



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Russia in the Middle East and Israel - 13415

Last update 08-08-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History of Jewish People & Contemporary Jewry

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Jonathan Dekel-Chen

Coordinator Email: jonathan.dekel-chen@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:15-13:45

Teaching Staff:

Prof Jonathan Dekel-Chen

Course/Module description:

This is an introductory course for students who seek an understanding of the impact of the actions and foreign policy of the rulers of Russia in the Middle East in general and in the land of Israel, in particular.

We will study the continuity and changes in the ideologies and policies of Russia's regimes in this region as it transitioned from an imperial autocracy to a revolutionary socialist state in 1917 and then, as of 1991, to a partial democracy.

Course/Module aims:

The goal of this course will be acquisition and greater understanding of the period, as well as an improvement of analytical skills when dealing with scholarly materials.

The course will also allow the students to explore the relationship between historical events and collective memory in the public and political arenas.

Compare and contrast the representations of historical events in scholarship versus collective memory.

Evaluate long-term trends in scholarship and the reasons for its changes.

Think critically about connections between historical events and the general development of historical interpretations of those events.

Construct original written analyses using a multi-disciplinary approach.

Integrate materials from the assigned readings and research materials, together with material collected in class, to support the original analyses.

Acquire an ability to analyze primary documents from the period.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Compare and contrast the representations of historical events in scholarship versus collective memory.

Evaluate long-term trends in scholarship and the reasons for its changes.

Think critically about connections between historical events and the general development of historical interpretations of those events.

Construct original written analyses using a multi-disciplinary approach.

Integrate materials from the assigned readings and research materials, together with material collected in class, to support the original analyses.

Acquire an ability to analyze primary documents from the period.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:

Course/Module Content:

Why Study the History of Russia and the USSR in the Mideast and the Land of Israel?

General Background about Imperial Russia

Religion, Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Messianism in the Formation of Russian Foreign Policy

The Crimean War: Why and to What End?

Russia and the "Great Eastern Question", 1856-1914

Soviet Russia and Socialism in the Mideast, 1917-1945

The USSR and the Establishment of the State of Israel

The USSR in the Mideast during the Cold War

The Sinai War, 1956

The Six-Day War and the Jewish National Movement in the USSR

The Involvement of the USSR in the Yom Kippur War

Global and Local Aspects of Soviet Involvement in the Mideast

From Gorbachev to Yeltsin: From Superpower to Secondary Actor

Revival of Russian Power in the Mideast under Putin?

Required Reading:

Document: Summary of Treaty of Kuchuk-Kainarji, 1774.

Alfred Rieber. "Persistent Factors in Russian Foreign Policy: An Interpretive Essay." In: Hugh Ragsdale, ed. Imperial Russian Foreign Policy. Cambridge University Press, 1993. pp. 315-359.

Dominic Lieven. Empire: The Russian Empire and its Rivals. New Haven: Yale, 2000. pp. 231-287.

Alicja Curanovic. The Religious Factor in Russia's Foreign Policy. London: Routledge, 2012.

W. Bruce Lincoln. Nicholas I: Emperor and Autocrat of All the Russias. Indiana Univ. Press, 1980. pp. 325-350

Document: "Treaty of Berlin." In: George Vernadsky, et al. eds, A Source Book for Russian History from Early Times to 1917, vol. 3. Yale University Press, 1972. Pp. 630-631.

David MacKenzie, "Russia's Balkan Policies under Alexander II." In: Hugh Ragsdale, ed. Imperial Russian Foreign Policy. Cambridge: Woodrow Wilson Center, 1993. pp. 219-246.

Hugh Seton-Watson. The Russian Empire, 1801-1917. Oxford, 1967. pp. 445-459, 686-697.

Ziva Galili and Boris Morozov, Exiled to Palestine: The Emigration of Zionist Convicts from Soviet Russia, 1924-1934. London, 2006.

Joseph Heller. "Roosevelt, Stalin and the Palestine Problem at Yalta." Weiner Library Bulletin 30, no. 41-42 (1973): 25-35.

Hashim Behbehani. The Soviet Union and Arab Nationalism, 1916-1966. London:

KPI, 1986.

Document: Gromyko's Speech at UN, May 1947

A. Kramer. *The Forgotten Friendship: Israel and the Soviet Bloc, 1947-1953*. University of Illinois, 1974. pp. 32-53.

Iurii Strizhov. "The Soviet Position on the Establishment of the State of Israel." In *Jews and Jewish Life in Russia and the Soviet Union*. pp. 303-326.

Gabriel Gorodetsky. "The Soviet Union's Role in the Creation of the State of Israel." *Journal of Israeli History* 22, no. 1 (2003): 4-20.

M. Heikal. *Sphinx and Commissar*. NY: Collins, 1978. pp. 57-170.

Galia Golan. *Soviet Policies in the Middle East from World War Two to Gorbachev*. Cambridge University Press, 1990. pp. 4-28

Walter Laqueur. *Struggle for the Middle East: The Soviet Union in the Mediterranean* (Macmillan, 1969). pp. 63-117.

Galia Golan. "The Soviet Union and the Suez Crisis." In: *The Suez-Sinai Crisis, 1956: Retrospective and Reappraisal*, edited by Selwyn Ilan Troen and Moshe Shemesh. London: Frank Cass, 1990. Pp. 274-286.

Laurent Rucker. "The Soviet Union and the Suez Crisis." *The 1956 War: Collusion and Rivalry in the Middle East*, edited by David Tal. London: Frank Cass, 2001. Pp. 65-93.

Benjamin Pinkus. *The Soviet Government and the Jews*. pp. 42-45, 253-256 DS 135 R92 P56

R. Parker, "The June 1967 War: Some Mysteries Explored," *The Middle East Journal* (Spring 1992): 175-197.

Michael B. Oren. *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*

Galia Golan. "The Soviet Union and the Yom Kippur War," *Israel Affairs* 6, no. 1 (1999): 127-152.

Stuart Britton. "Competition or Collaboration? The Soviet Union, Détente, and the October 1973 War," *Comparative Strategy* 9, no. 3 (1990): 287-306.

Isabella Ginor and Gideon Remez. "Israel's Best Spy – or a Master Double Agent? New Light from the Soviet Angle on the Mystery of Ashraf Marwan." *The Journal of*

the Middle East and Africa 8, no. 4 (2017): 383-396.

Document: "Soviet and East European Aid to the Third World, 1981." Washington DC: US Dept. of State, 1983.

Meir Edelsthain. "The 1965 Split in Maki and the CPSU." *Soviet Jewish Affairs* 4, no. 1 (1974): 23-38.

Yosef Govrin. "The Beginnings of the Struggle for Soviet-Jewish Emigration and its Impact on Israel-Soviet Relations." In: *Jews and Jewish Life in Russia and the Soviet Union*, edited by Yaakov Ro'i. Ilford: Frank Cass, 1995. pp. 327-339.

Yosef Govrin. "From Deep Freeze to Thaw: Relations between Israel and Czechoslovakia, 1967-1990." In: *Jerusalem Review: a Journal of Foreign Policy* 1, no. 1 (2006-2007): 119-139.

Evgeniy Bazhanov. "Russia's Middle East Policy under Gorbachev and Yeltsin." In: *From War to Peace: Arab-Israeli Relations, 1973-1993*. Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 1994. pp. 207-217.

Rex Brynen. "Adjusting to a New World Order: The PLO and the Twilight of the Soviet Union." In: *The Decline of the Soviet Union and the Transformation of the Middle East*, edited by David Goldberg and Paul Marantz. Boulder, CO: Westview, 1994. Pp. 155-182.

Robert O. Freedman. "Israel and Russia: Jerusalem and its Relations with Moscow under Putin." In: *Israel and the World Powers: Diplomatic Alliances and International Relations Beyond the Middle East*, edited by Colin Shindler. London: Tauris, 2014. pp. 125-154.

Grigory Melamedov. "Putin and the Iranian-Israeli Conflict." *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs* (2018): 1-16.

Emil Avdaliani. "Russia in Syria: Caught Between Iran and Israel." *BESA Center Perspectives Paper No. 874*, June 24, 2018.

Yaakov Lappin. "The Russian-Israeli Crisis over Syria Lacks an Exit Strategy." *BESA Center Perspectives Paper No. 1,028*, December 5, 2018.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 30 %
Project work 70 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: