Political Science 665
Israeli Politics and Society
Professor Nadav Shelef
Fall 2014

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-3:00, and by appointment
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Course Description

This course examines some of the issues currently facing Israeli society and the ongoing debates in Israeli politics. The course is organized into two parts. The first part establishes the historical and political background against which contemporary Israeli politics plays out. The second part of the course focuses on a number of crucial cleavages and debates within Israeli society – along political, religious, ethnic, and national lines. Although this course is not about the Arab-Israeli or Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, their influence on Israeli politics and society will be addressed.

Course Requirements

Our class time will be split between lectures and discussions. Students are expected to attend all classes having read the assigned readings and ready to participate in class discussions.

You should also keep up on current events relating to Israel, including daily perusing of articles in the New York Times and, among others, in:
http://haaretz.com/
http://www.ynetnews.com

Simulation: Forming the Israeli government
At the end of the semester we will engage in a simulation exercise in forming the Israeli government. You will be randomly assigned to represent an Israeli political party and tasked with researching its positions and with negotiating with other "parties" to form the Israeli government. As part of the simulation you will be responsible for drafting a memo detailing your desired candidate for Prime Minister and the most important items on its agenda. We will then simulate the negotiation process involved in forming the Israeli government. At the end of the exercise, you will be responsible for a memo detailing why you decided to join the government or stay in the opposition. More details to follow…

Grading Criteria

Final course grades will be assigned according to the following weights:

Mid-term exam	30%
Israeli politics simulation	25%
Comprehensive final exam	45%

Academic Conduct

This class is geared to maximize our joint exploration of important topics in Israeli history, society and politics. Serious scholarly discussion becomes impossible when diatribe and invective displace scholarly analysis. As a result, when posing questions or responding to others,

students are expected to demonstrate an appropriate level of respect despite what might be deep disagreements.

The background work for your simulation memos requires you to cite other people's work. **Plagiarism will not be tolerated!** If you are caught turning in work that is not your own or using another author's work without properly citing it, you will receive an F on the assignment. If you have any questions about what constituted academic dishonesty, please consult the Dean of Students Web page, at http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html

Required Readings

Many of the required readings for this course are in the course reader, which is available at StudentPrint (333 East Campus Mall Rm 3301 or http://studentprint.rso.wisc.edu/) and at Learn@UW.

In addition, the following book is required for the course and is available at the University Bookstore and on reserve in College Library.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE

* indicates reading is in the course reader.

September 2: Course overview

September 4: Why study Israel?
Arian, *Politics in Israel*, pp. 1-18.
Barnett, Michael. "The Politics of Uniqueness: The Status of the Israeli Case." In Michael Barnett (ed.) *Israel in Comparative Perspective: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom*. (Albany: SUNY Press, 1996), pp. 3-28.*

Part I: Ideological, historical, and political background

September 9-11: The origins of Zionism
Pinsker, Leo. "Auto-emancipation: an appeal to his people by a Russian Jews," in Arthur Hertzberg, ed. *The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader*. (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1972), pp. 181-198.*
Herzl, Theodore, *The Jewish State*, and "Address to the First Zionist Congress," in Arthur Hertzberg, ed. *The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader*. (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1972), pp. 204-230.*
Zerubavel, Yael. "The Mythological Sabra and Jewish Past: Trauma, Memory, and Contested Identities," *Israel Studies*, Summer 2002, Vol. 7, Issue 2. *

September 16-19: Labor Zionism
Arian, *Politics in Israel*, 48-58, 117-139.
Gordon, A.D. "Logic for the Future," "People and Labor," "Some Observations," "Our Tasks Ahead," "Yom Kippur," "Final Reflections," in Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 371-386.*
Ben-Gurion, David. "The Imperatives of the Jewish Revolution," in Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 606-619.*
Abu, Ofir, Fany Yuval and Guy Ben-Porat. 2011. "'All that is Left': The Demise of the Zionist Left Parties, 1992-2009," in Asher Arian and Michal Shamir, eds. *The Elections in Israel 2009*. New Brunskwick: Transaction Publishers.*

September 23: Revisionist Zionism
Arian, *Politics in Israel*, 139-150
Jabotinsky, Vladimir (Ze'ev). "The Iron Wall," and "The Ethics of the Iron Wall" (13)
Jabotinsky, Vladimir, "Evidence Submitted to the Palestine Royal Commission," in Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 559-570.*
Peleg, Ilan. "The Israeli Right," in *Contemporary Israel: Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy, and Security* Challenges, ed. Robert O. Freedman, pp. 21-45.*

September 25: No Class

September 30: Religious Zionism
Arian, *Politics in Israel*, 150-157.
Pines, R. "Religion is the Source of Jewish Nationalism," "Jews will accept hardship only in the Holy Land," in Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 412-415.*
Kook, A.I., "The Land of Israel," "The War," "The Rebirth of Israel," "Lights for Rebirth," in Hertzberg, *The Zionist Idea*, pp. 419-431.*
Sandler, Shmuel and Aaron Kampinsky. "Israel's Religious Parties," in *Contemporary Israel: Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy, and Security* Challenges, ed. Robert O. Freedman, pp. 77-95.*
Shelef, Nadav and Orie Shelef. 2013. "Democratic inclusion and religious nationalists in Israel," *Political Science Quarterly* 128(2): 289-316.

October 2-9: From Mandate to statehood- the creation of political institutions, a Jewish society, and the birth of the state
Arian, *Politics in Israel*, 19-36, 364-376.
Migdal, Joel. *Through the Lens of Israel*, pp. 51-79.*
Morris, Benny. 1986. "The Causes and Character of the Arab Exodus from Palestine: The Israel Defense Forces Intelligence Branch Analysis of June 1948." *Middle Eastern Studies*, 22: 5-19.*
Shlaim, Avi. 2001. "Israel and the Arab coalition in 1948," *The War for Palestine: Rewriting the History of 1948*, edited by Eugene L. Rogan and Avi Shlaim. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.*

October 14: Land of Promise screening (selections) and discussion
Tryster, Hillel. 1995. "'The Land of Promise' (1935): a case study in Zionist film propaganda," *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*, 15(2):187-217.

October 16: Mid-term exam

<u>Part II: Major social and political cleavages in Israeli society</u>

October 21-23: The Knesset, party systems and state institutions and party assignment for simulation
Arian, *Politics in Israel*, 202-312, (skim 282-298), 313-324

October 28: Israeli Political Economy
Arian, *Politics in Israel*, 58-82
Seliktar, Ofira. "The Israeli Economy," in *Contemporary Israel: Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy, and Security* Challenges, ed. Robert O. Freedman, pp. 159-172.*
Ben-Porat, Guy. 2008. "Political Economy: Liberalization and Globalization," in Guy Ben-Porat, Yagil Levy, Shlomo Mizrahi, Arye Naor, and Erez Tzfadia, eds. *Israel Since 1980*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.*

October 30-November 6: Hawks, Doves, and the question of peace
Arian, *Politics in Israel*, 42-7.
Dowty, *The Jewish State*, ch.10, pp. 216-248.*

Ben-Rafael and Peres, 2011. "Settlers as a cleavage the challenges of the national religious" in *Is Israel One? Religion, Nationalism, and Multiculturalism Confounded*. Leiden: Brill.

Oz, Amos. 1984. *In the Land of Israel*. New York: Vintage Books, 103-123.*

Zertal , Idith and Akiva Eldar. 2007. *Lords of the Land: The War Over Israel's Settlements in the Occupied Territories, 1967-2007*, ch. 5, 245-275.*

Netanyahu, Benjamin. 1993. *A Place Among the Nations*, New York: Bantam Books: 256-293.*

Lochery, Neil. 2007. "The politics and economics of Israeli disengagement, 1994-2006," *Middle Eastern Studies*, 43(1):1-19.*

Alpher, Jospeh. Winter 1995-6. "Israel: The Challenges of Peace," *Foreign Policy*, 101:130-145.*

November 11-13: Palestinians in Israel

Arian, *Politics in Israel*, 40-2.

Peleg, Ilan, and Dov Waxman. 2011. *Israel's Palestinians: The Conflict Within*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: chapters 1, 4.*

Jamal, Amal. 2004. "The Ambiguities of Minority Patriotism: Love for Homeland versus State among Palestinian Citizens of Israel," *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 10(3):433-471.

The Haifa Declaration*

November 18-20: The religious-secular divide

Arian, *Politics in Israel*, 348-363.

Arian, Asher and Ayala Keissar-Sugarman. 2012. A Portrait of Israeli Jews: Beliefs, Observances, and Values among Israeli Jews 2009. Jerusalem: Israel Democracy Institute and the Avi Chai Foundation.*

Cohen, Asher and Bernard Susser, *Israel and the Politics of Jewish Identity: The Secular-Religious Impasse*, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), chs. 1-2.*

Kimmerling, Baruch. *The Invention and Decline of Israeliness: State, Society, and the Military*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), ch. 6.*

Edelman, Martin. 2000. "A Portion of Animosity- The Politics of the Disestablishment of Religion in Israel," *Israel Studies*, 5(1):204-227.*

November 25- December 2: The Jewish ethnic divide

Arian, *Politics in Israel*, 36-40.

Ben-Rafael, Eliezer and Yochanan Peres. 2005. *Is Israel One? Religion, Nationalism, and Multiculturalism Confounded*. Leiden: Brill, 107-127.*

Dahan-Kalev, Henriette. "You're So Pretty—You Don't Look Moroccan," *Israel Studies***,** vol. 6, no. 1 (2001): 1-14.*

Peled, Yoav. "Towards a redefinition of Jewish nationalism in Israel? The enigma of Shas," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Vol. 21, No. 4, (July 1998), 703-727.*

Yiftachel, Oren and Erez Tzfadia. 2004. "Between Periphery and 'Third Space': Identity of Mizrahim in Israel's Development Towns," in Kemp, Adriana, David Newman, Uri Ram, and Oren Yiftachel, eds. *Israelis in Conflict: Hegemonies, Identities and Challenges*. Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 203-235.*

December 4: Simulation: presentation of party positions

<u>Simulation party memos due</u>

December 9: Simulation: party negotiations and government formation

December 11: simulation results and course review
Simulation final memo due

Final Exam: December 16th, 12:25PM-2:25PM