

ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES: ISRAEL PAST AND PRESENT

Rona Yona

Spring Semester

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Office Hours:

Short description:

This course addresses question surrounding the history of Zionism and contemporary Israel. Central to these are the origins of Zionism a European national liberation movement embedded in the Middle East; The history of the mandate years between colonialism and national conflict; and the emergence of the “New Jew” cultural ideal. This course seeks to answer such questions through a broad and deep analysis that spans the 19th and 20th centuries, pays close attention to Israel's social and cultural composition as well as politics, and imbeds modern Israel into the global context. In addition, the second half of the course deals with contemporary Israeli society focusing in particular on its major tensions and dilemmas like majority-minority relations, global-local aspects, gender issues, settlers vs. peace activists or ethnic tension (East-West) inside Israeli society. These will be explored using examples and sources in different fields: communication, literature, Middle East and Jewish Studies, etc.

Assessment* :

Minor assignments: 20%

Weekly Study Questions: Each week, a set of study questions pertaining to that week's readings are posed. These questions are designed to assist students with the weekly reading assignments. Students are required to submit short answers to these questions about 8 times throughout the semester.

Midterm: 15%

An in-class exam.

Final requirement: 65%

A 2000 word essay based on secondary literature (use of one primary source is optional)

Attendance:

* Please note that if distance learning is required, the assessment procedure, modes of assessment and weightings may be changed.

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic conduct:

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

Additional requirements:

Phones should be turned-off while in class.