Israeli Contemporary Politics

Course for UCI, Spring, 2013
For two Courses:
A class for undergraduates' students and a Seminar for Graduates.

Dr. Anat Maor

Course Description:

This goal of this course is to study and explore the power structure and mechanisms of the contemporary Israeli political arena.

The first part of the course (weeks 1-4) will examine how the Israel emerged under a provisional government and developed national institutions; the identity and balance of power between Israel's various governmental institutions; The basic judicial documents-the Declaration of Independence; the Israeli electoral system; the Social economy policy; and dilemmas in the Israeli political system.

The second part of the course (weeks 5-7) will examine the legislation in Israel; The Procedure, The Strategies and the Basic Laws.

The third part (weeks 8-11) will address sociopolitical aspects of Israel: Israel's Arab minority; Jewish-Arab relations in Israel; relations between religious and secular Israelis; and the status of women in Israel.

In the last part of the course, Part four (weeks 12-13), we will apply what we have learned by conducting a simulation of Israel's 2012/13 election.

Students in the course will encounter the complexity, challenges, and difficulties faced by the young democracy of Israel. The mock election will contribute to the students' understanding and assimilation of Israel's political system.

The course will be accompanied by readings and discussions of Israeli current events.

Course Objectives:
* Learn the political issues that Israeli society faces today.
* Develop a critical approach to the political debates within Israeli society.
* Follow political issues closely by taking part in a mock election.

Course requirements:
* Active participation in classroom discussions and personal paper   – 10%
* Participation in mock election   – 20%
* Final paper about one of the topics of the Course (20-25 pages)   – 70%

Course Textbook:
Shapira Anita (2012), **Israel: A History** (The Schusterman Series in Israel Studies), Brandeis University Press

Part One: The Political System

Week 1: The Israeli Politics System – The National Government Institutions

Opening: course orientation, syllabus distribution, and course overview

Arian, Asher (1998). **The Second Republic Politics in Israel**, Chatham, New Jersey: Chatham House Publishers.

Garfinkle, Adam (2000). **Politics and Society in Modern Israel**, Armonk, New York: Sharpe

Nachmias, David (2009). **National Government Institutions,** in: Mitchell G. Bard and David Nachmias, (Eds.). *Israel Studies: An Anthology* **, Jewish Virtual Library**.

Shultziner, Doron (2009). **Human Rights and the Supreme Court in Israel**, in: Mitchell G. Bard and David Nachmias (Eds.), **Israel Studies: An Anthology,** Jewish Virtual Library.

Week 2: The Development of the Vision and the legal System in Israel: The Declaration of Independence; The Lack of Constitution.

Barak, Aharon (2009). "The Values of the State of Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State", in: Mitchell G. Bard and David Nachmias (Eds.), **Israel Studies: An Anthology**, Jewish Virtual Library.

Fishkin, James S. (2009). **When the People Speak: Deliberative Democracy and Public Consultation**, New York: Oxford University Press.

Sternhell, Zeev (1998). **Epilogue: From the State-in-the-Making to the Nation-State, The Founding Myths of Israel**, Princeton University Press, pp. 318-345.

Week 3: Elections and Parties in Israel

Arian, Asher and Shamir, Michal (Eds.) (2002). **The Elections in Israel - 2001**, The Israel Democracy Institute, Jerusalem

Arian, Asher and Shamir, Michal (Eds.) (2004). **The Elections in Israel - 2003**, The Israel Democracy Institute, Jerusalem and Transaction Publishers, New Jersey

Hazan, Reuven Y. (1998). "Political Reform and the Committee System in Israel: Structural and Functional Adaptation", **Journal of Legislative Studies**, 4(1), pp. 163-187.

Moor, Matthew J. (2010). "Political Theory Today: Results of a National Survey", **Political Science & Politics**, Vol. 43, Num. 2, pp. 265-272.

Stow, Simon (2010). "Coalition-directed Voting in Multiparty Democracies", **American Political Science Review,** Vol. 104, Num. 4, pp. 681-697

Sum to Classes 1- 3: Dilemmas in the Israeli Political System and the power structure.
Ezrahi, Yaron (1997). **Rubber Bullets**: **Power and Conscience in Modern Israel**, University of California Press.

Brettschneider, Corey (2010). "When the State Speaks, What should it Say? The Dilemmas of Freedom of Expression and Democratic Persuasion", **Perspectives on Politics**, Vol. 8, Num. 4, pp. 1005-1020

David, Joseph E. (Ed.) (2003). **The State of Israel: Between Judaism and Democracy**, The Israel Democracy Institute, Jerusalem.

Spinzak, E. and Diamond, L. (Eds.) (1993). **Israeli Democracy Under Stress**, Boulder and London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Israel Democracy Institute Policy Studies.

Week 4: "Social Justice in Israel -Is it a Welfare State?

Aharoni, Yair (1999). "The Changing Political Economy of Israel", **The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science** (AAPSS), pp. 127-146

Amuel, Yitzhak & Harpaz, Yitzhak (2004). "Work & Organizations in Israel", Schnizer (ed.), **Studies In Israeli Society**, Vol. 11, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, N.J. and London (UK), ch. 3, pp. 87-138, ch. 6, pp. 233-314.

Doron, Avraham (1998). "The Welfare State in Israel in the 1990s: The Evolution of Social Policy in a Changing Society", in F. M. Loewenberg (ed.), **Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Society: Fifty years of Social Work in Israel,** Jerusalem Magnes Press, pp. 11-28.

Soen Dan, Shechory Mally Ben David Sarah (Eds.) (2012). **Minority Groups: Coercion, Discrimination, Exclusion, Deviance and the Quest for Equality, Nova Publisher.**

Yishai, Yael (1997). "Legislators and Interest Groups: Some Observations on the Israeli Scene", **The Journal of Legislative Studies,** 3(2), pp.89-111.

Part Two: Legislation

Week 5: Legislation in Israel: The Procedure

Akirav O., Cox W. G., and McCubbins D.M. (2010). "Agenda Control in the Israeli Knesset during Ariel Sharon's Second Government", **UK Journal of Legislative Studies**, Vol.16 No.2.

Barker, F. and Levine, S. (1999). "The Individual Parliamentary Member and International Change: The Changing Role of New Zealand Members of Parliament", **Journal of Legislative Studies** 5(3), pp. 105-130.

Maor, Anat (2008). "The Dramatic Growth of Private Legislation in Israel 1992-2003", **Israel Study Forum,** 23, pp. 84-103.

Week 6: Negotiation and Strategy in Legislation

Doron, Gideon and Sened, Itai (2001). **Political Bargaining: Theory, Practice and Process**, Sage Publications, London.

Fenno, R. F. 1966, *The Power of the Purse: Appropriations Politics in Congress*, Boston: Little, Brown and Company.

Putnam, D.R. 1973, *The Beliefs of Politicians*, New Haven: Yale University Press

Maor, Anat (2011). "How NGOs Help to Break Down Political Borders in Private Legislation in Parliaments", in Antonio Medina-Rivera and Lee Wilberschied (Eds), **In, Out, and Beyond: Studies on Border Confrontations, Resolutions, and Encounters**, Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Maor, Anat (2009). "Private Legislation as a Strategy of Political Negotiation", **Public Administration**, Vol. 87, Num. 4, pp. 750-761.

Wildavsky, A. 1964, *The Politics of the Budgetary*, Boston: Little, Brown.

Week 7: The Basic laws in Israel

Rubenstien, Amnon (2009). "Israel's Partial Constitution: The Basic Laws", in: Mitchell G. Bard and David Nachmias (Eds.), **Israel Studies: An Anthology**, Jewish Virtual Library.

Part Three: Israel Society

Week 8: The Arab Minority in Israel – 1948 to 2012

Chazan, Meir (2009). "Mapai and the Arab-Jewish Conflict, 1936-1939", **Israel Studies Forum**, Vol. 24; pp 28-51.

Israeli, Raphael (1998). "The Arabs in Israel: Identity, Criminality and the Peace Process", **Terrorism and Political Violence**, 10**,** pp. 39-59.

Rouhana, Nadim and As'ad, Ghanem (1998). "The Crisis of Minorities in Ethnic States: The Case of the Palestinian Citizens in Israel", **International Journal of Middle East Studies,** 30, pp. 321-346.

Sofer, I. And Schnell, I. (2002). "Over-and-Under-Embeddedness: Failures in Developing Mixed Embeddedness among Israeli Arab Entrepreneurs", in: M. Taylor and S. Leonard (Eds.), **Social Capital and the Embedded Enterprise: International Perspectives**, Ashgate: Aldershot, pp. 222-247.

Sorek, Tamir (2007). **Arab Soccer in a Jewish State: The Integrative Enclave**, Cambridge University Press.

Week 9: Relations between the Jewish Majority and the Arab Minority

Bar-Tal, Dany and Teichman, Y. (2005). **Stereotypes and Prejudice in Conflict: Representation of Arabs in Israeli Jewish Society**, Cambridge University Press.

Jamal, A. (2000). "The Palestinians in the Israeli Peace Discourse: A Conditional Partnership", **Journal of Palestine Studies**, Vol. XXX, No. 1, pp. 36-51.

Jamal, A. (2002). "The Dialectics of 'Othering' in Zionist Thought: Arabs and Oriental Jews in Israel", **Tel Aviver Jahrbuch Fuer Deutsche Geschichte**, Vol. XXX, PP. 283-311.

Neuberger, Benyamin (1993). "The Arab Minority in Israeli Politics 1948-1992 – From Marginality to Influence", **Asian and African Studies**, 27, 1-2, pp. 149-169.

Peleg, Ilan and Waxman, Dov (2011). **Israel's Palestinians – The Conflict Within,** Cambridge University Press, ch. VII.

Smooha, Sammy (1997). "Coexistence between Arabs and Jews in Israel: Attitude Change During the Transition to Peace", Research Report**,** Department of Sociology, University of Haifa (Mimeographed)

Week 10: Relations between Religious and Secular in Israel

Artzieli, Yoav (2004). **The Gavison-Medan Covenant: Main Points and Principles**, The Israel Democracy Institute, Jerusalem.

Don-Yehiya, Eliezer (1984). "Religious Leaders in the Political Arena: The Case of Israel", **Middle Eastern Studies**, Vol. 20, No. 2, pp. 154-171.

Ravitzky, Aviezer (2001). **Religion and State in Jewish Philosophy: Models of Unity, Division, Collision and Subordination**, The Israel Democracy Institute, Jerusalem.

Week 11: Women in Israel

Amuel, Yitzhak & Harpaz, Yitzhak (2004). "Work & Organizations in Israel", Schnizer (ed.), **Studies In Israeli Society**, Vol. 11, Transaction Publishers, New Brunswick, N.J. and London (UK), ch. 7, Women and Work, pp. 315-374

Dworkin, Andrea (2000). **Scapegoat: The Jews, Israel, and Women's Liberation**, The Free Press - USA; Virago - Great Britain.
Domb, Risa (ed.) (2008). **Contemporary Israeli Women's Writing**, London and Portland: Vallentine Mitchell.

Forum Series, **Women in the Israel Defense Forces** (2003). The Israel Democracy Institute, Jerusalem

Izraeli, Dafna N. (1994). "Israel - Outsiders in the Promised Land: Women Managers in Israel" in Adler and Izraeli (eds.), **Comparative Frontiers - Women Managers in a Global Economy,** Cambridge, MA and Oxford: Basil Blackwell, pp. 301-324.

Maor, Anat (2009). "Women in Israel", in: Mitchell G. Bard and David Nachmias (Eds.), **Israel Studies: An Anthology**, Jewish Virtual Library.

11b: Work and Family

Izraeli, Dafna (1993). "Work, Family Conflict among Women and Men Managers in Dual Career Couples in Israel", **Journal of Social Behavior and Personality,** 8, pp 371-388.

Friedman, Stewart D. and Greenhaus, Jeffrey H. (2000). **Work and Family: Allies or Enemies?** Oxford University Press, pp. 121- 142.

Kanter, Rosabeth M. (1977). **Work and Family in the United States: A Critical Review and Agenda for Research and Policy,** Russell Sage Foundation.

Williams, Joan (2000). **Unbending Gender: Why Family and Work Conflict and What to Do about it,** Oxford University Press, ch. 1: pp. 13-39; Conclusion, pp 271-276

Part Four: Simulation: Elections in Israel – 2012/3

Week 12: Peace and Security Policy

Golan Galia (2009). "The Peace Process", in: Mitchell G. Bard and David Nachmias (Eds.), **Israel Studies: An Anthology**, Jewish Virtual Library.

Geneva Accord: A Model Israeli-Palestinian Peace Agreement, 12 October 2003

Mahler Gregory S (1990). **Israel Government and Politics in a Maturation State,** Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers, Chap. 9 - 10, pp. 199-256

Steinberg M/ Gerald (2009). "The Evolution of Israel: 1948-2008", in: Mitchell G. Bard and David Nachmias (Eds.), **Israel Studies: An Anthology**, Jewish Virtual Library.
Week 13: The Political Debates In Israel.

The students will examine and present the platforms of the main Israeli political parties:

The Issue/The Wing	Left Wing/ Center	Right Wing	Orthodox Parties	Arab Parties
	Labor. Meretz. Center: Yes Atid; Hatnua;Kadima.	**Likud- beitinu. The Jewish Home.**	**United Torah Judaism. Shas.**	**Hadash. Ta'al-Ra'am. Balad.**
1. Security and Foreign Affairs				
2. The Socioeconomic Debate				
3. The Religious-Secular Divide				
4. The Status of Women				
5. The Supreme Court's Status				
6. The Arab Minority and Human Rights				

Chazan, Meir (2009). "Mapai and the Arab-Jewish Conflict, 1936-1939", *Israel Studies Forum*, Vol. 24; pp 28-51.

Rael Jean Isaac (1976). Israel Divided – The Ideological Politics in the Jewish States, John Hopkins University Press, pp 138 - 163

Sprunzak, Ehud (1991). The Ascendance of Israel's Radical Right, New York Oxford, Oxford University Press, pp 9 – 22; 284 – 314

Week 14: Summary: Mock Israeli Elections – 2012/3