The State of Israel was founded in 1948. For Jews, it was the fulfillment of a 2000-year long dream to return to their ancestral homeland of Eretz Yisrael. For others, notably the Arab inhabitants known as the Palestinians (named after their land, Palestine), the establishment of a Jewish state was a tragedy. This course, however, will deal very briefly with the dispute between the two parties, also known as the Arab-Israeli Conflict. Although the conflict has undoubtedly shaped Israeli society and its political system, this course will mostly have an inward focus on Israel itself: its political system, international relations, how it functions as a society of immigrants, relationships between secular and religious Jews and between Jews of various ethnic backgrounds, and the role the military plays in Israeli society. We will also look at Israeli culture through music and film.

Previous knowledge about the history of Judaism, Israel, the Arab-Israeli Conflict, or the Middle East is helpful, but not required. Historical and other background will be provided in class, as well as in the readings for most weeks.

Grading:
The maximum number of points you may earn for this course is 1000. Grading will be distributed in the following manner:
Attendance and participation – 100pts
First essay – 200pts
Second essay – 200pts
Final essay – 500pts
Your final grade will be determined by your points balance as of 12/12/11, according to the following key: above 940 points: A; 900-939: A-; 860-899: B+; 820-459: B; 785-819: B-; 760-784: C+; 710-759: C; 690-709: C-; 660-689: D+; 600-659: D; less than 600: F.
You will not receive a final grade lower than what your total number of points is worth according to the key above, but I may decide to give you a higher grade.

Course Schedule:
There is one necessary text you will need to purchase for this course. It is available from the university bookstore or from amazon.com and other similar online stores:


In the schedule below, assignments from this books appear as Arian + the relevant page numbers. Readings from other sources will be available via the course’s page on Blackboard (under "Content") in a scanned PDF copy available for view online or download and print. Most of the books mentioned here are available at the library (just look them up in the catalog). If you prefer to read from the books themselves instead of the PDFs, please do so in the library and do not check out the books, so others may have access to them as well. Reading assignments that appear for each week should be read in preparation for that week, with specific per-class instructions given the week before. This includes looking up information about the author of each text, and any other places, organizations, or people mentioned in the text that you have not heard of before. You may use the internet or any other credible source you like to dig out that information. This knowledge will be naturally assumed when readings are discussed in class.

Week 1-2 (1/19-24-26-31, 2/2): Introduction: a different perspective on the Arab-Israeli conflict

Weeks 3-5 (2/7-9-14-16-21-23): The political and electoral system
Arian, 83-312 (specific pages from that range will be assigned for each class).

Weeks 6 (2/28-3/1): Israel as a society of immigrants
Arian, 19-47.
Week 7 (3/6-8): religious-secular contentions

Week 8 (3/20-22): Israeli Music

Week 9 (3/27-29): Education in Israel
A collection of articles on education from Haaretz.

Week 10 (4/3-5): Working and living in Israel: healthcare, social security, and labor unions
A collection of articles on elective abortions from Israeli media

Week 11-12 (4/10-12/17-19): Israel's international relations
A collection of essays from Foreign Policy (and possibly other magazines/journals). We will also watch a few short videos in class and at home.
*** 4/10: second essay due by the beginning of class ***
***4/10: deadline to approve your own research question for final papers (if you want to set your own question)***
Week 13-14 (4/24-26, 5/1): Israeli comedy and satire
We will watch and discuss videos in class

*** 5/7: final essay due ***
Senior lecturer is an academic rank. In the United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland, and Israel senior lecturer is a faculty position at a university or similar institution. The position is tenured and is roughly equivalent to an associate professor in the North American system. Especially in research-intensive universities, lecturers lead research groups and supervise research students, as well as teach. After a number of years, lecturers might be promoted to senior lecturers. Each Junior Certificate Syllabus is presented for implementation within the general curriculum context outlined above. To prepare the young person for the requirements of further programmes of study, of employment or of life outside full-time education; to contribute to the moral and spiritual development of the young person and to develop a tolerance and respect for the values and beliefs of others; to create tolerant, caring and politically aware members of society. To ensure that Ireland’s young people acquire a keen awareness of their national and European heritage and identity, coupled with a global awareness and a respect for and care for the environment. The Aristotelian Society, founded in 1880, meets fortnightly in London to hear and discuss talks given by leading philosophers. 10–12 July 2020. The online Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society & the Mind Association. University of Kent. Visit the conference website to participate. View the full events schedule. Featuring Classic Papers from the Society’s Archive. Edited by Guy Longworth (Warwick). Read the Virtual Issue No. 4. Read past Virtual Issues. About the Virtual Issue. 2017–2018.