Modern Israel JUS377

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Fall 2009
Course meets Tuesday/Thursday from 3:30-4:45 pm in HARV 319

Course Overview

What does it mean to be the only democracy in the Middle East? In what sense is Israel a Jewish State - national, religious, lingual, cultural? Has Israel chosen to dismantle its welfare economy going down the neoliberal globalistic road? What are the consequences of a country having 20% of its citizens immigrating and absorbed within one decade in the 1990s? And another 20% facing the choice of nationalization, religious fundamentalism or pacification and modernization? Is identity politics replacing party democracy in Israel?

JUS377 provides an overview of Modern Israeli Democracy, Society and Politics. It consists of three major units: An introductory unit, designed to provide the basic concepts, theory and complex understanding of studying Israel today. The second and main unit follows the major dilemma and conflicts within Israeli society, politics and culture using a chronological ladder to build Israel's history, past and present. The final unit discuss critical issues in contemporary Israel: cleavages, ideologies and identity politics, within the framework of Israeli democracy.

Format

The course involves lectures, discussions, documentaries and active participation. The course is evolving and dynamic thus requiring full presence and participation in classes. The syllabus may change or grow during term, please follow closely D2L. Students are advised to read materials in advance and come prepared for classes.

Course Website and an Evolving Syllabus:

Course will have a D2L website with all the reading lists, syllabus, assignments and discussions. Students are advised to follow closely the website and to view changes to the syllabus made on D2L.

Requirements, Assignments and Grading

1. Full presence and active participation in class: **10%**.

2. Two in-term position papers **20x2=40%**. Each student is required to choose by the second session of the second week two topics from the syllabus. One of which will be presented orally in class at the beginning of every Thursday session, another one will be handed-in as a writing assignment on the Tuesday session when the class meets to discuss the topic.

The oral presentation can be delivered as a debate, personal view or critical discussion. It should consist of a 7-10 minutes presentation in which the conflict, dilemma or issue at hand is presented, using the readings designated for that topic, and a clear presentation of the dilemma, including personal justified opinion is given. The oral assignment can be prepared by up to three students together. Two students will have 15 minutes, three - 20 minutes to present.

The written assignment is a developed position paper on one of the topics which includes a clear presentation of the thesis of the readings on the issue and a critical discussion by the student of the topic including a justified opinion of her/his own. The essay should be up to three typed pages (size 12, 1.5 space) including endnotes with full references. Academic and analytical skills should be demonstrated, as a preparation of the final examination.

3. Quiz **10%**: one unannounced pop-quiz may be given, based on the assigned readings for the week. The quiz will have up to 10 multiple-choice questions and should take up to 10 minutes of class time.

PLEASE NOTE: I reserve the right to issue more than one unannounced quiz and to alter the grading percentages for all assignment accordingly.

4. Final examination - 40% (-50%). A final home-take exam will be delivered on the last day on the course. Details will be provided later on.

Performance Evaluation

Final grades for this course will be determined on the following basis:

90-100%.............A
80-89%.... ....B
70-79%...............C
60-69%...............D
below 60%..........E

Academic Integrity

You must abide by all University regulations concerning academic honesty and plagiarism, as specified in the University's *Code of Academic Integrity.* Papers that read oddly alike will be treated as possible violations of the *Code.* See under "Code of Academic Integrity" at: http://dos.web.arizona.edu/uapolicies/

Behavior in the Classroom

I expect all students to turn off their cell phones and pagers for the duration of all class sessions.

I expect all students to turn off their computers during class.

I expect students to refrain from socializing during the class sessions and to act courteously towards others at all times.   No disruptions, such as socializing during class lectures and discussions, aggressively interrupting others' speech, and engaging in threatening behavior, will be tolerated.   A definition of and policies against threatening behavior at the University are accessible at: http://policy.web.arizona.edu./~policy/threaten.shtml Students who engage in disruptive and/or threatening behavior may be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.

Special Needs

Students with special needs who are registered with the S.A.L.T. and/or the Disability Resource Center must submit appropriate documentation to request and arrange for special accommodations.   http://drc.arizona.edu/teach/syllabus-statement.html

Changes to the Syllabus

The information contained in this course syllabus is subject to change at any time and should therefore be followed at D2L before each week's classes.

<u>Structure of the Course</u>

Introduction

Week 1 - Israel in a Geo-historical Perspective

Week 2 - Multiculturalisms: Israeli Exceptionalism? An Opening Case Study

Conflicts, Dilemma & Challenges in Historical Perspective

Week 3 - **1880s-1940s** - Self-Determinations: Zionism unfolds

Week 4 - **1905-1947** - The Yishuv: Making Ways of Living

Week 5 - **1948** -The State of Israel: Independence, Inter-dependence, War and Politics

Week 6 - **1950s** - The New Sabra and the Waves of Immigration

Week 7 - **1960s** - The Six Days War - from Triumph to Triumphalism

Week 8 - **1970s** - Politics and Civil Society: The MAHAPACH

Week 9 - **1980s** - Politics and Civil Society: The War of Lebanon

Week 10 - **1990s** - Doing Peace, Killing the Peace-maker

2000s - Contemporary Contentious Issues

Week 11 - Identity Politics 1 - Judaism - from Nationalism to Religion

Week 12 - Identity Politics 2 - Islam - from Nationalism to Religion

Week 13 - Making History: Ideologies vs. Men

Week 14 - Israel in the `I' of the Beholder: Anti-Semitism, Anti-Zionism and Post-Colonialism

Week 15 - Democracy in the Middle-East: Challenges Ahead

<u>Readings</u>

Required Books:

1. Asher Arian, <u>Politics in Israel: The Second Republic</u>, Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 2005.

2. Colin Schindler, <u>A History of Modern Israel, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press</u>, 2008.

Week 1 - Israel in a Geo-historical Perspective

Asher Arian, <u>Politics in Israel: The Second Republic</u>, Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 2005, Chp. 1, pp. 1-18.

Dan Horowitz and Moshe Lissak, <u>Trouble in Utopia</u>, Albany: State University of New York Press, pp. 1-31.

Week 2 - Multiculturalisms: Israeli Exceptionalism? Opening Case Study

Dan Horowitz and Moshe Lissak, <u>Trouble in Utopia</u>, Albany: State University of New York Press, pp. 32-98.

Guy Ben-Porat, Multicultural Realities**,** *in* <u>Israel Studies: An Anthology</u>, Jewish Virtual Library, 2009, <u>http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/benporat.html</u>

Arend Lijphart, Peter Bowman and Reuven Hazan. "Party Systems and Issue Dimensions: Israel and Thirty-Five Other Old and New Democracies Compared," in Reuven Hazan and Moshe Maor (eds.), <u>Parties, Elections and Cleavages: Israel in Comparative and Theoretical Perspective</u>. London: Frank Cass, 2000, pp. 29-51.

Conflicts, Dilemma & Challenges in Historical Perspective

Week 3 - **1880s-1940s** - Self-Determinations: Zionism unfolds

Colin Schindler, <u>A History of Modern Israel, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press</u>, 2008, Chp. 1 pp. 10-37.

Shlomo Avineri, <u>The Making of Modern Zionism: The Intellectual Origins of the Jewish State</u>, 1984.

Week 4 - **1905-1947** - The Yishuv: Making Ways of Living

Shlomo Aronson: <u>Hitler, the Allies and the Jews</u>, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006, pp. 3-50.

Oz Almog, <u>The Sabra: The Creation of the New Jew</u>, Berekley and Los Angels: University of California Press, 2000, Introduction pp. 1-22, Chp. 7 226-254.

Helen Chapin Metz, ed. "Kibbutz and Moshav" in *Israel: A Country Study*, Washington: GPO for the Library of Congress, 1988. http://countrystudies.us/israel/57.htm

The Kibbutz Movement, *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. The Gale Group, 2008, available at the Virtual Jewish Library, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0012_0_11103.html

Week 5 - **1948** - The State of Israel: Independence, Inter-dependence, War and Politics

Colin Schindler, <u>A History of Modern Israel, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press</u>, 2008, Chp. 2. Pp. 38-53.

Alexander Yakobson and Rubinstein, <u>Israel and the Family of Nations: The Jewish nation-state and human rights,</u> and New York: Routledge, 2009, Chp.1 pp. 12-64.

Asher Arian, <u>Politics in Israel: The Second Republic</u>, Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 2005, Chp. 5 117-166, Chp. 7 pp. 202-232.

Yoav Gelber, "The Israeli-Arab War of 1948", *", in* <u>Israel Studies: An Anthology</u>, Jewish Virtual Library http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/gelber.html

Week 6 - **1950s** - The New Sabra and the Waves of Immigration

Asher Arian, <u>Politics in Israel: The Second Republic</u>, Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 2005 Chp. 2 pp. 19-47.

Oz Almog, <u>The Sabra: The Creation of the New Jew</u>, Berekley and Los Angels: University of California Press, 2000, Chp. 2 pp. 73-137.

Week 7 - **1960s** - The Six Days War - from Triumph to Triumphalism

Colin Schindler, <u>A History of Modern Israel, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press</u>, 2008, Chp. 6, pp. 123-147.

Mitchell Bard, <u>The 1967 Six-Day War</u>, *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Middle East Conflict.*4th Edition. NY: Alpha Books, 2008. at Virtual Jewish Library, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/67_War.html

Week 8 - **1970s** - Politics and Civil Society: The MAHAPACH

Gershon Shafir and Yoav Peled, <u>Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship</u>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002, Chp. 3 pp. 74-109.

Asher Arian, <u>Politics in Israel: The Second Republic</u>, Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 2005, Chp. 8 pp.233-262.

Uri Bar-Joseph, "The 1973 Yom Kippur War", *in* <u>Israel Studies: An Anthology</u>, Jewish Virtual Library, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/barjoseph.html

Week 9 - **1980s** - Politics and Civil Society: The War of Lebanon

Colin Schindler, <u>A History of Modern Israel, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press</u>, 2008, Chp. 8, pp. 175-191, Chp. 9, pp. 198-220.

G. Wolfsfeld, "The Politics of Provocation Revisited: Participation and Protest in Israel," in Sprinzak and Diamond's <u>Israeli Democracy Under Stress</u>, Ch. 10.

Gershon Shafir and Yoav Peled, <u>Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship</u>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002, Chp. 7 pp. 184-212.

Week 10 - **1990s** - Doing Peace, Killing the Peace Maker

Colin Schindler, A History of Modern Israel, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, Chp. 11, pp. 244-261.

Galia Golan, "The Peace Process", in **Israel Studies: An Anthology, Jewish Virtual Library, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/golan.html**

Arie Perliger, "Israel's War on Terrorism", *", in* **Israel Studies: An Anthology, Jewish Virtual Library, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/perliger.html**

2000s - Contemporary Contentious Issues

Week 11 - Identity Politics1 - Judaism: from Nationalism to Religion?

Benyamin Neuberger. "Religion and State in Europe and Israel," in Reuven Hazan and Moshe Maor (eds.) Parties, Elections and Cleavages: Israel in Comparative and Theoretical Perspective. London: Frank Cass, 2000, pp. 65-84.

Gayil Talshir, "The Politics of Identity and the Party System: Civil Society, Religion and the Crisis of Democracy", forthcoming 2009.

Martin Edelman, "A Portion of Animosity: The Politics of the Disestablishment of Religion in Israel," Israel Studies, 5(1), 2000.

Alan Dowty. The Jewish State: A Century Later. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998, Chapter 7 "The Communal Split," pp. 143-158.

Week 12 - Identity Politics2 - Islam - from Nationalism to Religion?

As'ad Ghanem, The Palestinian-Arab Minority in Israel, 1948-2000: A Political Study(Albany, SUNY Press 2001), Ch. 1, pp. 1-27.

Sammy Smooha, "Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution: National Security and the Arab Minority," in Avner Yaniv (ed.), National Security and Democracy in Israel, Boulder & London: Lynne Rienner, 1993, pp. 105-127.

Yitzhak Reiter , "Israel and its Arab Minority", *in* Studies: An Anthology, Jewish Virtual

Library, 2009, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/reiter.html

Week 13 - Making Politics: Ideologies vs. Society vs. Men

Colin Schindler, A History of Modern Israel, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, chp. 13 pp. 289-320, Chp. 14, pp. 321-351.

Asher Arian, Michael Philippov, Anna Knafelman, **The 2009 Israeli Democracy Index**, Israeli Institute for Democracy 2009, http://www.idi.org.il/SITES/ENGLISH/Pages/homepage.aspx

Week 14 - Israel in the `I' of the Beholder: Anti-Semitism, Anti-Zionism and Post-Colonialism

Aronson, Shlomo, "The Post-Zionist Discourse and Critique of Israel: A Traditional Zionist Perspective," in: Israel Studies 8 (2003), pp 105-129.

Abraham Ben-Zvi, "The United States and Israel:1948-2008", *in* Studies: An Anthology, Jewish Virtual Library, 2009

http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/isdf/text/benzvi.html

Week 15 - Democracy in the Middle-East: Challenges Ahead

Sammy Smooha. "Ethnic Democracy: Israel as an Archetype." Israel Studies, vol. 2, no. 2, 1997, pp. 198-241.

Alan Dowty. "Is Israel Democratic? Substance and Semantics in the 'Ethnic Democracy' Debate," Israel Studies, vol. 4, no. 2, 1999, pp. 1-15.

Prof. R. Gavison: Democracy and Judaism – Between Conceptual Analysis and Public Discussion", in **The State of Israel: Between Judaism and Democracy**

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Ruth Gavison," The Jewish State: A Justification" in David Hazony,
Yoram Hazony and Michael Orn (eds.) New Essays on Zionism Jerusalem
and NY: Shalem Press, 2006, pp. 3-36.
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