Poli Sci 179D
Israeli Democracy: Politics, Institutions and Society
Tuesday 12:30-1:50
Thursday 12:30-1:50
SSPB 5206
Prof. Menachem Hofnung

Office: SSPB 5209. Telephone, 824-0494
Email: mhofnung@uci.edu
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).


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

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)

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

October 19: Interest Groups and Public Policy
Arian, pp. 313-347.

Additional Recommended Reading:

October 21. Politics and Religion
Arian, pp. 348-363; Shindler, pp. 78-91.

Additional Recommended Reading:

October 26: The Electoral System and Voting Patterns
Addition:

October 28: The Party System, Primaries and Political Recruitment
Arian, pp. 166-201.
Additional Recommended Reading:
November 2: Midterm exam
Political Socialization and Communication:
Arian, pp. 414-447.

November 4: National Security and Democracy

November 9: Civil Liberties
Course website.

November 16: Arabs in a Jewish State
Recommended:

November 18: The Occupied Territories
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?

Overview and Wrap up

Additional Recommended Reading:


