

# Request Consent for ANTH 21740 / CEGU

## 21740 Ecologies of Governance in Israel

This is to request consent for enrollment in ANTH 21740 / CEGU 21740 Ecologies of Governance in Israel. This form will open for submissions on Monday of pre-registration week (in this case, for Autumn 2024, on July 15) in the morning. What you submit here will automatically be sent to the course instructor.

Please see (working) syllabus below.

Requests for enrollment will be considered throughout pre-registration and spots will be offered based on your specific interest in the course, rather than first-come/first-serve. The consent system does *\*not\** imply that this course requires prior experience or skills. To request consent for enrollment, please submit a one-page (double space) response to the following:

1. Please explain your interest in the course.
2. Your background on or experience around the subject of the course.
3. Your major/minor.
4. Any other information you feel may be relevant to expressing your desire to participate in the course.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR STATEMENT TO [mfisch@uchicago.edu](mailto:mfisch@uchicago.edu)**

**(I will respond directly to your email and will be pre-registering students directly through the registrar office, instead of the usual method of students pre-registering themselves via the system. I**

recognize that this is a slightly cumbersome workaround for the whole registration system and I thank you for your patience.)

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TENTATIVE SYLLABUS – reading schedule will be adjusted in accordance with class progress.

Ecologies of Governance in Israel  
Fall 2024  
Instructor: Michael Fisch  
21740  
Tuesday/Thursday 11-12:20

Ecological governance has emerged as an aspirational concept in recent years in political science, philosophy, and anthropology in response to concerns over the increasing likelihood of an unprecedented global ecological crisis as a result of human driven climate change. This course will trace the conceptual genealogy of ecological governance in Western and Eastern political theory and environmental history as it explores the political ecologies of Israel and the Middle East. Of central concern will be to understand how Israel's politics, culture, and history of technological development together with its particular environmental conditions provide conceptual and methodological interventions into current and historical articulations of ecological governance.

Note: Enrollment in this class is by consent only. Please request via the enrollment site.

**Regarding Recording and Reproduction of Class Discussion, Class Lectures, and or Class Material:** The classroom needs to be a comfortable and safe space for productive conversation. Thus, I DO NOT give my consent for the recording, reproduction, and circulation of our class or any related content of the class for any purpose other than class-related activities as specified in the syllabus. By participating in this class, you are agreeing that you will not record class lectures or conversations. Similarly, you are agreeing that you will NOT post or repost

**information or class content, class discussions, or any class related material on social media.**

Participation: This is a discussion seminar/lecture, which means that the quality of the course depends on the level of your participation. Passive participation is not an option. You must come to each class with questions and notes and be ready to engage in thoughtful and courteous discussion. Your participation is evaluated on the level of your engagement with the text and the level of your positive contribution to class discussion.

Weekly Responses:

Please post a one-page (single space, 12 pt font) critical analysis of the readings for the week (prior to the class in which we discuss them) by 7 pm Sunday night. Your responses should 1. Provide an analytic summary of the argument in two to three sentences, 2. Discuss method if relevant, and 3. Main body of your analysis should be devoted to working through some question raised in the reading or elicited from the reading. Please try to stay with the text at hand rather than bringing in outside material.

Weekly responses are an important means by which I will be evaluating your level of engagement in the class and your level of close reading. They will be graded on a scale of 1-4. (First and second parts for 2 pts. and third part for 2 pts.). (10x4 = 40 pts overall).

### **Final Paper:**

You will write one ten-page paper for this course. You will develop your own questions for the paper and draw on one or two authors from the readings. Papers should offer a brief overview of the author's argument before moving to a close reading of the text that addresses your particular question.

### **Grading**

Participation: 40

Weekly Responses: 40

Final Paper: 20

**Readings:** It is possible that I will need to re-calibrate the syllabus according to our discussion and reading progress so please monitor the class canvas site for any notice regarding reading schedule changes. The reading schedule has been structured in such a way that the Tuesday reading load is heavier than Thursday. Nevertheless, you should begin the Thursday reading, if you can, over the weekend.

## Reading Schedule

### Week One Oct 1, 3

Tuesday

Introductions – class syllabus course outline.

Thursday

Merchant, Carolyn. *The Columbia Guide to American Environmental History*. Columbia Guides to American History and Cultures. New York: Columbia University Press, 2002.

Chapter 9: The Rise of Ecology

Chapter 10: The Era of Environmentalism

### Week Two Oct 8,10

Tuesday

Meadowcroft, J. *The Birth of the Environment and the Evolution of Environmental Governance*. in *The Conceptual innovation in environmental policy* (ed. Fiorino, J. M. and D. J.) (2017).

Miller, Char, Alon Tal, and Daniel E. Orenstein. *Between Ruin and Restoration: An Environmental History of Israel*. History of the Urban Environment. Pittsburgh, Pa.: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2013.

- Ch. 1: Ruth Kark and Noam Levin, The Environment in Palestine in the Late Ottoman Period, 1798-1918
- Ch. 2: No'am Seligman, The Environmental Legacy of the Fellaheen and the Bedouin in Palestine.

Thursday

Daniel E. Orenstein, "Zionist and Israeli Perspectives on Population Growth and Environmental Impact in Palestine and Israel" in *Between Ruin and Restoration: An Environmental History of Israel*. History of the Urban Environment. Pittsburgh, Pa.: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2013. (82-105)

### **Week Three Oct 15, 17**

#### Historical Natures

Tues

Moore, Jason W. *Capitalism in the Web of Life: Ecology and the Accumulation of Capital*. 1st edition. ed. New York: Verso, 2015.

Introduction, Chapter Nine, Chapter Ten.

Thurs

Alon Tal, "To Make a Desert Bloom: The Israeli Agricultural Adventure and the Quest for Sustainability." *Agricultural History*, Spring, 2007, Vol. 81, No. 2 (Spring, 2007), pp. 228-257  
(Good overall history, problematic at points but basic. Interesting to read alongside Moore, perhaps. Shows that Israel's socialism adopted the basic ideas of capitalist growth)

### **Week Four Oct 22, 24**

Tuesday

Tamar Novick, *Milk and Honey: Technologies of Plenty in the Making of a Holy Land*. Cambridge Ma, London England: MIT Press. 2023.

Introduction, Interlude, Chapter one, Chapter four, conclusion.

Thursday

**NO CLASS**

Hillel Shuval, "The Agricultural Roots of Israel's Water Crisis" *Between Ruin and Restoration*, 129-145

Public works pp (720-733) in Efrat, Z. (2018). *The object of Zionism : the architecture of Israel* (First edition. ed.). Spector Books. (note, mostly illustrations in the section)

Please watch film: FILM: Winding: A River Story פתלתל: סיפור של נחל הירקון

<https://catalog.lib.uchicago.edu/vufind/Record/13286329>

## Week Five Oct 29, 31

### Tuesday

Anker, Peder. *From Bauhaus to Eco-house: A History of Ecological Design* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2010 intro, ch.1, 2, 3,4 1-67

### Thursday

Public Housing pp (472-524) in Efrat, Z. (2018). *The object of Zionism : the architecture of Israel* (First edition. ed.). Spector Books. (**note, mostly illustrations in the section**)

**Caroline Rozenholc, Antonella Tufano**, Tel-Aviv White city: The construction of urban heritage and its effects on the development of the city, Translated from the French by **Madeleine Velguth** In L'Espace géographique Volume 47, Issue 4, 2018, pages 346 to 361 Publishers Belin

## Week Six Nov 5, 7

Note Begin reading Yael Neeman: We were the future

### Tues

Near, Henry. *Where Community Happens: The Kibbutz and the Philosophy of Communalism*. Ralahine Utopian Studies. Oxford; New York: Peter Lang, 2011.  
Chapter one: Near-Collective Experience: Universal and Particular.  
Chapter six: Utopia Reconsidered: The Agrarian Ethos, Now and Then.

Communal pp (300-346) in Efrat, Z. (2018). *The object of Zionism : the architecture of Israel* (First edition. ed.). Spector Books. (note, mostly illustrations in the section)

### Thurs

Yael Neeman: We were the future.

## **Week Seven Nov 12, 14**

Tues

Eyal Weizzman and Sheikh, Fazal. 2015. *The Conflict Shoreline: Colonialism as Climate Change*. Göttingen

Thursday

Kaminer, M. The Agricultural Settlement of the Arabah and the Political Ecology of Zionism. *Int. J. Middle East Stud.* **54**, 40–56 (2022).

Schwake, G. The community settlement: a neo-rural territorial tool. *Plan. Perspect.* **36**, 237–257 (2021).

Alon Tal, “Combating Desertification: Evolving Perceptions and Strategies” in *Between Ruin and Restoration*, 106-128

## **Week Eight Nov 19, 21**

Tues

Zerubavel, Y. (2019). *Desert in the promised land*. Stanford University Press, Chapter 6: Unsettled Landscapes; Chapter 7 The Desert and the Tourist Gaze (159-212)

Desert pp (250-297) in Efrat, Z. (2018). *The object of Zionism : the architecture of Israel* (First edition. ed.). Spector Books. (note, mostly illustrations in the section)

Thursday

Adam Nocek, “On the Architectures of Hospitality in Agroecological Urbanisms” Large Glass Journal

Planet City

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CL3g5OPLnoc>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LRyB\\_IsUME](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7LRyB_IsUME)

## **Thanksgiving Break Nov 26, 28**

## **Week Nine December 3, 4**

Tues

Haskell, David George. *The Songs Of Trees*. (Viking, 2017). Part 3: Olives Trees in Jerusalem.

Thursday

Summing up