

# What to Do (and Not Do) If You Care About Israel Getting a Fair Shake at a University

by Hugh Fitzgerald



**In recent years,** American universities have reached new depths in their insensate desire to be *with it*. Their arts and humanities curricula are comical. In history departments, Europe is slowly fading away as a subject, to be replaced by African history, Islamic history, and race, gender, and queer studies. In literature courses, it's the same dreary blend of race, gender, and queer studies; sometimes it's Mix-'n-Match, as in the faculty searches for professors of Black Queer Studies. Diversity and inclusion are essential in choosing which writers to study. Dead white European males had their day; you can pay less attention to them now. A sign of the times: You can major in English at Harvard, and never take a course on Shakespeare. But don't leave for class these days without Edward Said, or Homi Bhabha, or Judith Butler, or

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak in your backpack or book bag. Good god, there are even places where the clownish Cornel West is taken seriously. That's how bad things have become.

And, of course, there is the Jewish Problem. Many universities have become safe havens for BDSers. Pro-Israel speakers are seldom invited on campus, while those ready to denounce the Jewish state seldom fail to find an audience. In History or Middle Eastern departments, the anti-Israel brigade makes sure that if there is a token Jew – or even better, a token Israeli – on the faculty, that person will belong to the Peter Beinart or Noam Chomsky school of anti-Zionism. A staunch defender of Israel has little chance of obtaining tenure in such places.

Here is a report on the dilemma faced by Jewish donors who leave a legacy, or who donate while alive, to institutions that turn out to be grotesquely anti-Israel: "Planning for Antisemitism in Planned Giving to Universities," by Yael Lerman, [\*Jihad Watch\*](#).