

# **POLITICS & SOCIETY IN ISRAEL**

**IRE215**

**SPRING 2020**

**Introduction**



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# ON THE AGENDA FOR TODAY

- **WELCOME**
- **WHY SHOULD I TAKE THIS COURSE?**
- **ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED THIS SEMESTER**
- **COURSE' STRUCTURE**
- **REQUIREMENTS**

# WELCOME!

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=JMNOR2JQYHK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMNOR2JQYHK)

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

- **MOTIVATION FOR TAKING THIS COURSE**

# WHY SHOULD I TAKE THIS COURSE?



**The impact of Israel on regional + international politics is disproportional to its geographical size and demographic base**



**Extensive introduction to Israeli history & nation building**



**Interdisciplinary, comprehensive course => History, politics, international relations**

# WHY SHOULD I TAKE THIS COURSE?

**Multilevel  
Discussions =>**

**The nation +  
disaggregated  
society  
(ethnic/religious  
groups,  
minority/majority  
etc.)**

**Multiple  
Perspectives:**

**political, social,  
cultural,  
historical**

**Examine  
dominant issues  
+ challenges the**

**Israeli society &  
political system  
is currently  
facing**

# AT THE END OF THE COURSE, YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO:

## Describe

**Important moments, processes & issues in Israeli history (political and social aspects)**

## Understand

**The effect of Israeli historiography on contemporary Israeli society & politics**

## Critically Analyze

**The relationship between democracy, religion, ethnicity & nationalism in Israel**

# AT THE END OF THE COURSE, YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO:

## Discuss

the challenges Israel is facing from *various* points of view

## Understand

the *complexity* of Israeli politics & multi-ethnic society  
+ identify current trends

## Situate

Israeli political & social debates within a regional and international context

# ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

**The components of the Israeli society + intergroups' relations**

**The Israeli Defense force (IDF) => Its' role in Israeli nation-building**

**National identity as a product of subcultures, Zionism & post-Zionism**

**(NON) separation of religion & state: Political and social implications**

**The Effect of the Arab/Israeli + Israeli/Palestinian conflicts on Israeli politics and society**



# STRUCTURE

**Historical & Political  
Background**

**Contemporary Israeli  
Challenges- *political level***

**Contemporary Israeli  
Challenges- *social level***

# LECTURES

## Part I: Ideological, Historical & Political Background

<b>Feb 27</b>	<b>2. Introduction to Israel</b>	
<b>March 5</b>	<b>3. From Mandate to Statehood</b>	
<b>March 12</b>	<b>4. Nation-building 1948-1967</b>	<b>Midterm essay topics lock-in deadline</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>5. Between the wars' 1967-2000</b>	

# LECTURES

## Part II: Contemporary Israeli politics

<b>March 26</b>	<b>6. Israeli Democracy and Politics</b>	
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Mid- term Essays submission deadline</b>	<b>No session</b>
<b>April 9</b>	<b>7. Foreign Policy and International Relations</b>	



# LECTURES

## Part III: Contemporary Israeli Society

<b>April 16</b>	<b>8. Immigration and Minority Politics</b>	
<b>April 23</b>	<b>No session</b>	<b>End-term papers' topic lock in deadline</b>
<b>April 30</b>	<b>9. Arab/Palestinian Israelis</b>	
<b>May 7</b>	<b>10. Religion in Israel</b>	
<b>May 14</b>	<b>11. Peace in The Middle East?</b>	<b>Conclusion + feedback round</b>

# REQUIREMENTS



**Mid-term Essay**



**Final Paper**



**Pass/fail**



**Weekly Readings**



**Must submit (both) satisfactory papers to pass**

# MID-TERM ESSAYS

- **SHORT ESSAY (2,000- 2,500 WORDS)**
- **SUBMITTED IN COUPLES**
- **PAY ATTENTION TO NEWS CONCERNING ISRAELI SOCIETY & POLITICS DURING THE SEMESTER**
- **CHOOSE A SUITABLE NEWS ITEM/COMMENTARY + BASE YOUR ESSAYS ON IT**
- **WRITE A SHORT **ANALYSIS**, **CRITIC** OR **RESPONSE** TO THE CHOSEN ARTICLE/COMMENTARY**

# MID-TERM ESSAYS

- **SUGGESTED MEDIA OUTLETS IN THE SYLLABUS**
- **YOU ARE WELCOME TO PURSUE OTHER SOURCES (ONLINE/OFFLINE)**
- **COMMENTARIES SHOULD SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS **ISRAELI POLITICS** OR **SOCIETY****

## Essays will include:

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

**Introduction  
to the topic +  
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/OTHER 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 **very** welcome**

# **MID-TERM ESSAYS**

# FINAL PAPER



**Research paper, dedicated to a specific aspect of the Israeli society**



**You choose the topic (confirm with lecturer)**



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



**Will be further discussed in the final session of the course**



**Topics lock in (via email) is **23.04****  
**Submission deadline (via IS) on **26.06****

# FINAL PAPER

## POSSIBLE TOPICS

- **SOCIAL/POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF THE IDF**
- **RELIGION & 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

- **ENGLISH => DON'T WORRY IF ENGLISH ISN'T YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE! MINOR LINGUISTIC ERRORS WILL NOT AFFECT THE ASSESSMENT OF YOUR WORK. HOWEVER,**
- **YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLEARLY COMMUNICATE YOUR IDEAS + ARGUMENTS IN ENGLISH (ACADEMIC LEVEL)**
- **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN CLASS IS PARTICULARLY VALUED**

# IMPORTANT DEADLINES

- **MIDTERM ESSAY TOPICS' LOCK IN (VIA EMAIL) => 12.03**
- **MIDTERM ESSAYS' SUBMISSION (VIA IS) => 02.04**
- **END-TERM PAPERS' TOPIC LOCK IN DEADLINE (VIA EMAIL) => 23.04**
- **END-TERM PAPERS' SUBMISSION (VIA IS) => 26.06**

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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

# **FACTS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ISRAEL ...**

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