

San Jose State University
College of Social Sciences
History Department
JWSS111: Special Topics in Jewish Studies
History of the Holy Land
From Ancient to Modern Times

Spring 2019

Instructor:	Ignat Ayzenberg
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Office Hours:	Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00am-12:00pm
Class Days/Times:	Teus/Thurs 9:00am-10:15am
Classroom:	DMH 167

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The “Holy Land” is a territory revered by Jews, Christians, and Muslims, encompassing the ancient land of “Canaan”, “Philistia”, “Israel”, “Judaea,” and “Palaestina” (or “Filastin,” in Arabic). Conquering armies plowed up and down this narrow land-bridge between Africa and Asia for three millennia before it was the focal point of European struggle beginning in the 11th century CE, --- as Muslim hegemony fragmented, as Crusader kingdoms collapsed, as Great Powers of Europe climbed onto world stage, as new world economy and technology churned out faster, easier, and cheaper travel and communication across the time different zones, as modern nation-states and advanced warfare displaced hundreds of millions of people from the world over.

Today, as before, global conflicts affect this land and vice versa: what transpires there has global implications. *What are these implications? How has this poor, pedestrian corner of the earth become an inescapable, timeless tale (symbol) of redemption, as well as, of exile; of freedom, as well as, of slavery; of Christ, as well as, of anti-Christ? Why, here, ordinary love, poverty, and war, inspire profound passions, delusions, Sisyphian obsessions?*

This course is the social, political, and religious history of "**historic Palestine**": Specifically, how the sense of space (real or imagined) shaped the idea of self and other. We will utilize the ancient and modern primary sources; we will discuss vital historical and contemporary issues; we will learn from the major archaeological discoveries of the ancient sites, artifacts, and material culture; we will delve into pagan, Jewish, Christian, Muslim rites, politics, theology, and culture; we will analyze mosaics, frescoes, and architectural designs to understand how the sense of place or belonging was signified, appropriated, perpetuated, --- from one people to another, from one epoch to the next. We will unpeel the many layers of collective memory, in order to come face to face with the Holy Land, in all its grandeur and ugliness.

COURSE MATERIALS & REQUIRED TEXTS/READINGS



Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, and assignment instructions can be found on Canvas Learning Management System. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn any updates.

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE SPARTAN BOOKSTORE

1. Seth Schwartz, <i>Ancient Jews from Alexander to Muhammad</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2014).	ISBN: 1107669294
2. Oleg Grabar, <i>The Dome of the Rock</i> (Harvard University Press, 2006).	ISBN: 0674023137
3. Rashid Khalidi, <i>Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness</i> (Columbia University Press, 1998).	ISBN: 023115075X
4. Edward W. Said, <i>Out of Place: A Memoir</i> (Vintage, 2000).	ISBN: 9780679730675
5. Tom Segev, <i>Elvis in Jerusalem: Post-Zionism and the Americanization of Israel</i> (Metropolitan Books, 2000) Tom Segev's highly problematic, <i>Elvis in Jerusalem</i> (Picador, 2000) is out of print, but the Spartan Bookstore acquired some copies for purchase. You may also find the relevant chapters on Canvas under "Files."	ISBN: 0805072888

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

WORKLOAD: Success in this course is with the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

<p>❖ Class will consist of LECTURE and DISCUSSION. You will be expected to have completed every reading assignment on time so that you can participate actively in discussion.</p>	<p><i>Participation amounts to 15% (or 150 points) of your total grade.</i></p>
<p>❖ There will be a multiple-choice MIDTERM of 25 questions (4-points each) that assesses you acquired basic knowledge of the history (<i>based on lectures and readings</i>) from the mid-Bronze Age Canaan (2nd millennium BCE) to the Muslim conquest of the Levant (634-638 CE).</p>	<p><i>The mid-term amounts to 20% (or 200 points) of your total grade.</i></p>
<p>❖ You are required to write TWO (2) PAPERS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p> The BOOK REVIEW is intended to prepare you for the <i>Historiographic Response Essay</i> (see below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE MARCH 5, 2019. ▪ at least 1,000 words, 1inch margin, 12 point Times New Roman, double-spaced. ▪ I will hand out a list of book titles on the first day of class for you to choose. (You may also choose a book to review that is not on the list, after it is approved by the course instructor.) <p> The HISTORIOGRAPHIC RESPONSE ESSAY that demonstrates clearly and efficiently you have thought deeply about the main historiographic issue of at least three books (including the one in your book review).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DUE APRIL 18, 2019. ▪ at least 2,000 words, 1inch margin, 12 point Times New Roman, double-spaced. ▪ I will hand out detailed instructions and grading policy for the papers on the first day of class. 	<p><i>The Book Review amounts to 20% (or 200 points) of your total grade.</i></p> <p><i>The Historiographic response paper amounts to 20% (or 200 points) of your total grade.</i></p>
<p>❖ There will be a multiple-choice FINAL EXAM of 50 questions (2-points each) that will cover the content of the course from the Muslim conquest until the establishment of the State of Israel.</p>	<p><i>The final exam amounts to 25% (or 250 points) of your total grade.</i></p>

GRADING INFORMATION

Grade breakdown of the percentage/ weight of points	COURSE REQUIREMENTS	
	1. class participation	15% / 150
	2. midterm examination	20% / 200
	3. final examination	25% / 250
	4. book review	20% / 200
	5. historiographic paper	20% / 200




TOTAL: 100% / 1000

(The final grade is based on the combined results of the 6 course requirements)

GRADING SCALE

PERCENTAGE	POINTS	GRADE
96-100%	955-1000	A+
93-95%	925-954	A
90-92%	895-924	A-
87-89%	865-894	B+
83-86%	825-864	B
80-82%	795-824	B-
76-79%	755-794	C+
73-75%	725-754	C
70-72%	695-724	C-
66-69%	655-694	D+
63-65%	625-654	D
60-62%	595-624	D-
59% OR LESS	590 OR LESS	F

≡CLASS≡
 PROTOCOL

<p><u>COME TO CLASS ON TIME!</u> The class will start promptly at 9:05am with 😊 or without ☹️ you.</p> 	<p><u>NO CELLPHONES</u> in class!</p> 	<p><u>LAPTOPS ARE PERMITTED</u> for taking notes only!</p> 	<p><u>ZERO TOLERANCE</u> for hateful speech, angry retribution, vile language, emotional abuse, bullying or stalking outside of class for any reason.</p> <p><u>ANY PHYSICAL THREAT IS IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE POLICE</u></p>
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UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping, consent for recording of class, etc., is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>. Make sure to review these university policies and resources.

History 111
History of the Holy Land:
From Ancient to Modern Times
Spring, 2019

Course Schedule

WEEK	CLASS CALENDAR	UNIT	READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
I.	(class 1) Thursday January, 24	A) ON HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Denis Baly, <u>“The Geography of Palestine and the Levant in Relation to its History.”</u> <i>The Cambridge History of Judaism</i> (Cambridge University Press, 1984), 1-14, 18-24. [Canvas: Files]
II.	(class 2) Tuesday January, 29		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yohanan Aharoni, <u>“The General Setting,”</u> <i>The Land of the Bible: A Historical Geography</i> (The Westminster Press, 1979), 3-11, 13-20. [Canvas: Files] ▪ Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich, <u><i>A Concise History of Israel</i></u>, (Harper & Row, 1965), 1-3. [Canvas: Files]
	(class 3) Thursday January, 31	B) A MIXED MULTITUDE: SOCIAL REVOLUTION IN THE ANCIENT WORLD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ehrlich, <u><i>A Concise History of Israel</i></u>, 4-58. [Canvas: Files]
III.	(class 4) Tuesday February, 5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ehrlich, <u><i>A Concise History of Israel</i></u>, 59-93. [Canvas: Files]
	(class 5) Thursday February, 7	C) PIGS IN THE LAND OF MILK & HONEY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aren M. Maier, <u>“Philistia Transforming: Fresh Evidence from Tell es-Safi/Gath on the Transformational Trajectory of the Philistine Culture.”</u> <i>The Philistines and Other "Sea Peoples" in Text and Archaeology</i> (Society of Biblical Literature, 2013), 191-242. [Canvas: Files]
IV.	(class 6) Tuesday February, 12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Herman Michael Niemann, <u>“Neighbors and Foes, Rivals and Kin: Philistines, Shepheleans, Judeans between Geography and Economy, History and Theology,”</u> <i>Ibid.</i>, 243-264. [Canvas: Files]

WEEK	CLASS CALENDAR	UNIT	READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
	(class 7) Thursday February 14	D) ATHENS AND JERUSALEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ehrlich, <i>A Concise History of Israel</i>, 94-124. [Canvas: Files] Schwartz, <i>The Ancient Jews from Alexander to Muhammed</i>, (Cambridge University Press, 2014), 19-58. [Bookstore] Elias Bickerman, “The Historical Foundations of Post-Biblical Judaism,” <i>The Jews: Their History, Culture, and Religion</i> (The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1966), 70-114. [Canvas: Files]
v.	(class 8) Tuesday February 19		
	(class 9) Thursday February 21	E) DEATH, BE NOT PROUD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ehrlich, <i>A Concise History of Israel</i>, 124-140. [Canvas: Files] Schwartz, <i>The Ancient Jews from Alexander to Muhammed</i>, 59-70. [Bookstore] Steven Fine, “A Note on Ossuary Burial and the Resurrection of the Dead in First Century Judea,” <i>Art, History and The Historiography of Judaism in Roman Antiquity</i> (Brill, 2013), 37-51. [Canvas: Files] Lawrence Schiffman, “Political Leadership and Organization in the Dead Sea Scrolls Community,” <i>Reclaiming the Dead Sea Scrolls</i> (Doubleday, 1995), 97-111. [Canvas: Files]
v.	(class 10) Tuesday February 26		
	(class 11) Thursday February 28	F) THE PARTING OF THE WAYS: THE BIRTH OF JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schwartz, <i>The Ancient Jews from Alexander to Muhammed</i>, 70-123. [Bookstore] Josephus, <i>The Jewish Wars</i>, Book III, <u>Chapters 7-9</u>, and Book IV, <u>Chapters 3-5, 10</u>. [ONLINE] “Kamza u-bar Kamza” [story], <i>Tractate Gittin</i> [“Divorce”], folios 55b-57a, <i>Babylonian Talmud</i>. [ONLINE] “The Oven of Akhnai” [story], <i>Tractate Bava Metzia</i> [“Middle Gate”], folio 59b., <i>Babylonian Talmud</i>. [ONLINE]
vi.	(class 12) Tuesday March 5 BOOK REVIEW DUE!		

WEEK	CLASS CALENDAR	UNIT	READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
	(class 13) Thursday March 7	G) PALAESTINA, - that is, Filastin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schwartz, <i>The Ancient Jews from Alexander to Muhammed</i>, 124-151. [Bookstore] ▪ Oded Irshai, “<i>Confronting a Christian Empire: Jewish Culture in the Byzantine Empire.</i>” <i>Cultures of the Jews</i> (Schocken, 2002), 181-209. [Canvas: Files] ▪ Oleg Grabar, <i>The Dome of the Rock</i>, (Harvard University Press, 2006), 1-58. [Bookstore]
vii.	(class 14) Tuesday March 12		
	(class 15) Thursday March 14		
viii.	(class 16) Tuesday March 19	H) HARAM AL SHARIF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oleg Grabar, <i>The Dome of the Rock</i>, 58-158. [Bookstore]
	(class 17) Thursday March 21		
viii.	(class 18) Tuesday March 26	I) PILGRIMS, TRAVELERS, MYSTICS, & MESSIAHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benjamin Tudela [Online] ▪ Francis of Assisi [Online] ▪ Marco Polo [Online] ▪ Travels of William George Browne, 1797 (Remember, the letter that looks a bit like F is S.) [Online] ▪ Aron Steinberg, “<i>Messianic Movements up to the end of the Middle Ages.</i>” <i>History as Experience</i> (Ktav: Publishing House, 1983), 174-182. [Canvas: Files]
	(class 19) Thursday March 28		

SPRING
BREAK

WEEK	CLASS CALENDAR	UNIT	READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
IX	(class 20) Tuesday April 9	J) CULTURE & EMPIRE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Khalidi, <u><i>Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness</i></u>, 1-118. [Bookstore] Jonathan Marc Gribetz, <u>“Reading Mendelssohn in Late Ottoman Palestine: An Islamic Theory of Jewish Secularism,”</u> <i>Secularism in Question: Jews and Judaism in Modern Times</i> (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015), 48-64. [Canvas: Files]
	(class 21) Thursday April 11		
XI.	(class 22) Tuesday April 16	K) THE ROOTS OF ZIONISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Khalidi, <u><i>Palestinian Identity: The Construction of Modern National Consciousness</i></u>, 119-209. [Bookstore] Anita Shapira, <u>“Black Night – White Snow”: Attitudes of the Palestinian Labor Movement to the Russian Revolution, 1917-1929,”</u> <i>Essential Papers on Jews and the Left</i> (New York University Press, 1997), 236-271. [Canvas: Files]
	(class 23) Thursday April 18 HIS. RESPONSE PAPER DUE!		
XII.	(class 24) Tuesday April 23	L) SUB SPECIE AETERNITATIS: Christians & Zionism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judith Hershcopf, <u>“The Church and the Jews: The Struggle at Vatican Council II,”</u> <i>American Jewish Yearbook</i>, 45-75. [Canvas: Files] Oleg Budnitskii, <u>“Battling Balfour: ‘White Diplomacy,’ the Russian Orthodox Church and the Establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine,”</u> <i>East European Jewish Affairs</i> (2006), 72-90. [Canvas: Files] Gershon Greenberg, <u>“The Rise of Hitler, Zion, and the Tribulation: Between Christian Zionism and Orthodox Judaism,”</u> <i>Comprehending Christian Zionism: Perspectives in Comparison</i> (Fortress Press, 2014), 275-300. [Canvas: Files]
	(class 25) Thursday April 25		
XIII.	(class 26) Tuesday April 30	M) THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward Said, <u><i>Out of Place: A Memoir</i></u> (Vintage, 2000). [Bookstore]
	(class 27) Thursday May 2		

WEEK	CLASS CALENDAR	UNIT	READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, DEADLINES
XIV.	(class 28) Tuesday May 7 (class 29) Thursday May 9	N) SEX, GUNS (AND DRUGS), AND ROCK N ROLL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tom Segev, “All That Stuff was Zionism,” in <i>Elvis in Jerusalem: Post-Zionism and the Americanization of Israel</i> (Picador, 2002). 11-46 [Canvas: Files] [Bookstore] ▪ Tom Segev, “When They Start Shooting I Start Missing New York,” <i>ibid.</i>, 49-78.
	Friday May 17	Final Exam TIME: 7:15-9:30am LOCATION: DMH 167	