



The Herzl Center
for Israel Studies
Charles University

THE EUROPEAN ORIGINS OF ZIONIST IDEOLOGIES AND THEIR EVOLUTION: FROM EAST EUROPE TO THE ISRAEL (JTB335)

Winter Term 2023

Charles University Prague

Page | 1

Lecturer: Adam Coman, PhD

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Classes: Tuesdays, 17:00 – 18:20

Room: C322

Office Hours: TBC

Course Readings and Videos: Available in [Moodle](#), arranged by week.

Course Assignments: Distributed and submitted via Moodle.

Course Announcements: Updates and comments on class matters will be sent to your emails.

Course Protocol: To be informed about updates and comments on class matters, you **MUST** check your CUNI email on a regular basis (every working day) for the duration of the course.

NOTE: All texts are for use in the course only. They are protected by copyright and must not be further distributed.

Important Dates and Deadlines

First Class: October 3, 2023

Last Class: January 2, 2024

Quiz: November 21, 2023

Final Essay: January 14, 2024

Course Description

Zionism, the Jewish national movement, began developing during the second half of the 19th century. The movement, which consisted of a number of rivalling currents, developed predominantly in Europe, where two-thirds of the Jewish people lived. Consequently, its thinkers, activities, and organizations, were influenced and shaped by contemporary European writers, trends, and events. These included the rise of nationalism and socialism, the clash between progressive movements and reactionary forces, as well as the search for security and stability in times of constant change. Consequently, the different Zionist currents – either



socialist, religious, or nationalist – developed their programs in light of European realities and visions, which did not always correspond to the social, economic, and political conditions existing in the land that was to become Israel. Nonetheless, many of the problems they sought to tackle and many of their proposed programs, have endured in contemporary Israel. In the course we will study in what ways did European thought and events influenced Zionism, and what shape these influences have assumed over the time.

Course Objectives

After attending the course, students will, hopefully, master these skills:

- Understand the formation of Zionism with relation to European thoughts and realities.
- Recognize the roots of contemporary Zionist currents.
- Understand how Zionist leaders and thinkers sought to adapt European ideologies to Middle Eastern realities.
- Understand the problematics of Jewish nation building during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Course Requirements

The course is based on lectures and discussions. Students are expected to read the relevant materials before class in order to participate intelligently in debates and discussions.

1. Active Participation (15%)
2. Quiz focused on the understanding of the assigned reading (30%)
3. Final paper (45%)
4. Attendance (10%)

Physical attendance during the classes is compulsory.

One unexcused absence is allowed. Students will not be graded if missing more than four classes.

1. Active Participation:

During the semester we will discuss the topics based on the readings.

2. **Reading Quiz:** Will be posted on Moodle on November 21, 10:00. Deadline: April 5, 22:00.



You will be given five questions based on the assigned reading. You are asked to provide an answer (max. 500 characters, incl. spaces, per answer). You have ONE hour to complete the Quiz.

Criteria	Possible Points
Answers summarize well main arguments/a main idea of the text.	8
Answers are written in an organized and clear form, in appropriate paragraph format, in proper formal English, and stick to the character limit.	2
TOTAL	10

3. Final Essay

Final Essay: Submitted via Moodle. Deadline: **January 14.**

8-page paper.

More details to be given during the semester.

Evaluation

General Grade	Grade Specification	Percentage
A	Excellent	100 – 91
B	Very good	90 - 81
C	Good	80 - 71
D	Sufficient, meeting minimal criteria	70 - 61
E	Insufficient	60 – 51
F	Fail	51 - 0

91% and more: A (excellent performance; the student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject)

81-90%: B (very good performance; the student has mastered the material, and understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort)

71-80%: C (fair performance; the student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work)



70% and lower: D (the student has barely succeeded in mastering the subject matter)

A minimum of 51% is needed to pass.

Academic Integrity

A student shall not submit work that is falsified or is not the result of the student's own effort. All literature used in writing papers must be referenced. Infringement of academic integrity by a student subjects that student to serious penalties, which may include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University or other sanctions. The practices of plagiarism, defined by the Dean's Provision no. 18/2015, are seen as "a major violation of the rules of academic ethics" and "will be penalized in accordance with Disciplinary Regulations of the faculty." If you have any questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please come for a consultation.

Class Schedule and Reading

· **Week 1. 3.10. Introductory Class**

The first lesson will provide general background to the topic of the course. We will illuminate the crucial factors and trends which preceded the rise of Zionism, such as the ideas of exile and Zion, Judaism and modernity, and messianism.

Students will also be given information about the course structure and requirements.

Reading:

- Avineri, Shlomo, 2017, *The Making of Modern Zionism*, (Basic Books), Introduction.
- Smith, Anthony D., 1999, *Myths and Memories of the Nation*, (Oxford University Press), pp. 203-212).
- Rabbi Alkalai and Rabbi Kalisher in: Hertzberg, Arthur, 1997, *The Zionist Idea*, (Jewish Publication Society), pp. 101-114

· **Week 2. 10.10. Proto and Early Zionism**

Reading:

- Stanislawski, Michael, 2017, *Zionism: a Very Short Introduction*, (Oxford University Press), chapter 2.



- Peretz Smolenskin in: Hertzberg, Arthur, 1997, *The Zionist Idea*, (Jewish Publication Society), pp. 142-157

- **Week 3. 17.10. Cultural Zionism**

Reading:

- Goldstein, Yossi, 2010, *Eastern Jews vs. Western Jews*, in *Jewish History*, pp. 355-377.
- Ahad Ha'am in: Hertzberg, Arthur, 1997, *The Zionist Idea*, (Jewish Publication Society), pp. 256-260.

- **Week 4. 24.10. Political Zionism**

Reading:

- Avineri, Shlomo, 2014, *Herzl's Vision*, (BlueBridge), pp. 27-51.
- Stanislawski, Michael, 2017, *Zionism: a Very Short Introduction*, (Oxford University Press), chapter 3.

- **Week 5. 31.10. Socialist Zionism**

Reading:

- Avineri, Shlomo, 2017, *The Making of Modern Zionism*, (Basic Books), chapter 13.
- A.D. Gordon in: Hertzberg, Arthur, 1997, *The Zionist Idea*, (Jewish Publication Society), pp. 371-374.

- **Week 6. 7.11. The Revisionist reaction**

Reading:

- Kaplan, Eran, 2005, *The Jewish Radical Right*, (University of Wisconsin Press), chapter 1.
- Jabotinsky, Vladimir "The East".

- **Week 7. 14.11. Religious Zionism**

Reading:

- Schwartz, Dov, 2009, *Religious Zionism*, (Academic Studies Press), Chapter 2.
- Rabbi Kook in: Hertzberg, Arthur, 1997, *The Zionist Idea*, (Jewish Publication Society), pp. 416-426.

- **Week 8. 21.11. Brit shalom**

Reading:

- Maor, Zohar, 2013, *Moderation from Right to Left*, (Jewish Social Studies), pp. 79-108.



- Martin Buber in: Hertzberg, Arthur, 1997, *The Zionist Idea*, (Jewish Publication Society), pp. 453-462.

- **Week 9. 28.11. Canaanism**

Reading:

- Shavit, Yaakov, 1984, *Hebrews and Phoenicians*, (Studies in Zionism), pp. 157-180.
- Kuzar, Ron, 2001, *Hebrew and Zionism*, (De Gruyter), pp. 201-217.

- **Week 10. 5.12. Culture**

Reading:

- Ohana, David, 2012, *Modernism and Zionism*, (Palgrave Macmillan), chapter 1.

- **Week 11. 12.12. Current trends and post-Zionism**

Reading:

- Gutwein, Daniel, 2001, *Left and right post-Zionism and the privatization of Israeli collective memory*, (Journal of Israeli History), 9-42.
- Shenhav, Yehouda, 2006, *The Arab Jews*, (Stanford University Press), chapter 2.

- **Week 12. 19.12. Conclusion**