New York University
Department of Politics

Near and Middle Eastern Politics
Israeli Politics and Society
V53.0540
Spring Semester 2005
Monday & Wednesday 9:30-10:45
MEYR 102
(Washington Place and the Corner of Broadway)

Instructor: Professor Hani Zubida
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Office Hours: Wed. 4-6 and by appointment
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Course Description

The course will address the main issues in Israeli politics and society from the establishment of the state through the late 1990s. We will begin with an overview of the local, international, and historical context of the Israeli state. Move on to the state formation and study the structure of its political institutions. We will explore the focal elements of Israel’s political system, and concentrate on the following: (1) Parties, the electoral system and state institutions. (2) Political leadership and political elite. (3) Political behavior. During the second part of the course we will explore the major social divisions in Israeli society, which include: (1) The Ethnic divide. (2) The Religious divide. (3) The National divide. (4) The Political divide. (5) War and Israeli society and Politics. (6) The Identity divide. Finally, we will examine the future challenges to Israeli society and politics. Throughout the course, we will focus on the relationship between state institutions, on the one hand, and social groups, movements, and institutions, on the other hand.
Course Requirements

The requirements needed to fulfill this class are describes in the appendix at the end of the syllabus.

- Class Attendance is Mandatory.
- Three critical essays on course readings, 1-2 Pages long (from the entire reading list) will account for 20% of your final grade. These essays should be sent via e-mail to both me and the TA, a hard copy to the TA at the beginning of each class is also required.
- Term Paper – 12-14 pages long (topics to be approved by the instructor/TA) will account for 50% of your final grade. Final papers should be sent via e-mail as well as hard-copy to the TA. Drafts of the papers will be presented and discussed by the class during the last five meetings of the semester.
- Class Participation will account for 30% of your final grade. This part is three-fold:
  1. Each student will be required to lead the discussion once during the course. This will include preparing a five to seven minute presentation of the relevant readings and prepare questions for the discussion to follow. Each presentation, which will be sent to me before hand, will be distributed to the students via e-mail before the class.
  2. Active class participation. Class participation will be evaluated on the degree to which you understand and engage with the readings, and contribute to the quality (not quantity) of class discussion and postings.
  3. Term paper presentation.

*** All written assignments have to be typed in font 12, double spaced, with 1-inch margins. Always keep a copy of your assignments for your records.

All plagiarism issues will be handled with accordance to the College of Arts and Science bulletin.

(http://cas.nyu.edu/object/bulletin0406.ug.academicpolicies.html)
Important Dates and Deadlines

- Monday February 13 - Email description of paper topic, after discussion with me or TA
- Monday February 20 - NO CLASS Presidents’ Day.
- March 13 to 18 - No Classes Spring Recess.
- March 8 - Email outline and annotated bibliography
- Monday April 10 - Last date to submit final literature review
- Monday April 12 - Paper outline, ready for circulation
- Wednesday May 1 Final Paper Due

Required Books and Readings
Books are available for purchase at the Book Store (and on reserve in Bobst):

Required Books:


Recommended Only:

- **Class 1** Wednesday January 18

  General Introduction

- **Class 2** Monday January 23

  **Overview Israel in the Local, and International Context:**
  - Leslie Stein pp. 1-86.

- **Class 3** Wednesday January 25

  **Historical and political Background**
  - Garfinkle Ch. 2
  - Dowty Chs. 2, 3

- **Class 4** Monday January 30

  Movie: Is Jerusalem Burning?

- **Class 5** Wednesday February 1 & **Class 6** Monday February 6

  **State Formation and State Institutions:**
  - Leslie Stein pp. 87-122.
  - Arian (Second Republic) pp. 1-41.
  - Peretz and Doron Ch. 1 pp. 11-45.

- **Class 7** Wednesday February 8

  ***February 13: Email description of paper topic, after discussion with me or TA***

  **Society Formation**
  - Dowty Chs. 4, 6.
  - Garfinkle Ch. 5.
Class 8 Monday February 13 & Class 9 Wednesday February 15

Parties, the Electoral System and State Institutions
• Peretz and Doron Chs. 3, 4, 6.
• Garfinkle Ch. 5.

Suggested Readings:
• Arian (Second Republic) Chs. 5 & 6.

Monday February 20 NO CLASS Presidents’ Day!

Class 10 Wednesday February 22

Political Leadership and Political Elite
• Arian (Second Republic) Ch. 4 pp. 73-102.

Class 11 Monday February 27 & Class 12 Wednesday March 1

2. Political Behavior
Social Divisions

Class 13 Monday March 6

***March 8: Email outline and annotated bibliography

Ethnic Divide: Mizrachim and Ashkenazim
- Dowty Ch. 7

Suggested Readings:

Class 14 Wednesday March 8

Movie: Black Panthers in Israel Speak
(Call number: NYU Bobst A Fisher DVD 3119)

March 13 to 18 No Classes Spring Recess

Continue: Ethnic Divide: Mizrachim and Ashkenazim

Class 15 Monday March 20 & Class 16 Wednesday March 22

***Special movie screening: Time of Favor

The Religious Divide: Secular and Religious Jews
- Dowty Ch. 8
• Shokeid (Eds.). New Jersey: Transaction Publishers. (HN660.A8 S83 vol.7)


Suggested Readings:


• Asher Arian, (Second Republic) pp. 73-140.


❖ Class 17 Monday March 27 & Class 18 Wednesday March 29

The National Divide Jews and Arabs


Class 19 Monday April 3

The Political Divide: Hawks and Doves

- Garfinkle Ch. 7.
- Dowty Ch. 10

Class 20 Wednesday April 5

3. War, Israeli Society and Politics

- Asher Arian, (Second Republic) pp. 178-205.

Class 21 Monday April 10

***Last date to submit final critical essay

***Monday April 12: Paper outline, ready for circulation

Identity Divide: Jews and Israelis

Conclusions: Challenges for the Future
• Peretz and Doron Ch. 9

Class 22 Wednesday April 12

Final Paper Presentations

Class 23 Monday April 17
Final Paper Presentations

Class 24 Wednesday April 17
Final Paper Presentations

Class 25 Monday April 19
Final Paper Presentations

Class 26 Wednesday April 24
Final Paper Presentations

Class 27 Monday April 26
***Wednesday May 1 Final Paper Due
Final Paper Presentations

Class 28 Wednesday May 1
***Final Paper Due
Last Class Summation of the Semester and Party!!!
Appendix

Preparing Your Written Critical Essays

Your written essays should be 2 pages long, double spaced, font 12. The essay should discuss one of the readings from the given list for the relevant week. **Essays cannot be submitted on readings from past dates.**

It should consist of the following elements:

1. Bibliographic information – Title, Author/s, Name of Journal, Year.
2. Short Summary – main research question/s, theoretical perspective, methods and data, main findings.
3. Evaluation – main strengths, main weaknesses. (This article is badly written, or I did not understand what the author/s wrote is not a valid criticism.)

*** This requirement is to be done and evaluated individually.
**Class Presentations**

During the semester students will present an assigned reading in class.

Presentations should be about 7 minutes long.

The presentation should address the following questions:

- Who is the writer of the text?
- What kind of text is this?
- What is the main purpose of this text?
- Who is this text addressed to?
- What are the main arguments presented in the text?
- What support does the author provide to substantiate the arguments?
- Are the arguments convincing? Why or why not?
- What counter arguments could one make?
- How are the issues raised in the text relevant to the class?
- What did you find to be truly insightful in this text?
- What are the weaknesses of the text?
- How do the arguments made in the text fit with your own worldview?
- What particular issues raised in the text merit more discussion?

The presentation should be clear, coherent, and flowing (it should not be in a Q and A form).

**In addition to the oral presentation you should submit your written notes the day before the class no later then 4 PM.**

If you have questions please come see me or the TA during office hours.
**Paper Outline Guide**

What do we have to write in the paper Outline?

Your outline should provide answers to 4 basic questions:

1. What do you want to know? (specific problem or issue, research questions)
2. Why do you want to know it? Why should anyone care what you find? What difference does it make?
3. What do you think the answer is, what are your hypothesis, what is your theory? Be sure to spell out the reasoning behind your hypothesis and the logical connections between them.
4. How do you intend to solve the puzzle? (Research design)

Each answer should be about two to three paragraphs long.

The outline should be written in essay format, about 2 to 4 pages long, font 12 double spaced.

*** The paper outline is the basis for the final paper class presentation.

**Annotated bibliography**

The annotated bibliography should include your reference list with a short explanation for each item on how it is linked to your argument.