 Date: March 2013

**Introduction to Zionist thought I & II**

**Course Number:**

**03-593 -80**

**03-594-80**

**Year of Studies:** 2013-2014  **Semester:** Fall & Spring **Hours/credits:** 2

**A. Course goals**

This course will introduce students to the most influential Zionist thinkers and schools of Zionist thought, with a particular focus on the ideological debates prior to the founding of the State. It will contextualize various schools and thinkers within the developing political history of Zionism of the State of Israel as well as within the broader trends in modern political theory. The course will emphasize the implications of Zionist ideas for contemporary Israel.

**B. Course Content**

Classes will consist of frontal lectures, discussions of assigned readings, close readings of the writings of Zionist thinkers, and class discussion.

Required text: Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*.

**First Semester**.

1. Class 1-2: Background –
* Modern Nationalism in Europe and Beyond
* The challenge of modern Judaism and the development of Zionism
* The land of Israel in pre-modern Jewish thought
1. Classes 3-4: Precursors –

Required reading: Gideon Shimoni, *The Zionist Ideology* (Hanover, NH: University Press of New England and Brandeis University Press, 1995), Chap. 1.

* Mystical Messianism: The Gaon of Vilna and his students
* Modern Messianism: R. Tzvi Hirsch Kalischer
* Secular Precursors: Moses Hess
* Hovevei Tzion
1. Classes 5-6: Political Zionism

Required Reading: Howard M. Sachar, *A History of Israel* (New York: Knopf, 1991), 22-32.

* Herzl and *The Jewish State*
1. Classes 7-8: Cultural Zionism
* Ahad Ha’am
* The Culture Controversy
* Debates Over the Uganda Plan
1. Classes 9-10: Zionism against Religion
* Brenner, Klatzkin, and Berdyczewski
* Secular Responses
1. Classes 11-13: Religion Against Zionism

Required Reading: Aviezer Ravitzky, *Messianism, Zionism and Jewish Religious Radicalism* (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1996), Chapter 1

* Reform anti-Zionism
* Radical Orthodox anti-Zionism – Edah Haredis and Neturei Karta
* Moderate Orthodox anti-Zionism – Agudath Israel

**Second Semester**

1. Classes 14-15: Religious Zionism

Required reading: Dov Schwartz, *Religious Zionism: History and Ideology* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2009), Chapter 13.

* Rabbi Reines and Mizrahi
* Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook
* Rabbi J. B. Soloveitchik
* Gush Emunim and the Religious Settler Movement
1. Classes 16-18: Socialist and Labor Zionism
* Collectivist Ideology in the Kvutzot and Kibbutzim
* A. D. Gordon – Mystical socialism
* Ber Borochov – Zionism wedding to Communism
* Berel Katznelson – Moderate Socialism
* The Political Leadership of Labor Zionism
1. Classes 19-20: Revisionism
* Jabotinsky
* The Development of the Zionist Right
1. Classes 21-23 Zionism and Non-Jewish Residents of the Land of Israel
* “A land without a people for a people without a land”?
* Bi-nationalism – Brit Shalom
* Attempted compromise
1. Classes 24-25: Post-Zionism

Required Reading: Laurence J. Silberstein, *The Post-Zionism Debates: Knowledge and Power and Israeli Culture* (New York and London: Routledge, 1999), Chapter 3.

* The Canaanite Movement
* The New Historians – From Ilan Pappe to Benny Morris
* Contemporary Debates
1. Class 26: Current Debates in Zionist Thought

**C. Course Requirements**

**Requirements:** Full attendance and class participation is expected. Students should have read the assigned material in advance and be prepared for class discussion. There will be a final exam.

Each student will be expected to write two short papers over the course of the semester, of up to three pages, based on the assigned readings.

Paper number one due after class number 6: We've discussed Moses Hess’s Rome and Jerusalem. Please read the passages from Leo Pinsker in Hertzberg’s The Zionist Idea (pp. 179-198). Both are early leaders and ideologues of the proto-Zionist movement. How is Pinsker's thinking similar to and different from that of Hess?

Paper number two do after class number 20: Please find a newspaper editorial, online opinion piece, or blog post that takes a stand regarding a matter of current events in Israel. Please explain how that opinion relates to and differs from the trends in Zionist thought we have studied.

**Grades:** Attendance and class participation, 30%. Two papers, 15% each, total of 30%. Final exam, 40%.. 30% participation.