

ISRAELI POLITICS

Middle Eastern Studies 685:352 / Jewish Studies: 563:383
Political Science 790:352

Rutgers University / Fall 2009
Tuesday and Thursday, 4th period (1:10-2:30 PM)
Scott Hall 202

Prof. Muli Peleg

Office: Room 109
Miller Hall
12 College Ave.
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Tel: 732-932-3572
Fax: 732-932-3052
Email: mpeleg@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Thursday 3:30-4:30 PM and by appointment

Description:

The course introduces the Israeli political system, its various protagonists, their interests and motivation. The students will be familiarized with the major issues and conflicts which have occupied the Israeli political agenda since its inception until today. To facilitate the understanding of dynamics and developments of the Israeli political arena, the political culture will be analyzed to supply the relevant context for one of the busiest and most volatile political structures in the world today. Ultimately, we will use the Israeli political system as a compass and a reflection of the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of the Israeli society at 60.

Course requirements

Essential pre-requisites are curiosity, persistence and constructive criticism. Students are expected to arrive to class on time, having read the material due that day, and equip themselves with ample questions and comments. In addition to the reading material, students are advised to read newspaper and magazine articles and to keep up with radio and TV news about Israel due to the fluid and ever-changing nature of our subject matter. It is especially warranted to read news items and articles from the Jerusalem Post (<http://www.jpost.com>) which will add relevance and immediacy to class discussions.

There are two exams, a midterm and a final, which are non-cumulative. In addition, each student will be asked to choose a JP article according to the class topics and prepare a 15 minutes presentation of its main points.

The course grade is determined as follows:

- A Midterm Exam (30%)
- A Final Exam (40%)
- A Reading Assignment (20%)
- Attendance and Participation (10%)

Reading Material:

Required:

Arian Asher - *Politics in Israel: The Second Republic*. 2nd ed., Washington DC: CQ Press, 2005.

Dowty Alan (ed.) - *Critical Issues in Israeli Society*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004.

Garfinkle Adam – *Politics and Society in Modern Israel: Myths and Realities*. 2nd ed., London: M. E. Sharpe, 2000.

Additional Readings:

Almog Oz – The Globalization of Israel: Transformations“ in in Shapira Anita (ed.), *Israeli Identity in Transition*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004.

Barak Aharon “The Role of the Supreme Court in a Democracy” *Israel studies* 3 (1998), pp. 6-29 (<http://iupjournals.org/israel/iss3-2.html>)

Dahan Kalev Henriette –“Tensions In Israeli Feminism: The Mizrahi-Ashkenazi Rift“ *Women’s Studies International Forum*, Vol. 24:1-16, 2001
<http://www.ha-keshet.org.il/english/Tensions.htm>

Declaration of Israel’s Independence, May, 1948

(www.brijnet.org/israel50/decl-eng.htm)

Dowty Alan – *The Jewish State: A Century Later*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Dowty Alan – “Is Israel democratic? Substance and Semantics in the Ethnic Democracy Debate” *Israel Studies* vol. 4, no. 2. (1999) 1-15

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v004/4.2dowty.html

Etzioni-Halevy Eva – *Political Culture in Israel: Cleavage and Integration among Israeli Jews*. New York: Praeger, 1977

Friedman Menachem “The State of Israel as a Theological Dilemma” in Kimmerling Baruch (ed.) – *The Israeli State and Society: Boundaries and Frontiers*. Albany, NY: State University of NY Press, 1989.

Gorni Yosef “The ‘Melting Pot’ in Zionist Thought” *Israel Studies* 6:3 Fall 2001.

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v006/6.3gorny.html

Gutwein David - “From Melting Pot to Multiculturalism, or the Privatization of Israeli Identity” in Shapira Anita (ed.), *Israeli Identity in Transition*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004.

Hermann Tamar, “Do They Have a Chance? Protest and Political Structure of Opportunities in Israel” *Israel Studies* 1.1 (1996) 144-170

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v001/1.1hermann.html

Horowitz Dan and Moshe Lissak – *Origins of the Israeli Polity: Palestine under the Mandate*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978.

Horowitz Dan and Moshe Lissak - *Trouble in Utopia: The Overburdened Polity of Israel*. Albany NY: State University of NY Press, 1989

Inbar Ephraim and Ian Lustick - Israel’s Future: The Time Factor. *Israel Studies Forum*, Volume 23, Issue 1, summer 2008: 3–11

http://docs.google.com/gview?a=v&q=cache:AJP_0wSr-xUJ:www.polisci.upenn.edu/faculty/faculty-articles%26papers/IsraelsFuture.pdf+Sephardi+ashkenazi+rift+in+Israel+academic+articles&hl=en&gl=us

- Jones Clive and Emma Murphy – *Israel: Challenges to Identity, Democracy and the State*.
- Kedar Nir – “Ben Gurion’s Mamlakhtiyut: Etymological and Theoretical Roots” *Israel Studies*, Volume 7, Number 3, Fall 2002, pp. 1-44.
- Kimmerling Baruch – *The Invention and Decline of Israeliness: State, Society and the Military*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2001.
- Kleiman Ephraim “The Waning of Israeli Etatism” *Israel Studies*, 2:2, Fall 1997, pp. 146-171
- Lehman-Wilzig Shmuel - *Stiff-Necked People, Bottle-Necked System: The Evolution and Roots of Israeli Public Protest*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1990
- Levy Yagil “How Militarization Drives Political Control of the Military: The Case of Israel” *Political Power and Social Theory* 11 (1997).
- Mahler Gregory – *Politics and Government in Israel: the Maturation of a Modern State*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2004.
- Mazie Steven – *Israel’s Higher Law*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2006.
- Peled Yoav and Doron Navot “Ethnic Democracy Revisited: On the State of Democracy in the Jewish State” *Israel Studies Forum* 20:1, 2005, pp. 3-27.
- Peleg, Samuel - “They Shoot Prime Ministers, too, Don’t They? Religious Violence in Israel: Premises, Dynamics, and Prospects,” *Studies in Terrorism and Violence* 20, no. 3, July-September 1997.
- Peleg, Samuel - “Peace Now or Later?: Movement-Counter-movement Dynamics and the Israeli Political Cleavage.” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* (2000) 23:235-254
- Peleg Samuel – *Zealotry and Vengeance: Quest of a Religious Identity Group*. Lanham MD: Lexington Press, 2002.
- Don Peretz and Gideon Doron – *The Government and Politics of Israel* (3rd edition).. Boulder, CO: Westview, 1997.
- Peri Yorm – *Telepopulism: Media and Politics in Israel*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004.
- The Sasson Report on Illegal Outposts*, 2005:
<http://www.mideastweb.org/sassonreport.htm>
- Shain Yossi and Barry Bristman, “The Jewish Security Dilemma”, *Orbis*, Winter 2002, pp. 47-71.
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=MIimg&_imagekey=B6W5V-44R2RMN-4-1&_cdi=6580&_user=526750&_orig=search&_coverDate=10%2F01%2F2002&_sk=999539998&_view=c&_wchp=dGLbVzzzSkWA&_md5=594a83c242ce5cf10813dde3b69cd3b5&_ie=/sdarticle.pdf
- Shelef Nadav – “From ‘Both Banks of the Jordan’ to the ‘Whole Land of Israel’: Ideological Change in Revisionist Zionism” *Israel Studies* 9:1, Spring 2004, pp. 125-148.
- Smootha Sammy - “Arab-Jewish Relations in Israel as a Deeply Divided Society” in Shapira Anita (ed.), *Israeli Identity in Transition*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004.
- Sternhell Zeev – *The Founding Myths of Israel*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1998.
- Waxman Dov “Israel’s Dilemma- Unity or Peace” *Israel Affairs*, April 2006, vol. 12, no. 2., pp. 195-199
- Wolfsfeld Gadi – *The Politics of Provocation: Participation and Protest in Israel*. Albany, NY: State University of NY Press, 1988.
- Yehoshua A.B. “Separating Religion from National Identity” *Palestine-Israel Journal* 9:1 (2002): 102-107.

Course Schedule:

The Background:

1. Politics and Society in Israel: an Overview (1-3/9)

Read: Arian, Chapters 1-2, pp. 1-47

Garfinkle, Ch. 1, pp. 3-19

Dowty, Introduction, pp. 1-6

Mahler, Ch. 1, pp. 1-10

2. Roots and Origins: How did it all Begin? (8-10/9)

Read: Garfinkle, Chapters 2-3, pp. 20-94

Sternhell, Introduction and Ch. 1, pp.

Peretz and Doron, Ch. 1, pp. 1-45

Kimmerling, Ch. 1, pp. 16-55

Kedar, pp. 1-44

Horowitz and Lissak (1978), Chapters 8-9, pp. 186-230.

The Declaration of Israel's Independence

The Players:

3. Three Branches of Government: The Executive (15-17/9)

Read: Arian, Ch. 9, pp. 263-282

Garfinkle, Ch. 5, pp. 159-171

Mahler, Ch. 4, pp. 117-139

Mahler, Ch. 8, pp. 221-247

Israeli Government Portal (<http://www.gov.il/firstgov/english>)

4. Three Branches of Government: The Legislature (22-24/9)

Read: Arian, Ch. 4, pp. 83-116; Ch. 5, pp. 117-165; Ch. 7, pp. 202-232;

Ch. 9, pp 282-298.

Garfinkle, Ch. 5, pp. 154-159, 176-187

Dowty, Ch. 1, pp. 9-32 (Doron and Kook)

The Knesset homepage (www.knesset.gov.il/main/eng/engframe.htm)

5. Three Branches of Government: The High Court (29/9-1/10)

Read: Arian, Ch. 9, pp. 298-312

Garfinkle, Ch. 5, pp. 171-176

Dowty, Chapters 2,3, pp. 33-67 (Hofnung, Barzilai)

Barak, 1998, pp. 6-29

The Ka'adan Case:

http://elyon1.court.gov.il/files_eng/95/980/066/a14/95066980.a14.pdf

The Alice Miller case

http://elyon1.court.gov.il/files_eng/94/410/045/Z01/94045410.z01.pdf

6. Political Elites: Power and Influence (6-8/10)

Read: Arian, Ch. 3, pp. 48-82

Dowty, Chapters 7-8, pp. 129-165 (Sharkansky, Ezrahi)

Kleiman, pp. 146-171

Levy, pp. 103-133

Film: The Shakshuka Method

7. Interest Groups, Public Opinion and Media (13-15/10)

Read: Arian, Ch. 10, pp. 313-363

Peretz and Doron, Ch. 5, pp. 146-172

Dowty, Ch. 10, pp. 195-219 (Arian)
Peri, Introduction, pp. 10; Ch. 7, pp.144-162

8. Protest and Social Movements (20/10)

Read: Peleg (1997), pp. 227-247
Peleg (2000), pp. 235-254
Hermann, pp. 144-170
Lehman-Wilzig, Chapters 7-9, pp.89-119
Wolfsfeld, Chapters 5-7, pp. 93-162
Etzioni-Halevy, Ch. 6, pp. 112-134

9. The Mid-Term Exam (22/10)

The Issues:

10. Arabs and Jews (27-29/10)

Read: Dowty, Ch. 6, pp. 109-126 (Al-Haj)
Smooha, Ch. 2, pp. 31-67
Horowitz and Lissak (1989), Ch. 2, pp. 32-97
Mazie, Chapters 8-9, pp.213-252

11. Territories versus Peace (3-5/11)

Read: Mahler, Ch. 10, pp. 289-329
The Sasson Report
Shain and Bristman, pp. 47-71
Waxman, pp. 195-199

12. Sepharadim and Ashkenazim (10-12/11)

Read: Horowitz and Lissak (1989), Ch. 2, pp. 32-97
Dahan-alev, pp. 1-16
Dowty (1998), Ch. 7, pp.143-158

13. Religious and Seculars (17-19/11)

Read: Dowty, Ch. 4, pp. 71-94 (Cohen)
Mazie, Ch. 2, pp. 23-47
Friedman, pp. 165-216
Yehoshua, pp. 102-107

14. Left, Right and No-Where (24/11)

Read: Arian, Ch. 12, pp. 413-447
Peleg (2002),
Horowitz and Lissak (1989), Ch. 3, pp. 98-150
Etzioni-Halevy, Ch. 2, pp. 25-43

15. The Israeli Democracy: Challenges and Prospects (1-3/12)

Read: Gutwein, Ch. 8, pp. 215-231
Peled and Navot, pp. 3-27
Dowty, (1998), Ch. 1, pp. -18; Ch. 6, pp. 103-140
Dowty, (1999) pp. 1-15
Horowitz and Lissak, Ch. 5, pp. 195-230

16. Conclusion: Where to Next? (8-10/12)

Read: Garfinkle, Ch. 7, pp. 245-296
Peleg (2002), Chapters 6-7 and Postscript, pp. 143-171.
Inbar and Lustick, pp. 3-11

Almog, Ch. 9, pp. 233-256
Mahler, Ch. 11, pp. 331-366

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Mid Term Exam

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Answer 4 of 6 (page and a half max. for each one):

1. Why is the Israeli political system unique? Write 5 reasons for this observation and describe them according to relevant readings and class discussions.
2. What were the facilitating factors in the inception of the state of Israel? Mention at least 3 such conditions and explain how they contributed to the possibility of an independent Jewish State.
3. What are the four major issues or challenges facing the Israeli political system since its very first day?
4. What are interest groups and why are they vital to democratic systems? What is the double role of interest groups in Israeli politics? Support your answer with 3 relevant examples.
5. How come Israel became a democracy in 1948? Why was it a wonder and what were the reasons that enabled such a regime?
6. Terms (meaning and context) (5 Of 6):
 - a. The Zionist Zeitgeist
 - b. The Shas Party
 - c. The Jewish Agency
 - d. A Basic Law
 - e. Law of Return
 - f. The Ka'adan Case

Good Luck!!

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Mid Term Exam

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Answer 4 of 6 (page and a half max. for each one):

1. What are the three branches of the Israeli political system? In what ways is the system of checks and balances deficient?
2. How is the Israeli Declaration of Independence predicated on the UN resolution of November 29th, 1947? How is association between the two documents reflected in the Declaration?
3. Describe the way a bill becomes a law in the Israeli Legislature? Why is the role of Knesset committees so vital in that process?
4. What are, according to Arian, the large changes Israel has undergone in a relatively short time of period?
5. How come Israel became a democracy in 1948? Why was it a wonder and what were the reasons that enabled such a regime?
6. Terms (meaning and context) (5 of 6):
 - g. World Zionist Organization
 - h. Proportional elections
 - i. Statism
 - j. Israeli Constitution
 - k. Multi-culturalism
 - l. The Ka'adan Case

Good Luck!!

