

POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN ISRAEL

IRE215

SPRING 2019

Introduction



Maya Hadar

- [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=MCYTQKPKELQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCYTQKPKELQ)
- [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=K4-L8XFPKCO](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4-L8XFPKCO)

WHY SHOULD I TAKE THIS COURSE?



The impact of Israel on regional and international politics is disproportional to its geographical size and demographic base => relevant topic



Interdisciplinary and comprehensive course => history, politics, international relations



Extensive introduction to Israeli history and nation building

WHY SHOULD I TAKE THIS COURSE?



Multilevel discussions => social groups, ethnic groups, the nation



Multiple perspectives: political, social and cultural (focusing on politics & society)



Examine the dominant issues and challenges Israeli society and politics are currently facing

AT THE END OF THE COURSE, STUDENTS WOULD BE ABLE TO:

Describe and understand

important processes, moments and issues in Israeli history & understand their effect on ongoing processes/events

Demonstrate

an understanding of Zionist historiography & its manifestations in contemporary Israeli society

Critically Analyze

the relationship between democracy, religion, ethnicity & nationalism in Israel

AT THE END OF THE COURSE, STUDENTS WOULD BE ABLE TO:

Discuss

the challenges Israel is facing from various points of view: political, social, international relations, the conflict, etc.

Understand

the complexity of Israeli politics & multi-ethnic society, and identify current trends

Situate

Relevant Israeli political & social debates within a regional and international context

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

The components of the Israeli society (Arabs, Druze, Bedouins, Oriental and Ashkenazi Jews, Jews from Ethiopia, former soviet immigrants, further non-Jews) and intergroups' relations

The Israeli Defense force as a melting pot & its role in nation-building in Israel

National identity as a product of subcultures, Zionism and post-Zionism

The relationship between Religion & state: political and social implications

The Arab/Israeli and Israeli/Palestinian conflicts (and the way they influence Israeli politics and society)

STRUCTURE

Historical and political background against which contemporary Israeli politics plays out

Contemporary Israeli challenges- political level: political cleavages, inclusion/exclusion of minorities, extremism

Contemporary Israeli challenges- social level: religion & modernity, ethnic cleavages, inequality, rising cost of living

LECTURES

Part I: Ideological, Historical and Political background

Feb 21	1. General Introduction and Course Overview	
Feb 28	2. Introduction to Israel	
March 7	3. The Zionist ideology and movement	Reading week
March 14	4. From Mandate to Statehood	Midterm essay topics lock in deadline
March 21	5. Nation-building 1948-1967	
March 28	6. 'Between the wars' 1967-2000	

LECTURES

Part II: Contemporary Israeli politics

April 4	7. Israeli Democracy and Politics	
April 11	8. Foreign Policy and International Relations	Midterm essays' submission

קדימה

המחנה
הציוני

העבודה

הליכוד

חרות

התנועה
בראשות ציפי לבני

פולנופתלון!

יש עתיד
בראשות יאיר לפיד

LECTURES

Part III: Contemporary Israeli Society

April 18	9. Immigration and Minority Politics	End-term papers' topic lock in deadline
April 25	10. Arab/Palestinian Israelis	
May 2	11. Religion in Israel	
May 9	12. Israel as an Army Nation	
May 16	13. Peace in The Middle East?	Final session- feedback round

REQUIREMENTS



Mid term essay



Final paper (8-10 pages)



Pass/fail grade



Weekly Readings



A passing grade requires the successful completion of BOTH papers

MID-TERM ESSAYS

- **SHORT ESSAY (2,000 TO 2,500 WORDS)**
- **STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PAY ATTENTION TO NEWS CONCERNING ISRAELI SOCIETY AND POLITICS DURING THE COURSE**
- **STUDENTS WILL BASE THEIR ESSAYS ON ONE NEWS ARTICLE/COMMENTARY PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH DURING THE COURSE**
- **STUDENTS WILL WRITE A SHORT ANALYSIS, CRITIC OR RESPONSE TO THE ARTICLE/COMMENTARY**

MID-TERM ESSAYS

- **SUGGESTED MEDIA OUTLETS ARE FOUND IN THE SYLLABUS**
- **STUDENTS ARE WELCOME TO PURSUE OTHER SOURCES (ONLINE/OFFLINE)**
- **COMMENTARIES CHOSEN FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE MID-TERM ESSAY SHOULD SPECIFICALLY RELATE TO ISRAELI POLITICS AND SOCIETY (NOT ISRAELI ECONOMY, ART, WEATHER, START-UPS, SPORT, ETC.).**

Essays will include:

**Basic info
concerning the
media outlet
(ownership,
political
orientation...)**

**Introduction of
the topic and
further
relevant
information**

Original input

MID-TERM ESSAYS

THE ORIGINAL INPUT

- **DO YOU AGREE WITH THE AUTHOR'S DESCRIPTION OF THE ISSUE/CONCLUSION?**
- **IS THE COMMENTARY MISLEADING/LACKING FURTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION?**
- **DOES THE CONCLUSION FOLLOW THE DESCRIBED FACTS?**
- **IS THE INFORMATION CREDIBLE?**

Instructions for writing a good essay will be uploaded to IS after topics' lock-in

Critical responses and comparisons with the Czech Republic/your home country (if applicable) are welcome

MID-TERM ESSAYS

FINAL PAPER



Research paper dedicated to a specific aspect of the Israeli society



You choose the topic (please confirm with lecturer)



10 pages max
(Times new Roman size 12, double space including footnotes, excluding references)



Topic will be further discussed in the final session of the course



Topics lock in (via mail) is 18.04.19
Submission (via IS) on 03.06.19 (can submit before)

FINAL PAPER

POSSIBLE TOPICS

- **SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE IDF**
- **RELIGION AND STATE IN ISRAEL: MODERNITY VS. TRADITION**
- **A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN ISRAELI POLITICS/SPECIFIC SOCIAL ASPECTS AND YOUR HOME COUNTRY/ANOTHER COUNTRY**
- **ISRAELI NATIONAL IDENTITY: COMPONENTS & MECHANISMS OF CONSTRUCTION**
- **ISRAEL AND ITS DIASPORAS (JEWS/ISRAELI)**
- **MINORITIES IN ISRAEL: POLITICAL REPRESENTATION, SOCIAL INCLUSION/EXCLUSION, ETC.**

GENERAL NOTES



- **THIS COURSE (AND THE READINGS) IS OFFERED IN ENGLISH**
- **DON'T WORRY IF ENGLISH IS NOT YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE! MINOR LINGUISTIC ERRORS WILL NOT AFFECT THE ASSESSMENT OF YOUR WORK**
- **YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLEARLY COMMUNICATE YOUR IDEAS AND ARGUMENTS IN ENGLISH (ACADEMIC LEVEL)**
- **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CLASS IS PARTICULARLY VALUED**

IMPORTANT DEADLINES



- **MIDTERM ESSAY TOPICS' LOCK IN (VIA EMAIL) => 14.03.2019**
- **MIDTERM ESSAYS' SUBMISSION (VIA IS) => 11.04.2019**
- **END-TERM PAPERS' TOPIC LOCK IN DEADLINE (VIA EMAIL) => 18.04.2019**
- **END-TERM PAPERS' SUBMISSION (VIA IS) => 03.06.2019**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



- **WILL SUCH PRESENTATIONS BE UPLOADED TO IS? YES**
- **WHERE CAN I FIND THE ASSIGNED READINGS? IN IS**
- **IS READING MANDATORY? WELL...**
- **IS LECTURE ATTENDANCE MANDATORY? NO**
- **WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED FURTHER SUPPORT? EMAIL ME 😊**

AND NOW...



- [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=I3WMT2WH690](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3WMT2WH690)