**The History of Modern Israel (1880s-Present)**

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Israel – an independent state since 1948 but a historical entity since time immemorial. An incomplete and ongoing ever-changing society, rooted in the past, facing a challenging present, and progressing toward an unknown future. A state in constant quest for legitimacy, unique in its stormy development and striving for normalcy.

This course invites you to take a historical journey to modern Israel. It will review the curious, dynamic, and at times contradictory history of this country in two parts. **The first**, "From an idea to a state" – beginning with the Zionist movement until the creation of the state; and **the second** – "Challenges of Israel as a sovereign state", from its independence, until the present. The course will survey both historical events and broad themes that characterize Israel and its society.

This is an on-line course in Coursera. It offers a novel learning experience which allows the student to determine his or her own pace, and combines several mediums: pre-recorded short lectures, short readings from primary and secondary sources, and discussion questions. The course is offered in English, with Hebrew subtitles.

Requirements:

* A final test that will account for 100% of the final grade.

The test will take place on campus, by hand and not online.

* Practice quizzes

At the end of each week, you will find an online quiz. Use it as practice.

ישראל – מדינה עצמאית מאז 1948, אבל ישות היסטורית מימים-ימימה. מדינה בתהליך התפתחות והשתנות בלתי נגמר ומתמשך, הנסמכת על העבר, מתמודדת עם הווה לא מורכב ופונה לעבר עתיד לא ידוע. מדינה במסע נצחי ללגיטימציה, שקמה בנסיבות ייחודיות ויוצאות דופן, ועם שאיפה קבועה לנורמליות.

הקורס הזה יסקור את הרקע ההיסטורי של ישראל המודרנית. בקורס נבחן את ההיסטוריה המורכבת, הדינמית, ומלאת הסתירות של המדינה הזו בשני חלקים: הראשון – "מרעיון למדינה" – יתמקד בתקופה שמראשית התנועה הציונית ועד להקמת המדינה; והשני – "האתגרים של ישראל כמדינה עצמאית" – יסקור את התקופה שמהקמת המדינה ועד ימינו. הקורס יעסוק באירועים ההיסטוריים המשמעותיים שפקדו את ישראל כמו גם בנושאים ותמות רחבים יותר, המגדירים את ישראל והחברה שלה.

זהו קורס אינטרנטי שמתנהל בעיקרו בקורסרה. הוא מציע חוויית למידה ייחודית המאפשרת לסטודנט ללמוד בקצב שלו וכוללת מגוון שיטות למידה: הרצאות מוקלטות קצרות, קטעי קריאה ממקורות ראשוניים ומשניים, ושאלות לדיון. הקורס מתנהל בשפה האנגלית, אך ישנן כתוביות בעברית.

דרישות:

\* מבחן גמר – 100% מהציון.

המבחן הוא החלק היחיד שיתנהל בקמפוס, בכתב יד, ולא ברשת

\* בחנים לאימון ומעקב

הבחנים לא יכללו בציון הסופי, אך כדאי לעשותם לצורך אימון

Syllabus:

**Part 1 – From an Idea to a State**

Week 1: The Emergence of Zionism and the First Waves of Immigration (1880s-1917)

In the first few lessons we will discuss the reasons for the rise of the Zionist Movement in Europe as a national movement of the Jewish people. We will focus on the main features and variety of the movement, as well as on its first projects in Palestine. This week will end with the impact of World War 1 on Jews in general, and on the Zionist Movement in particular.

Week 2: The Jewish Community Under the British Mandate (1921-1939)

This week will explore the relationship between British authorities, Jews and Arabs in Palestine. It will discuss the nature of the Zionist society that evolved in the area by characterizing it as a "State in the making," and highlight the emergence of Arab nationalism and its struggle against both the British authorities and the growing Jewish presence.

Week 3: World War 2, The Holocaust, and the End of the British Mandate (1939-1948)

This week will discuss the most tragic and significant event in the 20th Century, WW2 and the holocaust, from the point of view of Jews in Palestine, and explore its impact of the Zionist project and the building of the state. The following lessons will trace the final days of the British Mandate following the war, and will end with the events of the 1948 war, or the War of Independence, which resulted in the establishment of Israel.

**Part 2 – Challenges of Israel as a Sovereign State**

Week 1: Israeli Society – The first Years (1948-1967)

In its first two decades of existence, the young state faced many challenges. This week will look into the economic difficulties, the security threats, the political uncertainties and the social upheavals of the period. Among the main concerns examined in these lessons: the absorption of countless of new Jewish immigrants, primarily from Arab countries, into a society comprised mostly by European Jews; the first attempts to deal with the memory of the holocaust on a collective level; and the establishment of diplomatic relations while securing the borders.

Week 2: Israel Between War and Peace (1967-1979)

Within a little more than a decade, Israel experienced two major wars that changed its fate and course forever, as well as a significant peace agreement with one of its fiercest enemies. This week will trace the reasons that led to the Six Day War and the Yom Kippur War, the proceedings of the wars, and their radically different impact on Israeli society at large. In the end of the week, we will delve into the peace agreement with Egypt – how it came about, its shortcomings and successes, and what it meant for Israel's future.

Week 3: A Society in Transition (1977-1995)

During this week, we will discuss the essential developments that transformed Israeli society towards the end of the twentieth century. From the political turnover, that ended decades-long regime of the Labor bloc, to the assassination of PM Yitzhak Rabin nearly two decades later, and all that happened in between: the intensification of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the economic shifts, and the new waves of immigration.

Week 4: The Changing Identity of Israel

The final two weeks of the course stray from the chronological order and focus on larger themes that characterize contemporary Israel. This week will explore the elusive topic of changing identity: the process of Americanization and globalization, the relationship between Israeli Jews and Jews in the diaspora, the changing attitudes towards Zionism, and more.

Week 5: Israel in the 21st Century

The final week is dedicated to the pending issues that Israel is facing. The benefits and shortcomings of being a "Startup Nation," the growing social inequality, the political fragmentation, and the ongoing difficulties in being situated in an unstable, non-democratic Muslim Middle East.