

## **Israeli Democracy: Politics, Institutions and Society**

Dr. Menachem Hofnung  
Department of Political Science  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
Jerusalem 91905, Israel  
Tel. 972-2-588-3164  
[mhofnung@ufl.edu](mailto:mhofnung@ufl.edu)

This course provides students with a basic knowledge of Israel's political system, its origins, its formal structure, and the way it functions.

### **Grades**

The final grade in the course will be composed of participation and performance in class (10%), a short paper (2-3 pages) (15%), mid-term examination (30%), and a final take home examination (45%).

The best way to achieve a high grade is to attend class regularly and keep up with the reading. In case of students on the borderline between two grades, I reserve the right to factor in attendance and class participation.

### **Office Hours:**

Thursday: 10:00 – 11:00 (or by appointment 352-392-0262 x 274)

### **Examination Dates:**

Mid-Term: March 4, 2003; in class.

Research paper due, April 1, 2003.

Final: Take home exam, due May 2, 2003

### **Required Textbooks:**

Arian Alan, *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*, Chatham, N.J. Chatham House, 1997.

Hofnung Menachem, *Democracy, Law and National Security in Israel*, Aldershot: Dartmouth Publishing Co. 1996.

Mahler Gregory (Editor), *Israel*, Aldershot: Dartmouth, 2000.

## **Course Schedule**

The dates for subjects are approximate. You should plan to have all the readings completed for a topic by the date we begin class meetings about it.

### **1. Politics and Society in Israel: Overview (Jan 7-9, 2003).**

Arian Alan, *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*, 1-42.

### **2. The Origins of Israeli Society: the Jewish Community Under the British Mandate. (Jan. 14-16, 2003).**

Peretz and Doron, *The Government and Politics of Israel*, 1-45 (Handout).

### **3. Nation Building and State Formation (Jan 21-23, 2003).**

Dowty Alan, *The Jewish State*. Berkeley, University of California press, 1997. PP. 61-84.  
Available online at UF libraries at: <http://emedia.netlibrary.com/index.asp>  
Declaration of Independence: <http://www.israel.org/mfa/go.asp?MFAH00hb0>

#### **4. Institutions I: the Legislature and the Executive (Jan. 28-30)**

Arian A. *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*, (Chatham House, 1997), pp 237-265  
I suggest that you familiariaize yourself with the Knesset Homepage, (English)  
<http://www.knesset.gov.il/main/eng/engframe.htm>

#### **5. Institutions II: The Court System (civil courts, religious, labor, military and specialized courts) (Feb. 4-6).**

Arian A. *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*, (Chatham House, 1997), pp 265-278.  
Addition: For translation of important Supreme Court decisions see:  
<http://62.90.71.124/mishpat/html/en/system/index.html>

#### **6. Basic Laws and the "Constitutional Revolution" of 1992 (Feb. 11-13)**

Barak Aharon, "The Role of the Supreme Court in a Democracy" *Israel Studies* 3 (1998), 6-29.  
Available online at: <http://iupjournals.org/israel/iss3-2.html>  
NOTE: Translation of Israeli Basic Laws (and several other important laws) can be found on the  
World Wide Web at: <http://www.israel.org/mfa/go.asp?MFAH00h50>

#### **7. Judicial Review and Constitutional Politics (Feb. 18-20)**

Mahler pp. 133-162.

#### **8. Politics and Religion (Feb. 20-27).**

Cohen A. and Sussner B. "From Accommodation to Decision: Transformations in Israel's Religio-Political Life", *Journal of Church and State*, 38 (1996), pp. 817-839 (reprinted in Mahler 5-28).  
England Itzhak, "Law and Religion in Israel" (Mahler 29-53).  
Additional Reading: Gavison Ruth, "Jewish and Democratic? A Rejoinder to the "Ethnic Democracy" Debate", *Israel Studies*, Vol. 4, No 1, 1999. Available online at UF libraries at:  
[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel\\_studies/toc/is4.1.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/toc/is4.1.html)

#### **9. Interest Groups and Public Policy (Mar. 4-6).**

Arian A., *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*, pp. 279-324.

#### **10. The Electoral System and Voting Patterns (Mar. 18-20).**

Arian, *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*, pp. 206-236.  
Addition: <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/1999/israeli.elections/>  
Might need supplement reading after the elections of 2003.

#### **11. The Party System, Primaries and Political Recruitment (Mar. 25-27).**

Arian A., *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel* (1997) pp. 178-205.  
Diskin and Herzog, "The Politics of Electoral Reform in Israel", ((Reprinted in Mahler, pp. 237-251).  
Hofnung, (1996) "The Public Purse and the Private Campaign: Political Finance in Israel". (Reprinted in Mahler, pp. 303-321).

#### **12. National Security and Democracy (Apr. 1-3)**

Hofnung, *Democracy, Law and National Security in Israel* (Aldershot, Dartmouth Publishing Co. 1996), pp. 47-70.

Barnett Michael, "High Politics is Low Politics: The Domestic and Systemic Sources of Israeli Security Policy" (Reprinted in Mahler, pp. 371-404).

### **13. Civil Liberties (Apr. 8-15).**

Hofnung, *Democracy, Law and National Security in Israel* (1996), 71-122

Sprinzak Ehud, "Extremism and Violence in Israel: The Crisis of Messianic Politics". (Reprinted in Mahler, pp. 179-191).

### **14. Arabs in a Jewish State (Apr. 15-17)**

Sa'di, Ahmad H. "Catastrophe, Memory and Identity: Al-Nakbah as a Component of Palestinian Identity", *Israel Studies*, Vol. 7, No 2, Summer 2002. Available online at UF libraries at:

[http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel\\_studies/toc/is7.2.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/toc/is7.2.html)

Alan Dowty, "Is Israel Democratic? Substance and Semantics in the Ethnic Democracy Debate", *Israel Studies* Volume 4, Number 2. Available online (on any computer) at:

<http://iupjournals.org/israel/iss4-2.html>

### **15. Ruling the Territories and the Peace Process (Apr. 22-24).**

Hofnung, *Democracy, Law and National Security in Israel*, 213-260.

## **Additional Recommended Reading:**

Arian Asher, David Nachmias, and Ruth Amir, *Executive governance in Israel*, New York : Palgrave in association with International Political Science Association, 2002.

Arian Asher, and Michal Shamir (Editors), *The elections in Israel, 1999*. Albany : State University of New York Press, 2002.

Alterman Rachelle, *Planning in the Face of Crisis : Land Use, Housing, and Mass Immigration in Israel*. London ; New York : Routledge, 2002.

Bar-Joseph Uri, (Editor) *Israel's National Security : Towards the 21st Century*. Portland, Frank Cass, 2001.

Barnett, M. (ed). *Israel in Comparative Perspective*, Albany: SUNY Press, 1996.

Cohen Asher and Bernard Susser, *Israel and the politics of Jewish identity : the secular-religious impasse*. Baltimore, Md. : Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.

Diskin, A. *Elections and Voters in Israel*. New York, Praeger, 1991.

Frisch Hillel, *Countdown to Statehood: Palestinian State Formation in the West Bank and Gaza*, SUNY Press, 1997.

Gazit Mordechai, *Israeli Diplomacy and the Quest for Peace*. London ; Portland, OR : Frank Cass, 2002.

Ghanem Asad, *The Palestinian-Arab minority in Israel, 1948-2000: a political study*. Albany : State University of New York Press, 2001.

Hazan Reuven and Moshe Maor (Editors), *Parties, elections, and cleavages : Israel in comparative and theoretical perspective*. London ; Portland, OR : Frank Cass, 2000

Harris Ron, Alexandre Kedar, Pnina Lahav (Editors), *The history of law in a multi-cultural society : Israel 1917-1967*. Aldershot : Ashgate, 2002

Horowitz Dan and Lissak Moshe, *The Origins of Israeli Society: the Jewish Community Under the British Mandate*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1978.

Jacobson G. J. *Apple of Gold: Constitutionalism in Israel and the United States*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, 1993.

Kimmerling, Baruch, *The invention and decline of Israeliness : state, society, and the military*. Berkeley : University of California Press, 2001.

Landau, Y. *The Arab Minority in Israel: 1967-1991*. London: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Lahav Pnina. *Judgment in Jerusalem: Chief Justice Simon Agranat and the Zionist Century*. Berkeley: The University of California Press, 1997

Levy-Faur David. Gabi Sheffer and David. Vogel (Ed) *Israel in Comparative Perspective: The Dynamics of Change*, Frank Cass, 1999.

Medding, Peter. *The Founding of Israeli Democracy 1948-1967*. Oxford: University Press, 1990

Mendilow Jonathan, *Ideology, Party Change, and Electoral Campaigns in Israel, 1965-2001*. Albany: State University of New York Press

Migdal Joel, *Through the Lens Of Israel: Explorations in State and Society*. Albany, SUNY Press, 2002.

Oren Michael, *Six days of war : June 1967 and the making of the modern Middle East*. New York : Oxford University Press, 2002.

Peretz Don and Doron Giedon, *The Government and Politics of Israel*, Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1997.

Rubin-Peled Alisa, *Debating Islam in the Jewish state [electronic resource] : the development of policy toward Islamic institutions in Israel*. Albany : State University of New York Press, 2001.

Shafir Gershon and Yoav Peled, *Being Israeli: the Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Shetreet Shimon, *Justice in Israel: A Study of the Israeli Judiciary*, Dordrecht, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1994.

Sprinzak, Ehud and Diamond, Larry, *Israeli Democracy under Stress*. Boulder: Lynne Reiner, 1993

Troen, Ilan and Noach Lucas. *Israel: The First Decade of Independence*. New York: SUNY Press, 1995.

Yaniv A., *National Security and Democracy in Israel*, (Boulder, CO.: Lynne Reiner Publishers, 1993).

Zamir I and S. Colombo (eds.) *The Law of Israel: General Surveys* (Jerusalem, Sacher Institute - Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1995).