



**Intro to Israel Studies**  
**Immigrants, Refugees and Homelands**  
**Prof. Roy Holler**

Fall 2020 | JST3930 | M,W,F | Period 6 (12:50 PM - 1:40 PM) | Office Hours: M,W 2:00 - 3:00 PM

According to the International Rescue Committee, there are currently more than 70 million refugees and displaced people around the world. This course is looking to explore questions and realities of these transnational movements and identities from the perspective of Israel, which originated as a refugee state. Our class will generate a broad understanding of Israel Studies as a field by focus on the shifts of refugee migration to and from Israel, thinking about the basic human need for belonging, grounding and stability, in conjunction with the contemporary fluidity of people and identities across the globe. We will first assess the meaning of home and homelands, and the notion of exile and return to and from the land of Israel. We will look at displaced bodies and forced removal, and discuss the roles that race, class, ethnicity, and religion play in migration and displacement. We will end the class with a collaborative creative project, a collection of recorded documents, reports and interviews about the state of refugees on campus and the neighboring communities.

**Students will achieve these outcomes through class discussions and assignments:**

- Familiarize with Israeli immigration and refugee narratives through lit and cultural history.
- Explain how these dialogue with broader questions of world migration and refugee crisis.

Students will gain skills needed to show deeper understanding of historical and contemporary local and global immigratory trends in both oral and written form, learning to recognize and respond to these events through an analytical lens.

**Attendance.** You are expected to be present in all of our sessions. You are allowed to miss 3 classes no questions asked. I will deduct a quarter of a letter grade for each missed class beyond the first 3.

**Zoom Etiquette.** This class is to be taught through Zoom, and as such it will demand a little patience and etiquette from all of us. To make this class as enjoyable and collaborative experience as possible, you should be virtually present during our sessions. Your webcam needs to be on, and in a professional setup (as much as possible), meaning, for example, have an appropriate attire, don't lie in bed, minimal technological distractions etc... This course is largely based on discussion and I expect you to participate in each session, at least once, in order to receive a participation point.

**Academic Honesty:** The University of Florida Student Honor Code is located at this link: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

**Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

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**Bottom Line.**

Attendance - 10%

Discussion – 15%

Assignments, Quizzes – 20%

Midterm Paper - 25%

Final Project - 30%

## Reading Schedule

### Week 1 (Aug. 31): **Exile**

- M. Introduction
- W. A.B. Yehoshua, "Who is a Jew"
- F. Dvora Baron, "Fradl"

### Week 2 (Sep. 7): **Wandering**

- M. No Class
- W. S.Y. Agnon, "The Lady and the Peddler"
- F. Jean-Paul Sartre, "*Anti-Semite and the Jew.*" Selections

### Week 3 (Sep. 14): **Native Lands**

- M. Itzhak Katzenelson, "The Song of the Murdered Jewish People,"
- W. Aimé Césaire, *Notebook of a Return to a Native Land.* Selections
- F. Uri Zvi Greenberg. Selections

### Week 4 (Sep. 21): **On Forced Removal**

- M. Lea Goldberg, *Lady of the Castle*, Act I
- W. Goldberg, Act II + Hanna Arendt, "We Refugees"
- F. Goldberg, Act III

### Week 5 (Sep. 28): **Two Homelands**

- M. Lea Goldberg, "Pine"
- W. Oz Almog, *The Sabra*. Intro
- F. Haim Hazaz, "The Sermon." + Short Response Paper Due

### Week 6 (Oct. 5): **Responses to the Holocaust**

- M. Aharon Appelfeld, "Cold Spring"
- W. Etgar Keret, "Siren"
- F. Student Conferences

### Week 7 (Oct. 12): **By the Rivers of Babylon**

- M. Tikva Levi, "By the Rivers of Babylon"
- W. Sami Shalom Shitrit, "Who is a Jew and what kind of a Jew"
- F. Ronit Matalon, "Little Brother"

### Week 8 (Oct. 19): **Who is an Israeli?**

- M. A.B. Yehoshua, "Defining who is an Israeli"
- W. Kanafani, "Returning to Haifa"
- F. Kanafani, "Returning to Haifa." Part II + **Midterm Paper Due**

Week 9 (Oct. 26): **On the Rights of Others**

- M. Seyla Benhabib, "Exile, Statelessness, and Migration"
- W. Salman Masalha, Selected Poems
- F. Mahmoud Darwish, Selected Poems

Week 10 (Nov. 2): **Inside Looking Out**

- M. Yehuda Amichai, Selections
- M. Dahlia Ravikovitch, Selections
- W. Amichai + Ravikovitch. Cont.

Week 11 (Nov. 9): **Beta Israel**

- M. Alamork Davidian, *Fig Tree*. Screening
- W. *Fig Tree*. Finish + Discussion
- F. Adia Mendelson Maoz, "From Ethiopia to Jerusalem"

Week 12 (Nov. 16): **Global Immigration and Non-Jewish Refugees**

- M. Noam Kaplan, *Manpower*. Screening.
- W. Finish *Manpower*. Discussion
- F. Gilad Ben-Nun, "The Israeli Judiciary and the African Migration Challenge"

Week 13 (Nov. 23): **The Florida Connection**

- M. Cristina Ibarra and Alex Rivera *The Infiltrators*
- W. *The Infiltrators*. Finish + Discussion
- F. Benhabib, "The Law of People, Justice, Migrations"

Week 14 (Nov. 30): **Thanksgiving**

- M. Student conferences.
- W/F. Thanksgiving – No Class

Week 15 (Dec. 7): **Final Project Showcase**