahi movement, Rabbi Kook, and Martin Buber


Recommended:


Reading week
Lecture 7: Modern secular Israel


David Grossman, speech at the Rabin memorial, November 4th, 2006
http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2006/nov/07/israel


Jonathan Rynhold and Dov Waxman, “Ideological Change and Israel’s Disengagement from Gaza”, Political Science Quarterly 123/1 (2008), 11-37
http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/129279

Recommended:

Dov Waxman, “From Controversy to Consensus: Cultural Conflict and the Israeli Debate Over Territorial Withdrawal ”, Israel Studies 13/2 (Summer 2008), 73-96
http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/224220


Gideon Katz, "Secularism and the Imaginary Polemic of Israeli Intellectuals"
Israel Studies 13/3 (fall 2008), 43-63

Yaron Peleg, Israeli Culture Between the Two Intifadas: a Brief Romance (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2008).


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**Lecture 8: Contemporary Religious Zionism**


http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/129280

Etta Bick, “Rabbis and Rulings: Insubordination in the Military and Israeli Democracy”, *Journal of Church and State*, 49/2 (Spring 2007), 305-328

http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/129281

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**Recommended:**


**Lecture 9: Contemporary Religious Zionism - The Margins**


Can also be found at *The Jerusalem Quarterly, 39* (1986), 90-108.


Ariel Zellman,“ Eretz Shalom: Interview with Nahum Pachenik”

Website of “Rabbis for Human Rights” organization: http://rhr.org.il/eng/  

**Recommended:**


**Lecture 10: Contemporary Views of Israeli Ultra Orthodox Jews**


Recommended:


**Lecture 11: Sephardic Jews and the Shas Movement. Christian Zionism.**


Recommended:


Shlomo Fischer, “Excursus: Concerning the Rulings of R. Ovadiah Yosef Pertaining to the Thanksgiving Prayer, the Settlement of the Land of Israel, and Middle East Peace”, Cardozo Law Review, 28/1 (October 2006) 229-44.


Lecture 12: The question of Jerusalem. Conclusion: Israel as an Ideological Enterprise.

http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/129449


Recommended:
