Poli Sci 179 (67570)  
**Israeli Politics in Comparative Perspective**  
TUE THU 9:30 am – 10:50 am PSCB 120  
(Physical Sciences Classroom Building, room 120)  
Prof. Menachem Hofnung

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Office Hours: Thu. 3:30-5:00 or by appointment

Israel is one of only a few countries that appear frequently in the global media, and is regularly covered by most of the US print and electronic media, yet, its political system and social structure are often poorly understood.

This course provides a comparative overview of Modern Israeli Democracy, Society and Politics. It consists of three major units: An introductory unit designed to provide the basic concepts, theory and complex understanding of studying Israel in a comparative perspective. The second part looks at the institutions and practices of Israeli politics. The third part, discusses critical issues in contemporary Israel: cleavages, ideologies and identity politics.

**Student Requirements and Participation:**  
The syllabus, paper guidelines, and other handouts are all available from the class website. Announcements will be posted to the website; it should be your first port of call if you’re unsure about what’s happening when and where. You have two ways to contact me:

The course is built on lectures and active discussion. Discussion is a large part of the course. Students will be expected to come to class having completed the readings for that day and be prepared to discuss them. Participation is an important part of the grade. Participation means both attending and participating actively.

E-mail: I will generally respond within 48 hours to e-mails that I receive Mondays through Fridays. Often my response will come in less than twenty-four hours, but I do not guarantee it. E-mails that I receive over the weekend will be answered on Monday.

**Readings**  
All readings are available on the net.  
**While this syllabus provides a detailed outline of our weekly topics and readings, I reserve the right to make changes as your particular interests and issues arise in the course of our study.**

The students might be interested in current events in Israel, for which the English version of Haaretz daily is a good source: [http://www.haaretz.com/](http://www.haaretz.com/)
Another good online source for information about Israel is:  
http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/index.html

**Grade Distribution**
15% Active participation  
25% Mid-semester Exam  
60% Final exam

**Mid-Semester Exam**
The mid-semester exam will be made up of combination of identification, multiple-choice, and true/false questions. They may or may not include essay questions.

**Final Exam**
Take home exam.

**Class Schedule**

**Introduction: Is Israeli Comparable or Unique? (Jan 4, 2011)**
Available at class website.

“Proclamation of Independence”  
http://www.knesset.gov.il/docs/eng/megilat_eng.htm

**Suggested reading:**  
http://muse.jhu.edu/login?uri=/journals/israel_studies/v013/13.2.yakobson.pdf

**Zionism, and Political Environment (Jan. 6).**
Available at class website.

**Cleavages in Israeli society (Jan 11)**
**Class Website**

**Class Website**
Suggested Readings:

Political Institutions (Jan. 13)

Class Website

The Party System (Jan 18)

http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g777095805


http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g777095805

The Shaping of Electoral Preferences (Jan. 20)

http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&fid=2300120&jid=PSR &volumeId=102&issueId=03&aid=2300112&bodyId=&membershipNumber=&socie tyETOCSession=

Models of Judicial Review and the Israeli Judiciary (Jan. 25)

Civil Military Relations (Jan. 27)

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v012/12.1levy.html

State and Religion (Feb 1)
Benyamin Neuberger (1999), "Religion and State in Europe and Israel", Israel Affairs 6(2) pp. 65-84.

http://jcs.oxfordjournals.org/content/38/4/817.full.pdf+html

Suggested
http://cps.sagepub.com/content/39/5/537.abstract

Immigration and absorption of non-Jewish immigrants (Feb. 3)
http://law.huji.ac.il/upload/Yakobson.pdf

Israel Diaspora Relations (Feb 8)
Midterm Exam (30 minutes)
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v010/10.1sheffer02.html

http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/israel_studies/v010/10.1safran.html

The Israeli Palestinians: "Us" or "Them?" (Feb 10)
http://soc.haifa.ac.il/~s.smooha/download/MinorityStatusEthnicDemocracy.pdf

http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~db=all~content=a713700736~frm=titlelink

Suggested Reading

The Politics of Moving Borders (Feb 15)

Israeli Citizenship and Identity Politics (Feb 17)

Colonialism, Orientalism and Zionism (Feb 22)


The "Post-Zionist," discourse (Feb 24)


Israel in Comparative Governance Indicators (Mar 1)

Democracy in the Middle-East: Challenges Ahead (Mar 3)

Threats and Opportunities (Mar 8)

Conclusion and wrap up (Mar 10)

Helpful links

**Academic Journals**
Israel Affairs (table of contents: back issues)
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=t713677360~tab=issueslist

Israel Studies (all issues)
http://inscribe.iupress.org/loi/isr

Israel Studies Forum (table of contents: back issues)
http://berghahn.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/berghahn/isf

The 2009 Elections
http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~db=all~content=g918953511~tab=toc~order=page

Israel studies- an ethnology

Israeli Daily newspapers in English
www.haaretz.com
www.jpost.com
www.ynetnews.com