University of Toronto  
Department of Political Science  

POL 381 H1 (F)  

Topics in Political Theory:  

Zionism: Between Secular Ideology and Religious Redemption  

Thursday 12:00 – 2:00  
Room: UC 163  

Instructor: Merom Kalie  
Office hours: Thursday 2:30 - 4:30 pm, room SS3118  
Email: merom.kalie@mail.utoronto.ca  

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, due on October 17th, 2013 (maximum 1250 words, 20% of the final mark).  
2. One research paper, due on November 14th, 2013 (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 emergencies, the penalties for late submissions will be 2 points for each calendar 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.

**Academic integrity**

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 academic integrity at [www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students](http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/osai/students).

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."

**Turnitin.com**

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](http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca)
Communication:
Course announcements and information will be posted on Blackboard: https://portal.utoronto.ca/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp. You are advised to visit this site frequently.

Readings:
Scanned copies or links to all the required readings are available on the course website on Blackboard (under “Required Readings”).

The books from which the required readings were taken are available at the short-term loan section at Robarts library.

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

Relevant academic journals:

- Israel Studies
- Israel Studies Review (formerly- Israel Studies Forum)
- Israel Affairs
- Journal of Israeli History
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.


A 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


Leon Pinsker, excerpts from “Auto Emancipation” (available on Blackboard, under “electronic readings”).

Recommended:


**Lecture 4: Secular revolutionary Zionism**


http://resolver.scholarsportal.info.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/resolve/13531042/v30i0002/141_inicam

Recommended:


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

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


Recommended:


Ron Kuzar, “Two Brief Introductions to Hebrew Canaanism”, http://members.tripod.com/alabasters_archive/kuzar_intros.html
Lecture 6: Early religious Zionism – The Mizrahi movement, Rabbi Kook, and Martin Buber


Recommended:


Lecture 7: Modern secular 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


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

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

“Amazing Grace” an interview with Zeev Sternhell
http://2ndphilolog.wordpress.com/debattenstreitthemen/amazing-grace-by-ari-shavit/


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


**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

**Recommended:**


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


Recommended:


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

Nurit Stadler, Edna Lomsky-Feder and Eyal Ben Ari, “Fundamentalism's encounter with citizenship- the Haredim in Israel”, *Citizenship Studies, 12/3* (June 2008), 215-231. [http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/129282](http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/129282)

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: Jerusalem- a city of contesting visions.

Conclusion: Israel as an ideological enterprise.


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


Recommended:
