Course Description: This course has three broad aims, the first of which is to explore the various strands of early Zionist thinking in Europe during the late 19th and early 20th century. The second aim is to analyze how the European Zionists who came to Palestine created the Jewish state in the first half of the 20th century. The third aim is to examine some key developments in Israel’s history since it gained its independence in 1948. While the main focus will be on Zionism and the state of Israel, considerable attention will be paid to the plight of the Palestinians over the past century.

Course Requirements: Every student is expected to do all the reading, attend all the seminars, and participate in the discussion. The grade will be based on classroom participation (25%) and one 15-page paper (75%).

As should be clear from the syllabus, there is an extraordinary amount of reading for this course. Students who might not be committed to doing all the reading each week should not take the class.

A list of paper topics will be provided, from which students will choose one. Papers will be due in my office (Pick 416A) no later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday of exam week -- June 8. Papers received after that time will be dropped one letter grade for each day past the due date. The paper must be: no longer than 15 pages of text, double-spaced, have at least 1-inch margins on all four sides, and have a standard-sized font.

Readings and Books: The following books have been ordered through the Seminary Coop Bookstore:

Arthur Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea* (Jewish Publication Society)
Theodor Herzl, *The Jewish State* (Dover)
Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims* (Vintage)
Ilan Pappe, *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine* (Oneworld)
Jacqueline Rose, *The Question of Zion* (Princeton)
Idith Zertal and Akiva Eldar, *Lords of the Land* (Nation Books)

All articles and book chapters are on Chalk.

Course Outline:

1. March 28, 2011 (Mon): **Organizational Meeting**

2. April 4 (Mon): **Out of the Ghetto**

3. April 11 (Mon): Early Zionist Thinking

--Hertzberg, *Zionist Idea*, Introductory Essay (pp. 15-100) and the writings of: Moses Hess (115-139), Leo Pinsker (178-198), Max Nordau ((232-245), Ahad Ha-Am (248-277), Jacob Klatzkin (314-327), Rabbi Abraham Kook (416-431), Judah Magnes (440-449), Martin Buber (450-465).

4. April 18 (Mon): The “Iron Wall” and “Transfer”

--Ze’ev Jabotinsky, “Full Betar Ideology,” 1929
--Morris, *Righteous Victims*, pp. 138-144.

5. April 25 (Mon): The Creation of Israel, 1947-1949


6. May 2 (Mon): 1967 War

7. May 9 (Mon): The Settlement Enterprise

--Zertal and Eldar, Lords of the Land, read all.
--Human Rights Watch, Separate and Unequal: Israel’s Discriminatory Treatment of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, December 2010, read “Summary.”

8. May 16 (Mon): The Iron Wall Continued


9. May 23 (Mon): Two Contemporary Zionist Perspectives

--Gans, A Just Zionism, read all.
--Rose, The Question of Zion, read all.

10. May 31 (Tues): The Future of Israel

--Ian Lustick, “Abandoning the Iron Wall: Israel and ‘The Middle East Muck’,” Middle East Policy, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Fall 2008), pp-30-56.