

## **“Israeli Political Institutions: Formation and Dilemmas”**

**Emory University**

**Spring Semester 2018**

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Monday-Wednesday 2:30-3:45

Course held in **Tarbutton 105**

This course explores the Israeli political system, its institutional characteristics and components, and its main political dilemmas. The course aims to provide knowledge about Israeli political history and society. Topics include the origins and the development of the political system, electoral histories, and government formation. Attention is given to the dynamics between institutional arrangements and social cleavages in Israel and their interrelated effects. The course also discusses some of the main socio-political issues and tensions stemming from the dual definition of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state, religion and politics, and the effects of armed conflicts.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. Develop a deeper understanding of the complex Israeli political system.
2. Understand the Israeli political system and reflections of the society.
3. Learn about the challenges of the Israeli political system.
4. Engage in critical thinking, discussion and analysis of the current issues on the Israeli political agenda.

### **Text:**

Rabinovich, Itamar. And Jehuda Reinharz. *Israel in the Middle East: documents and readings on society, politics, and foreign relations, pre-1948 to the present*. Waltham, Mass. Hanover, Brandeis University Press; Published by University Press of New England, 2008

Arian Asher, *Politics in Israel – The Second Generation*. Chatham, New Jersey, Chatham House Publishers, 1989.

Mahler, Gregory S. *Politics and Government in Israel: The Maturation of a Modern State*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield. 2004

### **Particulars:**

Students will have a mid-term exam (30%), a final examination (60%), and in class participation (10%). Students are expected to follow the Israeli daily news; in class, discussion will reference current events.

**Emory University is committed under the Americans with Disabilities Act and its Amendments and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act to providing appropriate accommodations to individuals with documented disabilities. If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, provide the instructor(s) with an accommodation notification letter from Access, Disabilities Services and Resources office. Students are expected to give two weeks-notice of the need for accommodations. If you need immediate accommodations or physical access, please arrange to meet with instructor(s) as soon as your accommodations have been finalized.**

**The honor code is in effect throughout the semester. By taking this course, you affirm that it is a violation of the code to cheat on exams, to plagiarize, to deviate from the teacher's instructions about collaboration on work that is submitted for grades, to give false information to a faculty member, and to undertake any other form of academic misconduct. You agree that the teacher is entitled to move you to another seat during examinations, without explanation. You also affirm that if you witness others violating the code you have a duty to report them to the honor council.**

<http://catalog.college.emory.edu/academic/policies-regulations/honor-code.html>

### **Week 1: Course Overview and Introduction - January 22**

#### **Objectives:**

- Syllabus and course introduction.
- Introduction of students and lecturer.

2015 Cary Nelson, Rachel Harris and Kenneth W. Stein. A Concise History of Israel, 2015  
[http://ismi.emory.edu/home/documents/A\\_Concise\\_History\\_of\\_Israel\\_2015.pdf](http://ismi.emory.edu/home/documents/A_Concise_History_of_Israel_2015.pdf)

### **Week 2: Pre-State Political setting. January 24**

Mahler, Gregory S. 2004. Politics and Government in Israel: The Maturation of a Modern State. New York: Rowman & Littlefield. Chapter 1: History and the Creation of Israel, pp. 13-52.  
Leon Pinsker. 1882. Auto-Emancipation, In Israel in the Middle East, pp. 12-16.  
Theodor Herzl. 1886. A Solution of the Jewish Question, In Israel in the Middle East, pp.1621.  
The First Zionist Congress. 1897. The Zionist Congress, In Israel in the Middle East, pp. 21.

### **Week 3: The Keenest – The Legislative Branch. January 29, 31**

Arian Asher, Politics in Israel – The Second Generation. Chatham, New Jersey, Chatham House Publishers, 1989. P.p: 78-107. 107-133

Yohanan Plesner , Gideon Rahat, “ Reforming Israel's Political System: A Plan for the Knesset”, Israel Democracy Institute 2016. <https://en.idi.org.il/publications/4222>

#### **Week 4: The Cabinet - The Executive Branch. February 5, 7**

Arian Asher, Politics in Israel – The Second Generation. Chatham, New Jersey, Chatham House Publishers, 1989. P.p: 171-203.

Ofer Kenig, “Israel's 34th Government: A Profile”, May 18, 2015.

<https://en.idi.org.il/articles/5190>

Ofer Kenig, “The Firing of Ministers in Israel: A Historical Overview”. December 14, 2014.

<https://en.idi.org.il/articles/6104>

#### **Week 5: The Judicial Branch. February 12, 14**

Suzie Navot, “Constitutional Reasoning in the Israeli Supreme Court”, András Jakab, Arthur Dyevre and Giulio Itzcovich (eds), Comparative Constitutional Reasoning, Cambridge University Press, Forthcoming 2014.

<https://poseidon01.ssrn.com/delivery.php?ID=588125096113083102111001104111098121035031077054017013065115025077026110102086030081118107106002104019004115031072017099097122006086087059083010009091076006091018060032110106121069116098110072013019067021092000074098127029095093078112011003086071&EXT=pdf>

Tia Goldenberg, “Threats to Supreme Court test Israel’s democracy”, AP Oct. 05, 2017

<https://www.apnews.com/f9fdd9a430fa4edea9779b16d326c0dd>

The Judiciary: The Court System in Israel, MFA

<http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/aboutisrael/state/democracy/pages/the%20judiciary-%20the%20court%20system.aspx>

#### **Week 6: The Presidency. February 19, 21**

Arian Asher, Politics in Israel – The Second Generation. Chatham, New Jersey, Chatham House Publishers, 1989. Pp.: 54-78

Ofer Kenig, “How Should the President of Israel be Chosen? January 29, 2007.

<https://en.idi.org.il/articles/6499>

Ella Heller, “Israeli Public Opinion on the President and the Presidential Elections”. March 20, 2014. <https://en.idi.org.il/articles/6424>

#### **Week 7: Democratic and Jewish – February 26, 28**

Arik Rudnitzky, "Arab Citizens of Israel Early in the Twenty-First Century", INSS memo 150, October 2015.

[http://www.inss.org.il/uploadImages/systemFiles/memo150%20\(6\).pdf](http://www.inss.org.il/uploadImages/systemFiles/memo150%20(6).pdf)

Ephraim Lavie, "Arabs in Israel: Between Integration and Alienation", INSS

[http://www.inss.org.il/uploadimages/Import/\(FILE\)1283331796.pdf](http://www.inss.org.il/uploadimages/Import/(FILE)1283331796.pdf)

Tal Becker, The Claim for Recognition of Israel as a Jewish State, The Washington Institute, Policy Focus #108 , February 2011.

<http://www.washingtoninstitute.org/uploads/Documents/pubs/PolicyFocus108.pdf>

Karin Tamar Schafferman, "Arab Identity in a Jewish and Democratic State"

IDI, May 04, 2008 | <https://en.idi.org.il/articles/10293>

### **Week 8: From Milting pot to Multiculturalism – March 5, 7**

President Reuven Rivlin Address to the 15th Annual Herzliya Conference, 07/06/2015. [http://www.president.gov.il/English/ThePresident/Speeches/Pages/news\\_070615\\_01.aspx](http://www.president.gov.il/English/ThePresident/Speeches/Pages/news_070615_01.aspx)

Shlomo Swirski, Ety Konor-Atias, Rotem Zelingher, Israel: Social Report 2015, ADVA Center, December 31, 2015. <http://adva.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/SocialReport2016-EN.pdf>

YOSSI DAHAN and GAL LEVY, Multicultural Education in the Zionist State – The Mizrahi Challenge, *Studies in Philosophy and Education* 19: 423–444, 2000. Ilan Gur-Ze'ev (Ed.), *Conflicting Philosophies of Education in Israel/Palestine*. © 2000 Kluwer Academic Publishers. Printed in the Netherlands.

[http://www.openu.ac.il/personal\\_sites/galley/download/2000\\_DahanLevy.pdf](http://www.openu.ac.il/personal_sites/galley/download/2000_DahanLevy.pdf)

Avi Shilon, What Ashkenazi Jews still don't get about the Mizrahim, *Haaretz*, May 27, 2016.

<http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/.premium-1.721857>

### **Spring Break March 12-16**

### **Week 9: Gender Issues – March 19, 21**

Rebhun, Uzi and Chaim I. Waxman. *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Pattern*. Hanover, NH: Brandies University Press, published by University Press of New England. 2004. Pp. 195-221.

Calvin Goldscheider, *Israeli Society in the Twenty-First Century: Immigration, Inequality, and Religious Conflict*, Brandies University Press 2015. Pp. 134-153.

Noga Dagan-Buzaglo, Yael Hasson, Ariane Ophir. Gender Salary Gaps in Israel 2014, ADVA Center, July 14, 2014.

[http://adva.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/EqualPay\\_English\\_mail1.pdf](http://adva.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/EqualPay_English_mail1.pdf)

Hagar Tzameret-Kertcher Hanna Herzog Naomi Chazan, The Gender Index: Gender Inequality in Israel 2015, The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. <http://www.vanleer.org.il/sites/files/product-pdf/%D7%9E%D7%93%D7%93%20%D7%94%D7%9E%D7%92%D7%93%D7%A8%202015>

[%20%D7%90%D7%A0%D7%92%D7%9C%D7%99%D7%AA%20-%20%D7%98%D7%A7%D7%A1%D7%98%20%D7%9E%D7%9C%D7%90.pdf](#)

#### **Week 10: Military service – March 26, 28**

Rebhun, Uzi and Chaim I. Waxman. *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Pattern*. Hanover, NH: Brandeis University Press, published by University Press of New England. 2004. Pp. 329-325.

Evelyn Gaiser, "THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND SOCIETY IN ISRAEL THE ENTIRE NATION IS AN ARMY, THE ENTIRE COUNTRY THE FRONT", KAS INTERNATIONAL REPORTS 8|2014. [http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas\\_38621-544-2-30.pdf?140826150837](http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_38621-544-2-30.pdf?140826150837)

Ze'ev Drory , "The 'Religionizing' of the Israel Defence Force: Its Impact on Military Culture and Professionalism", *Res Militaris*, vol.5, n°1, Winter-Spring/Hiver-Printemps 2015. [http://www.kinneret.ac.il/Items/11104/Res\\_Militaris\\_.pdf](http://www.kinneret.ac.il/Items/11104/Res_Militaris_.pdf)

Yagil Levy, "Who Controls the IDF? Between an "Over-Subordinate Army" and "a Military that has a State", *Open Unevirsity*, No. 23, 2012. <http://www.openu.ac.il/policy/download/maamar-23.pdf>

#### **Week 11: Galut (Diaspora) - Yereda (Israeli emigration) – April 2, 4**

Rebhun, Uzi and Chaim I. Waxman. *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Pattern*. Hanover, NH: Brandeis University Press, published by University Press of New England. 2004. Pp. 419-465.

ISRAEL'S RELIGIOUSLY DIVIDED SOCIETY, Comparisons between Jews in Israel and the U.S. Pew Research Center, MARCH 8, 2016.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2016/03/08/comparisons-between-jews-in-israel-and-the-u-s/>

BRUCE STOKESMARCH, "Are American Jews Turning Away from Israel? Recent polling shows a growing divide" *Foreign Policy*, 10. 3.2016

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/03/10/are-american-jews-turning-away-from-israel/>

#### **Week 12: Religion and state – April 9, 11**

Rebhun, Uzi and Chaim I. Waxman. *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Pattern*. Hanover, NH: Brandeis University Press, published by University Press of New England. 2004. Pp. 221-241.

Yedidia Z. Stern, "Religion, state, and the Jewish identity crisis in Israel", Center for Middle East Policy, the Brookings Institute, 2017.

[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cmep\\_20170331\\_jewish-identity-crisis.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/cmep_20170331_jewish-identity-crisis.pdf)

Shuki Friedman, "The Shabbat Wars: A Guide for the Perplexed on the 'Status Quo' and a Possible Solution", IDI, March 02, 2017 <https://en.idi.org.il/articles/14015>

Eyal Lewin, "The Clash of Civil Religions: A Paradigm for Understanding Israeli Politics," Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, December 2013, <http://jcpa.org/article/understandingisraeli-politics/>

Donna Rosenthal, *The Israelis – ordinary People in Extraordinary Land*, Free Press 2003. Pp. 137-221.

**Week 13: National Defense Doctrines - April 23, 27**

Dan Horowitz, "The Israeli Concept of National Security", <http://ismi.emory.edu/home/documents/Readings/Horowitz,%20Dan%20National%20Security.pdf>

David Rodman, "Israel's National Security Doctrine: An Introductory Overview". Middle East Review of International Affairs, Vol. 5, No. 3 (September 2001) <http://www.rubincenter.org/meria/2001/09/rodman.pdf>

Gabi Siboni, "The IDF Strategy": A Focused Action Approach", Gabi Siboni

INSS Insight No. 739, August 27, 2015. <http://www.inss.org.il/publication/the-idf-strategy-a-focused-action-approach/>

**Week 14: Israel in the next 70 years – Challenges and Opportunities.**