

University of California, Irvine
Fall 2010

Department of Political Science

Poli Sci 179D

Israeli Democracy: Politics, Institutions and Society

Tuesday 12:30-1:50
Thursday 12:30-1:50
SSPB 5206

Prof. Menachem Hofnung

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:50-2:50;
Thursday 1:50-2:50 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

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 in-class mid-term examination (30%) on November 2nd, and a final take home examination (60%) to be handed over no later than December 10, 2010.

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.

Required books: (available for purchase in the University Bookstore).

Arian Alan, *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*, CQ Press; 2nd edition, 2005.

Shindler Colin, *A History of Modern Israel*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2008.

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.

Sep. 23: Politics and Society in Israel: Overview

Arian Alan, *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*, pp. 1-47.

Sep. 28: The Origins of Israeli Society: the Jewish Community Under the British Mandate.

Shindler Colin, *A History of Modern Israel*, pp. 10-37

Sep 30: Nation Building and State Formation

Colin Shindler, *A History of Modern Israel*. pp. 38-77

Declaration of Independence: <http://www.israel.org/mfa/go.asp?MFAH00hb0>

October 5: Institutions I: the Legislature and the Executive

Arian, pp 263-298.

I suggest that you familiarize yourself with the Knesset Homepage, (English)
<http://www.knesset.gov.il/main/eng/engframe.htm>

October 7: Institutions II: The Court System (civil courts, religious, labor, military and specialized courts)

Arian, pp 298-312.

Recommended: For translation of important Supreme Court decisions see:

<http://elyon1.court.gov.il/eng/home/index.html>

October 12: Basic Laws and the "Constitutional Revolution" of 1992

Barak Aharon, "The Role of the Supreme Court in a Democracy" *Israel Studies* 3 (1998), pp. 6-29. Available online at:

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v003/3.2barak.html

Translation of Israeli Basic Laws (and several other important laws) can be found at:

<http://www.israel.org/mfa/go.asp?MFAH00h50>

October 14: Judicial Review and Constitutional Politics

Menachem Hofnung (1999). "Israeli Constitutional Politics: The Fragility of Impartiality". *Israel Affairs*, vol. 5(2-3), pp. 34-54.

October 19: Interest Groups and Public Policy

Arian, pp. 313-347.

Additional Recommended Reading:

Dotan Yoav & Menachem Hofnung (2001). "Interest Groups in the High Court of Justice: Measuring success in Litigation and in Out-of-Court Settlements". *Law and Policy*, vol. 23(1), pp. 1-28.

October 21. Politics and Religion

Arian, pp. 348-363; Shindler, pp. 78-91.

Additional Recommended Reading:

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

October 26: The Electoral System and Voting Patterns

Arian, pp. 202-232.

Addition:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/data/2.0/video/world/2009/02/11/wedeman.israel.close.race.1klv.cnn.html>

October 28: The Party System, Primaries and Political Recruitment

Arian, pp. 166-201.

Additional Recommended Reading:

Menachem Hofnung (2004). "Fat Parties – Lean Candidates: Funding Israeli Internal Party Contests". In Arian, A. & Shamir, M. (Editors), *Elections in Israel – 2003*. Transaction Press, pp. 63-84.

November 2: Midterm exam

Political Socialization and Communication:

Arian, pp. 414-447.

November 4: National Security and Democracy

Arian, pp. 324-336; pp. Shindler, 98-134.

November 9: Civil Liberties

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

Course website.

November 16: Arabs in a Jewish State

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:

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/toc/is7.2.html

Recommended:

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

http://muse.jhu.edu/login?uri=/journals/israel_studies/v004/4.2dowty.html

November 18: The Occupied Territories

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

Course website.

November 23: Settlement, Evacuation and Separation

Shindler, pp. 134-174

November 30: The Palestinians and the Peace Process

Shindler, pp. 227-267.

December 2: Judaism and Democracy?

Gavison Ruth, "Jewish and Democratic? A Rejoinder to the "Ethnic Democracy" Debate", *Israel Studies*, Vol. 4, No 1, 1999. Available online at:

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/toc/is4.1.html

Overview and Wrap up

Additional Recommended Reading:

Barak aharon, *The Judge in a Democracy*, Princeton U. Press, 2006.

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

Barzilai Gad, *Communities and Law: Politics and Cultures of Legal Identities* (Ann arbor, University of Michigan Press, 2003).

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

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

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

Halperin-Kaddari Ruth, *Women in Israel: A State of Their Own*. (Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003).

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.

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

Migdal Joel, *Through the Lens Of Israel: Explorations in State and Society*. Albany, SUNY Press, 2002.
Navot Suzie, *Constitutional Law of Israel*, Kluwer Law International, BV, the Netherlands, 2007.

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.

Rahat Gidon, *Politics of Regime Structure Reform in Democracies, The Israel in Comparative and Theoretical Perspective*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2008.

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.

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

Woods Patricia, *Judicial Power and National Politics Courts and Gender in the Religious-Secular Conflict in Israel*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2008.