



Detailed Course Syllabus

Academic Year	2025/2026	Semester	Summer
Study Program	University Undergraduate Program	Specialization/Major in	History, Sociology, Communication Sciences
Year of Study	1-3		

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Name	Modern Israel: History, Politics and Theology of Jewish Statehood		
Abbreviation	IZBP262	Code	278818
Status	Elective	ECTS	4
Prerequisites	None		
Total Course Workload			
Teaching Mode	Total Hours	Teaching Mode	Total Hours
Lectures	30	Seminars	15
Class Time and Place	CUC according to published timetable		

II. TEACHING STAFF

Course Holder

Name and Surname	Boris Havel		
Academic Degree	PhD	Academic Degree	Associate Professor
Contact E-mail	boris.havel@fpzg.hr	Telephone	091/5702322
Office Hours	According to published timetable		
	Office		

Teaching Language English

Course Description	<p>The aim of this course is to introduce students to the most important topics in contemporary Jewish and Israeli history, through an interdisciplinary study of religion, history and politics. In this course, Israel is understood to mean 1) the Israeli and later the Jewish people, 2) the Israeli religion - primarily Judaism, but also Christianity as a branch within Judaism, and 3) the Land of Israel. The latter includes the emergence of the Zionist movement, the restoration of the Jewish state in Palestine, and its development and current political circumstances. Christian Muslim understanding of Jews, Judaism and Zionism is also addressed in the course.</p>
Expected Educational Outcomes	<p>1. Understand basic concepts of Israeli/Jewish historiography; 2. Recognize basic processes in Israeli/Jewish history from the beginnings of the Zionist movement to present-day Israel; 3. Recognize the reasons for the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach to studying the history of modern Israel; 4. Distinguish the basic characteristics, specificities and themes of Israeli historiography in key historical periods; 5. Critically analyze and interpret sources; 6. Present a clear and structured oral presentation on a selected topic; 7. Participate in class discussions; 8. Acquire necessary skills for continuing studies, independent work and professional development; 9. Adhere to ethical principles in academic work.</p>
Textbooks and Materials	
Required	<p>R. Goldwater, <i>Pioneers of Religious Zionism</i>: Rabbis Alkalai, Kalischer, Mohliver, Reines, Kook and Maimon Jerusalem: Urim Publications (selected chapters), 2009; G. Gorenberg, <i>The Accidental Empire: Israel and the Birth of the Settlements, 1967-1977</i>. New York: Henry Holt and Company (selected chapters), 2006; B. Havel, Haj Amin al-Husseini: Herald of Religious Anti-Judaism in the Contemporary Islamic World. <i>The Journal of the Middle East and Africa</i>. (5) 3: 221-243, 2014; B. Havel, Jerusalem in Early Islamic Tradition. <i>Miscellanea Hadriatica et Mediterranea</i>, (5) 1: 113-179., 2018; B. Havel, The Catholic Church, Jews, the Shoah and the State of Israel: Interpretations and Responses. <i>Scandinavian Jewish Studies</i>, (34) 2: 21-34, 2023; B. Lewis, <i>Faith and Power: Religion and Politics in the Middle East</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press (selected chapters), 2010; B. Morris, 1948: <i>A History of the First Arab-Israeli War</i>. New Haven i London: Yale University Press (selected chapters), 2008; M. B. Oren, <i>Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East</i>. London: Penguin Books (selected chapters), 2002; H. M. Sachar, <i>A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to our Time</i>. New York: Alfred A. Knopf (selected chapters); 2001; S. Spero and Y. Pessin, eds., <i>Religious Zionism: After 40 Years of Statehood</i>. Jerusalem: Mesilot & The World Zionist Organization (pp. 13-15; 40-58; 82-99), 1989; S. Spero, <i>New Perspectives in the Theology of Judaism</i>. Brighton: Academic Studies Press (selected chapters), 2013; A. Stav, ed., (2001). <i>Israel and a Palestinian State: Zero Sum Game?</i> Shaarei Tikva: Ariel Center for Policy Research (selected chapters), 2001; I. S. Troen, <i>Israel/Palestine in World Religions: Whose Promised Land?</i> Cham: Palgrave Macmillan (selected pages), 2024.</p>
NOTE: All required readings will be provided to the students in PDF form.	
Supplementary	
Examination and Grading	

To Be Passed	Yes	Exclusively Continuous Assessment	No	Included in Average Grade	Yes
Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam		1. Regular attendance at classes – attendance of at least 70 % of classes according to the study program.			
		2. Fully completed seminar obligations - prepared and submitted presentation and accepted written version of the paper.			
Examination Manner		3. Obtaining a minimum success rate of 35 % during classes within the assigned teaching activities - achieved cumulatively through seminar obligation and midterm exams.			
		1. Teaching activities (seminar; midterm exams).			
Grading Manner		2. Final exam (oral).			
		Grade Scale: insufficient (1) – 0 to 49.9% sufficient (2) – 50–64.9% good (3) – 65–79.9% very good (4) – 80–89.9% excellent (5) – 90% and above.			
Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS		a) Teaching activities:			
		a) Seminar obligations – 30 % of the grade b) Midterm exam 1 – 40 % of the grade			
		b) Final exam:			
		a) Final exam – 30 % of the grade (<i>to pass, it is necessary to solve at least 50% of the exam</i>)			
		ACTIVITY TYPE	ECTS Student Workload Coefficient	GRADE PERCENTAGE (%)	
		Class Attendance	1,2	0	
		Seminar Presentation	0,84	30%	
		Midterm Exam	1,12	40%	
		Total in Class	3,16	70%	
		Final Exam	0,84	30%	
		TOTAL ECTS (Classes + Final Exam)	4	100%	
Midterm Exam Dates		Midterm Exam 1: 8 th class			
Final Exam Dates		According to published timetable			

IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

Lectures

Week	Topic
1.	Introduction to the Course, method and sources
2.	Revelation in Jewish political and legal thought
3.	History as revelation in Jewish political thought
4.	Messianism in Jewish political thought
5.	Early Islam and Muslim-Jewish relations
6.	Christian anti-Judaism and secular European antisemitism
7.	Early Zionism: background, theory, goals
8.	Midterm exam
9.	Jewish secular and Jewish religious understanding of Zionism before 1948
10.	State of Israel after 1948; politics and institutions of Israel
11.	Six-Day war of 1967 and its effects on Jewish, Christian and Muslim community
12.	Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria; religious Zionism
13.	Israeli-Palestinian processes after 1993
14.	Theological issues in modern Israeli political debate
15.	Final Exam

Seminars

Week	Topic
1.	Introduction to the Course, method and sources
2.	Concept of revelation in Jewish, Christian and Muslim theology
3.	History and historicity in Jewish, Christian and Muslim theology
4.	Jerusalem as holy city
5.	Perception of Jews in early Christian and Early Muslim traditions
6.	Protocols of the Elders of Zion, Hajj Amin el-Husseini
7.	Israel Eldad's three sources of Zionism
8.	Midterm exam
9.	Zionism as secular national revolutionary movement
10.	Political parties of Israel
11.	Middle East after 1967
12.	Emergence of religious Zionism
13.	Unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip 2005, Charter of Hamas
14.	Today's Middle East: main topics and themes
15.	Final Exam