



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *The Political History of the Yishuv (1918-1948) - 56547*

*Last update 01-10-2018*

*HU Credits: 4*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: Political Science*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 2nd Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Menachem Hofnung*

*Coordinator Email: [msmh@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:msmh@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Sunday 12:00-13:00  
Monday 12:00-13:00*

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Menachem Hofnung

Course/Module description:

The course will review the thirty-year history of the Jewish political community in Mandatory Palestine/Eretz Israel prior to the creation of Israel. We shall be looking into the issues of institution building, immigration and settlement from political, social, economic, and cultural perspectives. We shall try to answer the question, how did a minority community succeed in building a national home in one generation?

Course/Module aims:

1. Gaining knowledge and understanding of basic principles of the political system of the Jewish Community in Mandatory Palestine;
2. Understanding of the institutional, legal and historical principles that guided the actions of the Yishuv's institutions;
3. Enhancing the ability to understand and analyze the different contexts of political events.

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

1. To become familiar and understand seminal events as well as political and legal decisions that have shaped the political system of the Yishuv;
2. To analyze historical and political processes through the aid of different sources and methods;
3. To write seminar paper based on different sources and reasoned arguments.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture, class discussion, midterm exam and individual seminar paper.

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction
2. End of Ottoman rule and beginning of British takeover.
3. The British rule, commitment to Jewish Homeland and the Arab Question.
4. Mandatory government and administration.
5. Jewish authority without sovereignty under the British Mandate.

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6. Parties in the Jewish Yishuv.
  7. Institutions building and land acquisitions.
  8. 8. Personal Meetings, defining personal writing assignment.
  9. Personal Meetings, defining personal writing assignment.
  10. The Jewish Yishuv and the Arab Community.
  11. Security institutions.
  12. Internal political conflicts.
  13. Personal Meetings, research question.
  14. Hegemony battles within the Yishuv.
  15. Seminar writing guidance.
  16. Personal Meetings, research outline.
  17. Personal Meetings, research outline.
  18. Economic and politics.
  19. Jewish settlement.
  20. The Arab revolt 1936-39.
  21. World War II.
  22. Independent research and writing.
  23. Personal meetings, seminar drafts.
  24. Conclusion and presentation of selected projects in class.

Required Reading:

See Readings in Hebrew.

Additional Reading Material:

- Arian Asher, *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*, (Chatham House, 1997). JQ 1825 I8 A79 (1171712)
- Dowty Alan, *The Jewish State*. (Berkeley, University of California press, 1997).
- JQ 1825 I8 D69 (1197038)
- Dowty Alan, *Critical Issues in Israeli Society*. (Westport, Connecticut, Praeger, 2004).
- Galnoor Itzhak, *Steering the Polity: Communication and Politics in Israel*, (Beverly Hills, Sage 1982). JQ 1825 I8 G34 (834857)
- Horowitz D., Lissak M., *Origins of the Israeli Polity*, (Chicago, Univ. of Chicago Press, 1978). DS 126 H6713 1978 (82904)
- Horowitz D., Lissak M., *Trouble in Utopia*, (SUNY Press, 1989). JQ 1825 I8 H66 (1051070)

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %  
Presentation 0 %  
Participation in Tutorials 15 %

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*Project work 0 %*  
*Assignments 0 %*  
*Reports 0 %*  
*Research project 65 %*  
*Quizzes 20 %*  
*Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*

*An Updated syllabus will be published in Mars 2019.*