

JUDS 0050H

Fall 2014

Professor Rachel Rojanski

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Tuesday & Thursday 2:30 – 3:50

Office hour: Tuesday 4:00-5:15pm

Or by appointment

## **Israel's Wars**

### First Year Seminar



### **Course Description**

Recent events in Gaza have emphasized how Israel's history has unfolded under the shadow of its prolonged conflict with the Palestinians and its Arab neighbors. This first year seminar will focus on the history of Israel's wars from the 1948 War of Independence to the hostilities of the 2000s. The major aim of the course is to present an historical survey of the Israeli-Arab wars and Jewish-Palestinian encounters in the 20th century from different points of view and thus to provide some of the necessary background for understanding the present phase of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

Another aim of the course is to discuss the cultural and social impact of the ongoing war situation in Israel.

In methodological terms, this First Year Seminar will begin to acquaint the students with some of the major techniques involved in reading and assessing both primary and secondary historical sources. We will also

watch films and read novels and discuss their contribution to our understanding the impact of the wars on the values and atmosphere in Israel.

### Reading List

The readings will include three books that will serve as textbooks:

1. Mordechai Bar-On, *Never Ending Conflict: A Guide to Israeli Military History*, Praeger, Westport, Connecticut and London, 2004 (*Never Ending Conflict*)
2. Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims, A History of the Zionist Arab Conflict 1881-2001*, Vintage Books, 2001. (**Benny Morris**)
3. Martin Gilbert, *The Routledge Atlas of the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group (**Gilbert**)

These books are available for purchase at the Brown Bookstore. A library copy has also been put on reserves.

- There is also an on-line course pack of required readings to be found on OCRA.
- All films can be found on OCRA
- OCRA password is: ISRAELW

### Course Requirements:

- 1) **Reading and Viewing**: All reading and film viewing is required.

2) **Class Preparation:** All lecture sessions will draw directly on the reading for the day. Students are encouraged to participate in discussions and to ask questions. Please come prepared to class.

3) **Written Assignments and Calendar of Submission**

Over the semester, students will have to submit three papers.

**Paper #1**

A response paper (1500 words) on the novel "With his Own Hands" by Moshe Shamir. Students will have to explore the background of the novel and analyze what we can learn from the novel about the atmosphere in Israel before and during the 1948 war and about Israeli social norms and values

Paper due: Oct. 7, by 5pm.

**Midterm:** One essay question on the reading and class discussions during the semester.

Date: Oct. 21 during class.

**Paper #2**

A response paper (1500 words) on the book "Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East" by Michael Oren. This is the most comprehensive book on the Arab Israeli war of 1967 and the ways it changed the Middle East. Students will have to review the book

Paper due: Nov. 11, by 5PM

**Final Paper**

Each student will choose one aspect of a military encounter during the Arab Israeli conflict and discuss it, using class and additional readings.

Students should consult the professor before choosing the topic, and compiling the readings.

Students are also encouraged to submit a draft before submitting the final paper. I will read your draft and give you my comments so that you can correct it before submitting the final version.

Please come to see me during office hours. If you have a conflict and can't make it, I'd be happy to schedule an appointment at a different time.

Date due: Dec. 19.

**Grading:**

Active participation and Reading: 12%

Two papers 40% (each paper 20; 20X2=40)

Midterm: 19%

Final paper: 29%

**Weekly schedule**

**Sept. 4: Introduction**

**Sept. 9-11:**

**Jews and Arabs in Palestine 1881-1914**

**Readings:**

Benny Morris, pp. 3-66.

Anita Shapira, *Land and Power: the Zionist Resort to Force,*

1881-1948, Oxford University Press, 1992, pp. 83-126 (Sep. 11)

Maps: Gilbert, pp. 3,4.

**Sept. 16-18**

**World War I, the British Mandate and the Arab Revolt**

Reading:

Benny Morris, pp. 67-160

Yigal Eyal, "The Arab Revolt, 1936-1939: A turning Point in the Struggle over Palestine", in: *Never Ending Conflict*, pp. 21-42. (Sept. 18)

Maps: Gilbert, pp. 5-14,17-21

**Sept. 23**

**World war II, and the Civil War in Palestine, Nov. 1947-May 1948 (Part I)**

Readings:

Benny Morris, pp.161-214.

**Sept. 25**

**No Class: Rosh Hashana** (to be made up on December 11)

**Sept. 30**

**World war II, and the Civil War in Palestine, Nov. 1947-May 1948: Part II**

Film:

*Exodus* (Otto Preminger, 1960).

(This movie is free on the internet:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLF50260C70E04880E>

Oct. 2

Israel Versus the Arab States: May 15 1948- Spring 1949

Reading:

Benny Morris, PP. 215-258

Yoav Gelber, "The Israeli –Arab War of 1948: History Versus Narratives"  
in: *Never Ending Conflict*, pp.43-68.

Maps: Gilbert, pp. 45-47.

Oct. 7-9

**Paper #1 due on Oct. 7, by 5PM**

**Israel's Border Wars, 1949-1956**

Readings:

Benny Morris, pp. 259-301

David Tal, "Israel's Armistice Wars, 1949-1956" in: **Never Ending Conflict**,  
pp.69-86. (Oct. 9)

Motti Golani "The Sinai War 1956: Three Partners, Three Wars" in: *Never  
Ending Conflict*, pp. 87-108. (Oct. 9)

.Maps: Gilbert, pp. 50,52-54, 58-59, 61-62.

**October 14-16**

**.The Six Day War, June 1967**

Reading:

Benny Morris, pp. 302-346

Maps: Gilbert, pp. 65-69.

**Oct. 21**

**Midterm Exam**

**Oct. 23-28**

**The War of Attrition, 1970**

Reading:

Benny Morris, pp. 378-443.

Dan Schueftan, "The Israeli-Egyptian 'War of Attrition' 1969-1970", in:

*Never Ending Conflict*, pp. 147-158. ( Oct. 28)

Maps: Gilbert, pp. 77.

**Oct. 30-Nov. 4**

**The Yom Kippur War, October 1973**

Readings:

Benny Morris, pp. 387-443

Shimon Golan, "The Yom Kippur War", in: *Never Ending Conflict*, pp.159-178. (Nov. 4)

Film:

*Kippur* (Amos Gitai, 2000)

Maps: Gilbert, pp. 88-96.

Nov. 6-11

The Israeli-Egyptian Peace, 1977-9

Paper#2 due on Nov. 11, by 5PM

Readings:

Benny Morris, pp. 444-403

Benny Michelson, "Insurgency and counterinsurgency in Israel, 1965-1985" in: *Never Ending Conflict*, pp.179-192. (April 4)

Maps: Gilbert, pp. 108-111.

Nov. 13-18

**The Lebanon War 1982**

Readings:

Benny Morris, pp. 494-560

Eyal Zisser, "The 1982 Peace for the Galilee" War, Looking Back in Anger" in: *Never-Ending Conflict*, pp. 193-210. (Nov. 18)

Film:



*Waltz with Bashir* (Ari Folman, 2008)

Maps: Gilbert, pp. 124.

Nov. 20-25

### **The Intifada**

#### Readings:

Benny Morris, pp. 561-610.

Reuven Aharoni, "The Palestinian Intifada, 1987-1991" in: *Never-Ending Conflict*, pp. 211-230. ( Nov. 25)

Maps: Gilbert, pp. 130.

### **Nov. 27- Thanksgiving**

Dec. 2-4

### **The Peace Process and the Second Intifada**

#### Readings:

Benny Morris, pp.611-675

Shaul Shay, "The Israeli Palestinian Conflict 2000-2003", *Never-Ending Conflict*, pp. 231-250. ( Dec. 4)

Maps: Gilbert, pp. 192.

Dec. 11

Makeup class

Final Paper

Dec. 19