



THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
ROTHBERG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
DIVISION OF GRADUATE STUDIES

***Israel Studies***  
***2015/2016 Academic Year Courses***

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<http://overseas.huji.ac.il/graduate>

# ISRAEL STUDIES M.A. PROGRAM

Academic Head and Advisor: **Prof. Michal Frenkel**

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## Course of Study

The M.A. program consists of 42 credits over three consecutive semesters (20 credits are required courses + 14 credits are elective courses and 8 credits in seminar papers). Students will be expected to conclude all courses for credit with a grade based on either an exam or written paper. Two of these papers must be seminar papers (4 credits each).

### MODERN HEBREW:

During the Autumn and Spring semesters, students will be expected to complete two levels of Modern Hebrew, i.e. students who start the program at level *Bet* are required to complete levels *Bet* and *Gimmel*. Note: students who start the program with level *Alef I* are required to complete levels *Alef I* and *Alef II*. Modern Hebrew courses account for 10 weekly hours of class per semester, but do not count towards the degree's credit requirement. With the academic advisor's approval, students who complete more than the required levels of Hebrew may use half of the course credits of the extra levels (up to 6 credits total) towards the credits necessary to graduate.

### REQUIRED COURSES (20 CREDITS):

During their studies, students will participate in the following required courses:

- ◆ Israel: Politics and Society (4 credits)
- ◆ Readings in Anthropological and Sociological Theories (4 credits)
- ◆ Spatial Planning in Contested Spaces: The Case of Israel and Palestine (4 credits)
- ◆ From Mass to Digital Media Events: Media in Israeli society (4 credits)
- ◆ Jerusalem Majolica: Communities, Identities and Intergroup Relations (4 credits)

### ELECTIVE COURSES (14 CREDITS):

During their studies, students will be requested to complete the remaining credits from courses offered in the Israeli Studies M.A. program. With the approval of the program academic head, students may take courses from other graduate programs at the Rothberg International School and other departments of the Hebrew University.

### SEMINAR PAPERS (8 CREDITS):

Students are required to write 2 seminar papers for which they will receive a total of 8 credits towards the degree.

## List of Courses

### REQUIRED COURSES

#### **01771 Israel: Politics and Society**

**Prof. Gideon Rahat**

The course outlines the main characteristics of Israeli politics and society and the relationship between them. In the first half of the course we examine the debate concerning Israel's democracy, describe and analyze the main cleavages in Israeli society, and inspect Israel's three branches of government. The second half is dedicated to an examination of some of the main institutional, social, and behavioral features of Israeli democracy: the electoral system, the political parties and the party system, interest groups, political culture, electoral behavior, religion and politics, and gender politics. The course concludes with a discussion of whether Israeli politics and society are comparable or Israel is unique.

Autumn semester      W      10:30-14:00      Boyar Bldg.      Seminar      4 credits

#### **01944 Readings in Anthropological and Sociological Theories**

**Prof. Gad Yair**

This course aims to cover recent approaches in sociological theory and appraise the social context of their development and application. The aim is to show how French, German and American theories emanate from deep cultural codes. Using this comparative approach we shall try highlighting what is "Israeli" in theorizing in Israel. This cultural reading of theorizing will provide students with the tools to understand the connection between cultures and theoretical modes of thought.

Autumn semester      T      12:30-16:00      Boyar Bldg.      Seminar      4 credits

#### **01952 From Mass to Digital Media Events: Media in Israeli society**

This course offers a chronological approach tracing the evolution of the concept of 'media event' through time, space and the technology of information and communication in Israel. From classic mass media such as Radio, TV, and Press to the so called 'New' or Digital and social Media, the course provides theoretical as well as concrete tools to grasp the implications of this revolution on Israeli journalism and the societies which consume those products. Based on academic, professional and interactive input, this course ponders mainly two aspects: how did the media in Israel cover various crucial events since the early 1960s (Namely: The Eichmann Trial, Anwar al Sadat's visit to Israel, the captivity of Ron Arad, the Intifadas, the "Arab and Israeli Spring" (2011), Wikileaks and Israel). To what extent is digital media shifting the Israeli media environment and journalism practices?

Autumn semester      M      12:30-16:00      Boyar Bldg.      Seminar      4 credits

#### **01848 Spatial Planning in Contested Spaces: The Case of Israel and Palestine**

**Prof. Noam Shoval**

Spring semester      T      16:30-20:00      Boyar Bldg.      Seminar      4 credits

#### **01696 Jerusalem Majolica: Communities, Identities and Intergroup Relations**

**Dr. Chen Bram**

In this class we will address and analyze issues of intergroup relations, diversity, identities, conflict and cultural exchange through study tours in different parts of Jerusalem. We will also travel to the Galilee, with a focus on encounters with minority communities.

"Everyone has got a city named Jerusalem... everyone got a place in Jerusalem," wrote the Israeli poet Nathan Yonatan. In Yonatan's poem this place is associated with dreams, love – and also with sadness. Indeed, in many ways everyone has his or her own Jerusalem: Jerusalem is a city where communities and identities are diverse, numerous, separate and conflicted but also interwoven. Beyond the salient description of "Jews and Arabs-Palestinians" lies a complex diversity. Intergroup relations in Jerusalem are inevitably, often tense, but also produce a highly interesting cultural exchange.

This class will combine anthropological, historical, and sociological perspectives with a spatial and geographical prism through which we will view Jerusalem's and the Galilee's communities, sites and intergroup relations. Majolica is a pattern used in ceramics in which different ingredients are not only connected by cement, but are also baked together. Is this a valid metaphor for Jerusalem? Each study tour will open a window through which we can learn about a different dimension of the interwoven identities, communities and intergroup relations of Jerusalem.

We will walk and tour in areas such as the site of Shimon Hatzadik (the sage), Sheikh-Jarach neighborhood, and Lifta. We will explore "The Sacred Basin" in the Old City and the Jerusalem "Seam-line" along with other sites and places.

We will discuss issues such as the current encounters between the three Abrahamic religions and its political complexities; the legacies and conflicting memories of different groups and their spatial manifestations; the development of Jewish Jerusalem and its unique composition; and different experiences of Muslim communities in Jerusalem and in the Galilee.

**Note:** Summer semester dates: July 10 – August 25, 2016.

Summer semester	Th 10:30-18:00	Boyar Bldg.	Seminar	4 credits
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## ELECTIVE COURSES

### 01939 Social and Political History of the State of Israel from 1948 to 1977

**Dr. Simon Epstein**

A history of the first thirty years of the State of Israel. This course integrates political, social, cultural, diplomatic and military developments. It is organized in a chronological frame preserving the specificity and emphasizing the main features of each stage in the history of the State: 1948-1956, 1956-1967, 1967-1973, 1973-1977. For each of these periods, the following categories will be analyzed: (a) the waves of immigration and their social and cultural impact; (b) the political sphere: electoral campaigns and election results; parties, extra-parliamentarian and peripheral forces; State and party leadership, etc.; (c) social and economic life: economic indicators, social structures, governmental policies, etc.; (d) the main identity cleavages: newcomers and old-timers, religious and secular Jews, Oriental and European Jews, Jews and Arabs, etc.; (e) external relations: diplomacy, security, military doctrine and military build-up, wars. After an introduction presenting a brief history of Zionism and the Yishuv, the course will deal with the first years of the Jewish state: the great Aliyah and its short-term and long-term outcomes; the elections of 1949, 1951 and 1955; the main political and societal conflicts; the end of the economic emergency regime and the return of normality; the problems of security and the elaboration of the Israeli military doctrine. The years 1957-1967 will be studied according to the same guidelines: immigration after 1956; political life during the period; economic growth and social problems; the 1966 difficulties (economic depression and external tensions). The period between the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War will also be examined in all its aspects: the post-war "euphoria" and its influence on Israeli political and cultural life; the War of Attrition and the confrontation with the Palestinians; the return of economic prosperity; relations with World Jewry. The Yom Kippur War generated important changes in Israel's political and economic life, as well as in its external relations. The course concludes in 1977, with two dramatic "upheavals" heralding the "end of an age" in the history of the Jewish State: Menahem Begin's electoral victory in May and Anwar el-Sadat coming to Jerusalem in November.

Autumn semester	T	16:30-18:00	Boyar Bldg.	Seminar	2 credits
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### 01942 The Political Economy of Israel

**Dr. Michael Shalev**

Israel today is in many respects a modern, capitalist society, representing a major transformation from its past. Yet despite a now-distant history of collectivism and state dominance, it would be erroneous to interpret Israel's past economic and social policies as "socialist". To understand this apparent paradox, the course traces three successive models of governance of Israel's economy: state-building, statist and neoliberal. We will review associated radical changes in the roles of labor, business and government. Then special attention will be given to the politics of economic inequality. After reviewing distinctive and significantly unequal features of Israel's welfare state, we will address the roles of government, business and citizen protest in shaping inequality.

Spring Semester	M	16:30-18:00	Boyar Bldg.	Seminar	2 credits
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### 01775 Multiple Voices in Israeli Society

**Prof. Michal Frenkel**

This course will discuss Israeli society from a variety of sociological perspectives. Since it is impossible to understand the current state of Israeli society without knowing something about the history from which its many internal and external conflicts and cleavages emerged, we will start with an introduction of Israel's

formative years, first under Ottoman, then British rule and the emergence of the Zionist movement. We will then move forward to present the different groups composing Israeli society: Jews from Ashkenazi (Euro-American) origin, Jews from Mizrahi (Middle Eastern-North African) origin; Arab citizens of Israel, various religious groups, women and others, their conflicts and the institutions that hold this complex society together.

Spring semester                      W                      12:30-14:00                      Boyar Bldg.                      Seminar                      2 credits

### **01940 Social and Political History of the State of Israel from 1977 until today**

***Dr. Simon Epstein***

A history of the last thirty-four years of the State of Israel, integrating political, social, cultural, diplomatic and military developments. It is organized in a chronological frame preserving the specificity and emphasizing the main features of each stage in the history of the State: 1977-1982, 1982-1992, 1992-2000, 2000-2008. For each of these periods, the following categories will be analyzed: (a) the waves of immigration and their social and cultural impact; (b) the political sphere: elections, parties, extra-parliamentarian and peripheral forces, State and party leadership, etc.; (c) social and economic life: economic indicators, social structures, governmental policies; (d) the main identity cleavages: newcomers and old-timers, religious and secular Jews, European and Oriental Jews, Jews and Arabs, etc.; (e) external relations: diplomacy, security, military doctrine and military build-up, wars. The 1977-1982 period is marked by the negotiations leading to the peace with Egypt, by the massive building of Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria, and by extreme tensions between the Ma'arakh and the Likud, in particular during the 1981 elections to the Knesset. Initiated by the first Lebanon war, the 1982-1992 phase includes the first Intifada and ends with the first Gulf war. The course deals with the "National Unity" government and the political and constitutional crisis of 1990. The financial crisis of October 1983 and the end of hyperinflation will naturally be studied, as will the social and economic consequences of those years of inflation. The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the election of Benjamin Netanyahu (1996) and Ehud Barak (1999) are the main political events which characterize the phase bordered by the Oslo agreements of 1993 and the "last resort" Israeli-Palestinian negotiations of 2000. The second Intifada opens a new chapter of violent struggle between Israel and the Palestinians. The course will survey the successive Israeli strategies in that conflict. It will also describe the transformations of Israeli political life during the period, in the wake of Sharon's electoral victories in 2001 and 2003, and following the general elections of 2006. The withdrawal from Gaza (summer 2005) and the Second Lebanon war (summer 2006) have confronted Israel with fundamental questions concerning its security.

Spring semester                      T                      14:30-16:00                      Boyar Bldg.                      Seminar                      2 credits

### **01954 Arms Control and Disarmament in the Middle East**

***Dr. Eitan Barak***

A widely accepted truism in international relations is that "the problems of arms control in the Middle East are more complex than in any other region in the world" (The Encyclopedia of Arms Control and Disarmament, 169, 1992). Indeed, the region is characterized by several bitter conflicts, periodic warfare, escalating arms races, shifting alliances and general instability. These characteristics, complicated by the multitude of independent actors involved, have made any form of conflict amelioration, including arms control, extremely difficult to implement. Therefore, after introducing the concept and the theoretical bases of Arms Control and Disarmament, the Law of Arms Control and the Law of Weaponry, the course will focus on the evolution of these processes in the Middle East arena. Major issues in respect to international WMD realm, conventional weapons and Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs) will be discussed. Significant attention will be given to Israel's approach to proposed initiatives and treaties.

Spring Semester                      M                      12:30-14:00                      Boyar Bldg.                      Seminar                      2 credits

### **01925 Religion in Israeli society**

***Dr. Ari Engelberg***

Religion plays a central role in Israeli society. The state religion – Judaism, is both a religious and national identity and this dualism is at the heart of complexities having to do with the relationship between religion and state in Israel. In this course we will learn about the spectrum of religious identities in Israel, how they are intertwined with other issues and how both Jews and non-Jews are influenced by, or are reacting to, the fairly novel situation of Jewish sovereignty.

We will study the four central Israeli Jewish religious identities: secular, traditional, Religious-Zionist and ultra-Orthodox. Both the theological and sociological aspects of each group will be discussed. Other subjects to be discussed include conversion, return and leaving religion, new Jewish religious alternatives that cut

across and challenge traditional divisions, the interaction of ethnic identity and religion within Judaism, saint worship and its political ramifications, the activity and beliefs of messianic and missionary Hassidic groups, conversion and Israeli immigration policy, non-Jewish religious minorities and their status in the Jewish state, and the struggles of religious minorities who claim to be of Jewish descent or to be the true Jews.

Spring semester	W 14:30-16:00	Boyar Bldg.	Seminar	2 credits
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## SUMMER SEMESTER

### **01660 Israel's Defense Policy: The Limits of Military Power**

**Dr. Eitan Barak**

The course will focus on Israel's National Security Policy in its broadest sense. In the first part of the course, we will review Israel's ongoing and unique geo-strategic predicament, together with the effect of that predicament on Israel's notions of national security. In the second part, we will focus on the strategies and options which Israel have chosen to either solve its predicament without directly settling the conflict (strategic alliances, conventional armament and implicit nuclear deterrence), or mitigate it (i.e., confidence and security-building measures, arms control and limited security regimes). The final subject to be discussed is the appropriateness of Israel's security paradigm to a nuclear Middle East, the feasibility of replicating the Cold War balance of terror in the region, and whether such an attempt would embody a hazard or solution.

*Note: This is a condensed course that meets from July 11 until August 1, 2016.*

Summer semester	M & W 10:30-14:00	Boyar Bldg.	Seminar	2 credits
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### **01955 Music and Cultural Politics in Israel**

**Dr. Tanya Sermer**

Music holds a very important place in Israeli culture and is a fascinating medium through which to study many aspects of Israeli life and politics. In this course, we will explore many different genres of music, including, Songs of the Land of Israel (what has come to be regarded as "Israeli folk" music), rock, musiqa mizrahit, religious repertoires, and music of a variety of ethnic communities. Among the social and political issues that emerge from music in Israel, we will discuss the development of Israeli national culture (tarbut 'Ivrit), the invention of tradition, the tension between Israeli and religious identities, spirituality and engagement with religion, discourses of authenticity, racial and ethnic politics, peace and conflict, and the expression of place.

All engagement with music will be based on listening and reading lyrics. No musical training is necessary to be successful in this course, though students with musical skills may choose to augment their projects with performance or analysis.

*Note: Summer semester dates: July 10 – August 25, 2016.*

Summer semester	T 14:30-18:00	Boyar Bldg.	Seminar	2 credits
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### **01721 Palestinian Society in Palestine and the Diaspora: Trends of Social and Political Change**

**Dr. Maya Rosenfeld**

This course traces the social and political history of the Palestinians since the 1948 war. The impact of four key factors is examined in detail: 1) Palestinian displacement, refugee existence and UN intervention on behalf of Palestine refugees 2) regime policies of the Arab "host" countries vis a vis the Palestinian refugees 3) Israel's prolonged military occupation over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and 4) the emergence and development of the Palestinian national movement.

Accordingly, the course is roughly divided into four parts: starting with the commencement of the Palestinian refugee problem in the aftermath of the 1948 War, the first part analyzes the sixty-two year old intervention of the international community, in particular that of the United Nations Works and Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), on behalf of Palestine refugees and underscores the major consequences of this intervention for four generations of refugees. The second part discusses the considerably divergent legal, social, economic and political statuses of Palestinian refugees in three Arab "host" countries, Lebanon, Jordan and Kuwait (up till the expulsion of Palestinians from this country in 1991), each of which represents a different regime type. It then underscores the impact of variant regime policies on the social structure and social history of Palestinian refugee communities.

The third part of the course reviews the prolonged Israeli occupation over the West Bank and Gaza as a system of military, economic and political control. It examines the cumulative impact of the occupation regime on socio-economic conditions in the West Bank and Gaza in general, and on specific sectors and segments of Palestinian society in particular, over the course of more than four decades. The fourth part

traces the stages of development of the Palestinian national movement in the Diaspora and Palestine since 1948, with a focus on the post 1967 emergence of the PLO and with special emphasis on the occupied territories-based branch of the national movement, the first Intifada, and its long-term consequences. The concluding discussions will examine the major trends of development within the Palestinian national movement since the Oslo Accords and establishment of the PNA in 1994, including an overview of the Oslo era, the second Intifada, the rise of Hamas and the major divide that currently dominates Palestinian political life.

**Note:** Summer semester dates: July 10 – August 25, 2016.

Summer semester	W	14:30-18:00	Boyar Bldg.	Seminar	2 credits
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### **01739 The Zionist Cultural Project**

**Dr. Hanan Harif**

The course will explore the development of a modern Jewish national culture and its shift from Europe to Palestine between the last decades of the 19th to the late 20th centuries. We will analyze and seek to understand the various ways in which Zionist thinkers, writers, poets and other artists sought to develop high and popular cultural expressions for what was perceived as the new era in Jewish history. We will concentrate on the complexities involved in creating a new culture and the tensions between the European cultural legacy and the struggle for a new, 'Eastern' Identity.

Summer semester	S	10:30-14:00	Boyar Bldg.	Seminar	2 credits
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### **44157 Academic Writing in English**

The course provides essential tools for writing academic papers in English: constructing an argument, providing relevant evidence from primary and secondary sources, employing rhetorical devices and improving style. The course begins with constructing arguments in the most general sense and gradually progresses towards writing papers of growing complexity, with an emphasis on analyzing literature. All B.A. students in the English Department must take this course; English language skills per se are taught in the complementary course – Principles of Formal English (44152). Undergraduate and graduate students from other departments are invited to join one or both of these courses.

Spring semester	Location TBA	Exercise	0 credits
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<b>Group 1 – advanced course</b>	<b>Ms. Chaya Fischer</b>	S 12:30-14:00
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<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Dr. Brenda Malkiel</b>	S 12:30-14:00
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<b>Group 3</b>	<b>Ms. Chaya Fischer</b>	T 8:30-10:00
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***Program is subject to change***