

Department of Political Science
Washington University
Spring Semester 2010.

Course No. L32 3781 Pol Sci
Seigle # L006 MW 01:00-02:30 P.M.

Israeli Politics In Broad Perspective

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The course places Israeli 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 the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israeli foreign policy and Middle Eastern Politics more generally.

The two main emphases of the course are: (1) Israeli Politics, like the politics of any other country for that matter, must be understood in light of the culture and history of the Jewish and the Arab people who make the bulk of its citizens. (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: *Introduction*, *Contemporary Israel*, *Electoral Competition*, *Israeli Politics and the Palestinians* and *The Search for Peace*. There will be a midterm and a final in this class. The midterm will count for 40% of the final grade. Class participation will count for 20% of the grade. The remainder 40% of the final grade will be determined by the final exam.

Required Books: Asher Arian: *The Second Republic*
Bickerton and Klausner: *History of the Arab-Israeli Politics – 5th Edition*
Doron and Sened: *Political Bargaining*
Schofield and Sened: *Multiparty Democracy*

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 to you prior to the review sessions before the midterm and the final. But the exams themselves will be conducted with closed books and notebooks.

Grading

In this class like any other class, grading follows the following logic. I articulate it here to help you form the appropriate expectations regarding your grades for the assignments in class.

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

A-: Same as above short of 'outstanding' and 'perfectly lucid.'

B+: Very good understanding of the material and a demonstrated ability to explain, integrate, and critique the material, coupled an ability to structure the paper 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 the paper properly.

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

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.

D: Partial even if somewhat inadequate knowledge of the material.

F: No demonstration of knowledge of material.

Challenging a Grade

Grading takes time and reflection. If you feel that you got a lower grade than you deserve, write an account, explaining why you think that is the case and put it in my mailbox in the Department. I will reply with a detailed explanation of the reasons for the grade. If you are still unsatisfied, you can resubmit the 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 this 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

1. Introduction

1st Meeting (January 20th): Organizational Meeting

Syllabus will be handed out, rules of the game explained.

2nd Meeting (January 25th) Introduction to Middle Eastern Realities
Guest Lecture: Professor Emeritus Victor LeVine

No reading requirements

3rd Meeting (January 27th): 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 (February 1st) Rational Choice Theory I: Non-Cooperative Game Theory

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

5th Meeting (February 3rd) Rational Choice Theory II: Cooperative Game Theory

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

6th Meeting (February 8th) Contemporary Study of Comparative Politics

Review Session – No Reading Requirements

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

7th Meeting (February 10th): The Road to Statehood: An Institutional Perspective

Screening of “Children of the Sun.”

8th Meeting (February 15th): Society Culture and Ideology: A Historic Perspective

Asher Arian, *Politics in Israel: The Second Republic 2nd Edition*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press
Chapters 1&2.

9th Meeting (February 17th): Contemporary Israeli Society and Culture

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

Guest Lecture: Musicologist, Professor Assaf Sheleg Required Reading TBA

10th Meeting (February 22nd): Political Economy, The Knesset, Government and the Judiciary

Asher Arian: *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel* Chapter 3,4,9.

11th Meeting (February 24th): Local Government, Histadrut, the military and other Interests

Asher Arian: *The Second Republic: Politics in Israel* Chapter 10,11.

12th Meeting (March 1st): Q&A sessions to prepare for the Midterm Exam

13th Meeting (March 3rd): Midterm Exam

March 5th-14th: Spring Break: Enjoy Every Minute of it but don't Drink and Drive!!!

3. Electoral Competition: Theory and Evidence

14th Meeting (March 15th): The Electoral System and Political Parties:

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

Doron, G. and I. Sened. 2001. *Political Bargaining: Theory, Practice and Process*
London: Sage Publications. Chapter 5.

Schofield and Sened. 2006. *Multiparty Democracy*. NY: Cambridge University Press
Chapters 1,2.

15th Meeting (March 17th): 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: Cambridge University Press
Chapters 3,4.

16th Meeting (March 22nd): 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

17th Meeting (March 24th): The Election of February 2009: Putting Theory to Practice

No required reading.

18th Meeting (March 29th): The U.S. Presidential System compared to the Israeli Parliamentary System

Doron and Sened: *Political Bargaining*, Chapter 6

Schofield and Sened: *Multiparty Democracies*: Chapter 8

19th Meeting (March 31st): Hybrid Semi Presidential Semi Parliamentary Systems

Guest Lecture: Carlos Costa; Required reading TBA

4. Israeli Politics and the Palestinians

20th Meeting (April 5th): Introduction to Middle Eastern Politics: A Short History of the Arab Israeli Conflict

I.J. Bickerton and C.L. Klausner. 2002. *The Arab Israeli Conflict 4th Edition*, Chapters 4,5,6,7,8.

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

21st Meeting (April 7th): The Palestinian Issue – Early Days: The Palestinian People Before 1967

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

22nd Meeting (April 12th): The Palestinians Under Israeli Regime: 1967-1987

Bickerton I.J. and C.L. Klausner. 2002. *Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapter 9.

23rd Meeting (April 14th): The Israeli Palestinian Conflict Becomes Violent: 1987-2006

Bickerton I.J. and C.L. Klausner. 2002. *Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapter 12.

5. The Search For Peace

24th Meeting (April 19th): From the Yom Kippur War to the Camp David Accords

Bickerton I.J. and C.L. Klausner. 2002. *Arab-Israeli Conflict*, Chapters 7,8.

25th Meeting (April 21st): The Peace Process and its Collapse.

Bickerton I.J. and C.L. Klausner. 2002. Arab-Israeli Conflict, Chapter 10,11,12.

26th Meeting (April 26th): Prospects for the Future: Unilateralism on Both Ends

Shaul Mishal and Avraham Sela. 2000. The Palestinian Hamas: Vision, Violence and Co-existence,
New York: Columbia University Press.

27th Meeting (April 28th): Review Session Q & A towards final exam