

Department of Political Science
Washington University
Spring Semester 2013.
Course No. L32 3781 Pol Sci
Lab Sciences 250 M-W---- 01:00 PM - 02:30 PM

Israeli Politics and the Arab Spring

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The course places current Israeli and Middle Eastern political issues and events within the context of existing political theories. In the course we will discuss the politics and ideology of pre-state Israel and the foundation of the state, the creation of modern Israeli political institutions, electoral competition, and government coalitions. Finally, we will cover some chapters of the current Middle Eastern Politics that are often referred to as “The Arab Spring” and seem to be of particular current interest.

The course will emphasize that: (1) Israeli and Middle Eastern Politics must be understood in light of the culture and history of the Jewish and the Arab people who make the bulk of its population. (2) Politics must be taught and understood from a theoretical perspective. It is not enough to count events. We must provide a theoretical account of the logic behind them.

The Course is divided into 5 chapters: *Theory, Contemporary Israel, Electoral Competition, The Palestinians* and *The Arab Spring*. At the end of each chapter we will ask each student to submit a memo. In addition, there will be a midterm and a final in this class. The midterm will count for 30% of the final grade. The memos and class participation will count for 30% of the grade. The remainder 40% of the final grade will be determined by the final exam.

Required Books:

Asher Arian: *Politics in Israel: The Second Republic; 2nd Edition*, ISBN: 978-1-56802-932-0

Bickerton and Klausner: *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (6th Edition) ISBN: 9780205753383

Schofield, Norman and Itai Sened: *Multiparty Democracy: Elections and Legislative Politics*
ISBN-10: 0521456584

Doron, Gideon and Itai Sened: *Political bargaining: theory, practice and process*, ISBN: 0761952519

Enjoy !!!

Course Work

Students are expected to read carefully the required reading before every class. In spite of the relatively large class we will try to have considerable time for class discussion of the reading materials and students will be expected to show proficiency during class discussion. The midterm and the final will consist of a list of concepts from the reading and class discussions and one essay question. For each exam you will get 50% of your grade for that exam for the concepts and 50% for the essay question. Both the list of concepts and the essay question will be given prior to the review sessions before the midterm and the final. The exams themselves will be conducted on line and from the comfort of wherever you prefer to log on.

Grade Breakdown

The midterm will count for 30% and final will count for 40% of your grade each. The memos and class Participation will count for the remainder 30% of the grade. Students will be encouraged to trade half of the participation portion of the grade – i.e. 15% of the overall grade - for an in class presentation on a topic of their choice. Students can do solo or group presentation as they choose.

Grading

In this class like any other class, grading follows a simple logic. We articulate it here to help you form the appropriate expectations regarding your grades for the class.

A: Outstanding understanding of the material, ability to explain, creatively integrate, and critique the material, coupled with a demonstrated ability to structure and present it in a logical and lucid flow.

A-: Same as above, short of 'outstanding.'

B+: Very good understanding of the material and a demonstrated ability to explain, integrate, and critique the material, coupled with an ability to structure written answers in a logical flow.

B: A good understanding of the material with some ability to explain, integrate, and critique the material coupled with an ability to structure written answers properly.

B-: An understanding of the material and an ability to explain and integrate it into coherent answers.

C+: An understanding of the material with an ability to explain and integrate it.

C: Demonstrate knowledge of the material covered in the reading and in class.

Challenging a Grade

Grading takes time and reflection. If you feel that you earned a lower grade than you deserve, write an account, explaining why you think so and put it in my Department mailbox. I will reply with detailed explanation of the reasons for the grade. If you are still unsatisfied, you may resubmit a challenge, further articulating the essence of your dissatisfaction. I will consider your notes and regrade your work. The grade you receive on the second grading is your final grade and it may be lower than your initial grade.

Course Requirements and Policies:

Preparation and participation – students are expected to have carefully read the readings prior to class meetings in which they are discussed, and to participate in class discussions. An essential part of this course is critical thought and discussion of political issues, not just reading about them. Note that a crucial part of participation involves respect for other students in the class and for their views.

Students with disabilities -- If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in class, please see me within the first two weeks of the course. Students who believe they have a disability and may require special accommodations, but who have not yet had that disability documented, are encouraged to contact the Cornerstone – Center for Advanced Learning at (314) 935-4153 or 4062.

Note on academic honesty: Any instance of cheating, plagiarism, or other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action as recommended by the Dean of Students.

Course Schedule and Readings

Introduction

1st Meeting (January 14th): Organizational Meeting

Syllabus will be discussed, rules of the game explained.

2nd Meeting (January 16th) Introduction to Middle Eastern Realities

I.J. Bickerton and C.L. Klausner. *The Arab Israeli Conflict 6th Edition*, Chapters 4,5,6,7,8.

1. The Theory

3rd Meeting (January 23rd): Introduction to Political Science and Rational Choice Theory

Doron, G. and I. Sened. 2001. *Political Bargaining: Theory, Practice and Process* London: Sage Publications. Introduction & Chapter 1.

4th Meeting (January 28th) Rational Choice Theory I: The Collective Action Problem

Doron, G. and I. Sened. 2001. *Political Bargaining: Theory, Practice and Process*, London: Sage Publications. Chapter 2, section 2.4 and chapter 3.

5th Meeting (January 30th) Rational Choice Theory II: The Collective Choice Problem

Doron, G. and I. Sened. 2001. *Political Bargaining: Theory, Practice and Process*, London: Sage Publications. Chapter 2. Sections 2.1, 2.2., 2.3.

6th Meeting (February 4th) Resource Allocation and the Study of Comparative Politics

Doron, G. and I. Sened. 2001. *Political Bargaining: Theory, Practice and Process*, London: Sage Publications. Chapter 2. Sections 2.5.

2. Contemporary Israel: Ideology, Culture, Political Economy and Institution

7th Meeting (February 6th): The Road to Statehood: An Institutional Perspective

Screening of "Children of the Sun."

8th Meeting (February 11th): Society Culture and Ideology: An Historic Perspective

Asher Arian, *Politics in Israel: The Second Republic*, Chapters 1&2.

9th Meeting (February 13th): Contemporary Israeli Society and Culture

Asher Arian: *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel*, Chapter 12.

10th Meeting (February 18th): Political Economy, The Knesset and Government

Asher Arian: *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel* Chapter 3,4.

11th Meeting (February 20th): The Judiciary System of Israel Its Origins and Structure

Asher Arian: *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel* Chapter 9.

12th Meeting (February 25th): The Histadrut, its origin rise to power and fall

Asher Arian: *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel* Chapter 10.

13th Meeting (February 27th): Local Government, the military and other Interests

Asher Arian: *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel* Chapter 11.

14th Meeting (February 4th): Q&A sessions to prepare for the Midterm Exam

15th Meeting (March 6th): Midterm Exam

March 11th -17th: Spring Break: Enjoy Every Minute of it but don't Drink and Drive!!!

3. Electoral Competition: Theory and Evidence

16th Meeting (March, 18th): The Electoral System and Political Parties:

Required Reading: Asher Arian: *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel* Chapter 5,6.

Schofield and Sened. 2006. *Multiparty Democracy*. NY: CUP Chapters 1,2.

17th Meeting (March 20th): Elections and Coalition Formation

Asher Arian: *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel* Chapter 7,8.

Sened, Itai. 1996. "A Model of Coalition Formation: Theory and Evidence," *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 58, No 2. : 350-72.

Schofield and Sened. 2006. *Multiparty Democracy*. NY: Chapters 3,4.

18th Meeting (March 25th): Electoral Reform and its aftermath.

Nachmias, D. and I. Sened: "The Bias of Pluralism: The Redistributive Effect of the New Electoral Law in Israel" In Shamir and Arian [Eds.] *Elections in Israel -1996*, Albany: SUNY Press

19th Meeting (March 27th): Putting Theory to Practice: Two Decades of Israeli Politics

No required reading.

4. The Palestinians and the Arab Spring

20th Meeting (April 1st): Introduction to Middle Eastern Politics: A Short History

I.J. Bickerton and C.L. Klausner. *The Arab Israeli Conflict 6th Edition*, Chapters 4,5,6.

In class screening of the Barak Obama Cairo Speech of the summer of 2009.

Followed by class discussion

21st Meeting (April 3rd): The Palestinian Issue – Early Days: The Palestinian People

I.J. Bickerton and C.L. Klausner. *The Arab Israeli Conflict 6th Edition*, Chapter 7.

Highly recommended reading Shaul Mishal: *West Bank- East Bank*, New Haven: Yale University Press. Out of Print

22nd Meeting (April 8th): The Palestinians Under Israeli Regime

Required Reading: Bickerton I.J. and C.L. Klausner. *Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapter 9,12.

23rd Meeting (April 10th): The Peace Process and its Collapse

Bickerton I.J. and C.L. Klausner. *Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapter 8, 10,11.

5. The 'Arab Spring'

24th Meeting (April 15th): The Arab Spring

Guest Lecture by Morris Kalliny, Professor of Marketing at the John Cook School of Business [SLU]

Timur Kuran: "The Economic Roots of Political Underdevelopment in the Middle East: A Historical Perspective"

Timur Kuran: "Institutional Causes of Economic Underdevelopment in the Middle East: a Historical Perspective"

(copies will be made available two weeks before class)

25th Meeting (April 17th): Prospects for the Future: The Role International Organizations.

Readings: TBA

26th Meeting (April 22nd): Prospects for the Future: Iran, Egypt and Turkey

Readings: TBA

27th Meeting (April 24th): Review Session