Describe the course content in detail. How does it differ from other political courses you have attended? What makes this course unique? What specific topics will be covered? What is the primary focus of the course? How will the course be structured? What is the expected workload for students? What resources will be provided to support learning? How will student engagement be encouraged? What role will group discussions and debates play in the course? How will students be evaluated? What is the grading policy? How will attendance and participation be assessed? Are there any special requirements or expectations for students? What is the schedule like? Are there any guest lectures or field trips planned? What is the expected level of difficulty for this course? How might this course benefit students in their future careers or personal lives?
Reading Material:

Required:

Additional Readings:
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)

Declaration of Israel’s Independence, May, 1948 (www.brijnet.org/israel50/decl-eng.htm)
Jones Clive and Emma Murphy – *Israel: Challenges to Identity, Democracy and the State*.
The Sasson Report on Illegal Outposts, 2005:
http://www.mideastweb.org/sassonreport.htm
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=MImg&_imagekey=B6W5V-44R2RMN-4-1&_cdi=6580&_user=526750&_orig=search&_coverDate=10%2F01%2F2002&_sk=999539998&view=c&wchp=dGLbVzzzSkWA&md5=594a83c242ce5cf10813dde3b69dd3b5&ie=/sdarticle.pdf
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

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:
   The Alice Miller case

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
8. **Protest and Social Movements** (20/10)
Read: Peleg (1997), pp. 227-247
    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
    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
ISRAELI POLITICS
Mid Term Exam
Dr. Muli Peleg

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!!
ISRAELI POLITICS
Mid Term Exam

Dr. Muli Peleg

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!!