



Short Syllabus



Course Title

Jewish Political Philosophy: Zionism and its Discontents

Lecturer

Dr. Adrian Sackson

Contact details

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Semester

Spring 2022

Short Description

In this course, we will engage in a theoretical and critical examination of important strands in Jewish political philosophy during the modern period. In particular, the course will focus on various trends in Jewish political thought in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, including political Zionism, non-Zionist Jewish nationalism, cultural Zionism, revisionist Zionism, Jewish socialism, and various forms of opposition to Zionism. A central axis of investigation will be the relationship between nationality and statehood as understood by a variety of thinkers. The course will challenge tidy distinctions (Zionist/non-Zionist, Left/Right, etc.), exploring surprising correspondences and connections between seemingly disparate thinkers, and reading theorists and opponents of Jewish nationalism against the backdrop of Western political thought. Finally, we will examine some recent contributions to Jewish political theory in the twenty-first century.

Final grade components

Midterm Paper [2-3 pages] (30%):

The task will be given out in the first week of class. The paper will be due mid-semester.

Final Paper [5-6 pages] (60%):

The task will be given out in the first week of class. The due date is set by the program.

Participation (10%):

Attendance is mandatory. Participation will be assessed on the basis of the student's *serious engagement* with the class on a weekly basis.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

Academic Conduct



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Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else's work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.