Israel is a parliamentary democracy; a mosaic in which ethnic, class, religion, national and migration play a dynamic part in the intricacies of the political system. The course is divided into two sections: (1) an introductory to the principles of the political system, the system of government, the electoral system, the historical background and the legal basis. (2) The major socio-political changes the Israeli society experienced during its history: The period until the mid 1970's, when one political party dominated the socio-political arena and the second, until the present day when the political system has been through many changes that alter the political characters of the society.

**Required books: (available for purchase in the university Bookstore)**


**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to do the reading for each class in advance and come to class prepared so the can participate and contribute to the discussion and to the understanding of the topics.

**Grades will be based on the following:**

1. Class attendance and participation: this in particular will be taken into account in decision on a borderline grades, (up to 10%)
2. Students are required to submit by email to the lecture on the Monday prior to each class a short summary of the main arguments discussed from the reading list. Each week the students will be given the material for submission for the following class (20%).
3. End-of-term exam or submission of paper (70%)
Bibliography (tentative)

Political Culture and ideology, the yishuv


The Party system and Elections


Factors influencing the Elections


Political Leadership and Political Elites


Foreign Policy and the middle East
