Course Description

This course analyzes the historical process that gave birth to the bond between the Zionist movement, the nation-state, and its women citizens. It focuses on the nation-building process in which women managed to form alliances with the ruling political power, establish new organizations and create a multifaceted infrastructure to benefit women. This process took place from the late 1880s- the time before statehood, to the 1950s- when the state was already established. What were the mechanisms chosen to achieve these goals? And to what cost? Which ideals and perceptions guided the Zionist women and what were their points of reference? These are few of the questions we will tackle. We will use sources of diverse disciplines, as well as visual sources, that will help us examine these fundamental questions in the history of modern Israel.

Course Requirements

1. Students participation   20%
2. Presentation   30%
3. Final paper   50%

The paper’s requirements, nature of the paper and topics, will be discussed in class.

Readings

1. Introduction: Dilemmas of Nation, Class and Gender
   Joan Wallach Scott, *Gender and the Politics of History*, pp. 15-27
   Nira Yuval Davis, *Gender and Nation*, pp. 3-25
   Laura L. Frader, Sonya O. Ross, ‘Introduction: Gender and the Reconstruction of European Working-Class History’, in L. L. Frader, S. O. Ross (eds.), *Gender and Class in Modern Europe*, pp. 1-33
2. Engendering Zionism: Analyzing the Bond between Women and the Zionist Movement
Amy Kronish, *World Cinema: Israel*, pp. 139-148

Recommended:

3. Public Arena, Private Sphere: The Women’s View

4. Labor Women: Between Men’s Dominance and Women’s Control
5. Middle-Class Women: Contesting Male Hegemony?
Nitza Druyan, ‘Yemenite Jewish Women—Between Tradition and Change’, ibid, pp. 75-87

Recommended:

Tamar Mayer, `From Zero to Hero: Masculinity in Jewish Nationalism`, in E. Fuchs (ed.), *Israeli Women's Studies: A Reader*, p. 97-177
Leslie Hazleton, *Israeli Women*, pp. 91-111

Recommended:

7. Time to Conclude? (Partial) Summery