The History of Israel / Dr. Nahshon Perez,

CAS. HI. 392, Spring 2012.

Days/Hours: MWF, 1-2 PM, Kenmore classroom building 106.

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Office hours: Tuesday, 10.30 AM- Noon, Wednesday, 10-11.30 AM.

Address, office number: Elie Wiesel center (147 Bay State Road), office 502.

Course Objectives.

This course offers a comprehensive survey of the history of the State of Israel. We shall start with the pre-state era, covering some aspects of the Zionist movement and the development of the Jewish community in the land of Israel/Palestine. We shall continue with the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. The class will move in a chronological order, covering major issues such as the political system, the Arab – Israeli conflict and the Israeli economy. We shall also examine some aspects of the Israeli society. By the end of this class the student will be acquainted with the major historical events, and with the major developments of the Israeli society in the past 63 years.

Class Requirements.

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

There will be one 'take home' midterm exam (30%, week 7 – specific date TBA).

One paper Assignment (30%), week 8, around the 6 pages limit. Specific dates and format TBA.

One final exam (40%). This will be a cumulative, closed books exam, covering the subject matter of the class (lectures + assigned readings).

Classroom participation may be counted for class grade in some cases (in cases of classroom conduct which is either excellent or below expected standards).

Appeal policy: students wishing to discuss a paper, exam and so on, are welcome to. Students wishing to request a change of grade, will do so in writing (typed), briefly
explaining why they think a different grade is due to their work. I will read such
appeals very seriously, and re-read the student’s exam (or paper). The grade that will be
 accorded following an appeal will be a new grade, and may be better or worse than the grade
 originally given.

**Academic Conduct:** all assignments should be completed independently and plagiarism from
 any source is unacceptable. In all written assignments be sure to properly credit (using proper
citations) all ideas, phrases, statements, arguments, and ideas taken from your sources. Cases of
suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean’s Office. If they have not already,
students should familiarize themselves with the Academic Conduct Code of the College of Arts
and Sciences:

[http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/](http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/)

For Graduate Students:

[http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/grad-resources/forms/discipline](http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/grad-resources/forms/discipline)

Students may be interested in current events in Israel, for which the English
version of YNET daily is a good source: [http://www.ynetnews.com/](http://www.ynetnews.com/)

**Required Book:**


Copies should be available at the Barnes and Noble BU bookstore.

**Reading list.**

Please note: the reading list is divided to two: chapters taken from the required book, and articles
that will be available on the Blackboard system.
**Week 1: Nationalism.**


**Week 2: Historical Background and Some observations on Zionism and Jewish identity.**


**Week 3: The 1948 war, some of its consequences, first elections.**


Benny Morris, *1948. A History of the First Arab-Israeli War* (Yale U.P. 2008), the last chapter (‘some conclusions’).

**Week 4: The political system, the Jewishness of the state, and religion – state relations.**


**Week 5: the 1956 war and the Eichmann Trial.**


**Week 6: the 1967 and 1973 wars.**


**Week 7: the rise of Likud party, the peace agreement with Egypt, the 1982 war.**


**Week 8: the 1980’s and early 1990’s: Lebanon, Labor-Likud between union and rivalry, the first Intifada, the first golf war (1991).**


**Week 9: 1992-1996, the rise of labor, Rabin as a prime minister, Oslo agreements, the murder of Rabin.**


**Week 10: Netanyaho and Barak 1996-2001.**


**Week 11: the 2000’s, Sharon as a Prime Minister, the Disengagement from Gaza, the Second Intifada.**

Week 12: The Israeli Economy.


Nahshon Perez, “The Privatization of Jewishness in Israel (or: on Economic Post Zionism)”.

Week 13: Israel – Diaspora Relations.


Week 14: Future challenges.


