Course Description:
This course will examine the central issues currently facing Israeli society and the ongoing debates in Israeli politics. The discussion of Israel's political system will be divided into several distinct, yet analytically related parts: historical roots, societal composition, the legal and judicial system, ideologies, parties, pressure groups, voting behavior and the composition of the Knesset, coalition politics, the government and public policy. Emphasis will be placed on the major political cleavages that tend to determine the nature of Israel's political system: Jews/Arabs, Palestinian/Israeli, religious/secular, Mizrachi/Ashkenazi, rich/poor, civil/military, veterans/new immigrants and, finally, male/female. A discussion on the future of Israel as a Jewish state will conclude the course.

Course Requirements and Expectations:
This class strongly requires students’ attendance and participation. In order to participate actively in the class and to follow up with lectures, you will have to complete the assigned readings before each class. Also, attendance will be taken at the beginning of most classes. I expect you to come to class regularly, and to be on time, while your cellular phones are silenced. Attending at least 85% of lectures is a necessary condition to pass the course. 10% of the grade will be composed from your attendance and participation.

Two equally weighted exams have been scheduled for this course. Each exam is worth 30%, constituting a total of 60% of your final grade. Exams may include multiple choice, short answer identification, and essays. The exams will be cumulative in a sense that students will be expected to draw on concepts and terms learned during each unit of the semester and apply them to the contemporary issues of the Israeli politics. More details regarding the format and materials of each exam will be announced on course’s website, Moodle, prior to the exam.
Another part of your grade (10%) will be a short paper (approximately 2-3 double-spaced pages). The purpose of the assignment is to focus on using the logics of the theories learned in class in order to diagnose a problem in Israeli political life, determine its causes, and suggest potential solutions. Finally, a long paper (20%), (approximately 4-6 double-spaced pages). You will be asked to write an analytical report on some important issues of the Israeli politics. The topic of the paper will cover issues, or key relationships between concepts of Israeli politics and society that interest you. This assignment will count as 20% of the course grade. Further instructions about the organization and format of the paper will be announced in a timely manner through the Moodle website. All assignments must be uploaded on Moodle.

Learning Outcomes:
- To develop a critical understanding of the leading analytical and theoretical frameworks in Israeli politics;
- To gain a better appreciation of the political challenges faced by Israeli citizens, politicians, and the government in the current globalized world;
- To become able to read, understand, and analyze articles of varying complexity on Israeli politics; become familiar with the resources on Israeli politics and society available through the World Wide Web.

Evaluation Criteria:
- Attendance and participation: 10%
- Two exams, midterm and final take-home exam (30% each): 60%
- Short paper (2-3 pages): 10%
- Long paper: (4-5 pages): 20%
- Take-home tasks and quizzes: (will be announced during the semester)

Academic Honesty, Students with Special Needs, Appealing Grades and Make-ups:
- Any kind of academic dishonesty will be penalized under TAU policy of academic integrity.
- Students who are diagnosed with special needs should see me personally to make their needs known at the beginning of the semester for appropriate accommodations.
- If you believe an error has been made in grading one of your assignments or tests, please inform me and arrange a time to discuss your concerns as soon as possible.
- No make-up exams will be given, except under certain circumstances, such as personal illness, death or critical illness of family members, participation in a university-sponsored event. Special occasions need proper documentation and prior notice to the instructor.
Classroom etiquette, cell phones and laptops:

- Please arrive on time.
- Please turn off any device that makes noise; Cell phones should be turned off during class; Laptops should be muted if they are to be used during class.
- Please do not read newspapers and don’t send text messages (your phone should be off).
- During the course we will be discussing highly controversial topics, such as Israeli-Arab conflict. Students may have strong feelings that will come in conflict with the feelings of others on these issues. Mutual respect and politeness is required in the classroom at all times.

TAU International Academic Guidelines:
Students may only attend classes which they are officially registered for. No auditing of courses is permitted. Students are responsible for reading and adhering to all policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook posted here at all times. Below is a summary of some of these relevant policies and procedures.

Learning Accommodations:
In accordance to University guidelines, TAU International may be able to accommodate students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests if these requests are also honored at the student’s home university or home school. To be considered, students must submit official documentation from their home school or university (if not in English, a notarized official copy translated into English is required) to TAU International in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs and how these are accommodated at the home school or university. Students must also bring a copy of this documentation with them on-site and give it to their faculty on the first day of class while introducing themselves so that the faculty know who they are and what sorts of needs or accommodations they may have. Without official documentation from the home school submitted on or before the first day of courses, TAU will not be able to honor accommodation support.

With supporting documentation and by following the correct procedure as outlined above, TAU International and its faculty will do the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible. However, we cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU. For example, TAU is usually not able to offer note-taking services in English, private testing rooms, or advance viewing of classroom presentations, exams, or assignments. It may be an option to provide a student with additional tutoring or support outside the classroom as needed. Students should be aware that this additional support cannot be guaranteed and is based on teacher availability in the subject as well as the specific student
level. If available, the cost of additional tutoring or support will be the sole responsibility of the student.

In-Class Exams:
TAU does not permit, under any circumstances, taking any in-class (including mid or final) exams early or later than the scheduled exam day. When selecting courses, it is thus very important to note if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. It is also the student’s responsibility to clarify exam dates with the professors at the beginning of a course, with the understanding that not all exam dates can be decided up front as it can sometimes depend on the pace of the course and class learning. It is the student responsibility to plan to be present for all courses including the final day of class for this reason. Early departures from the program are not approved, nor are early or exception in-class exams.

TAU International Absence Policy:
Attendance is mandatory in all of the courses including Hebrew Ulpan. Faculty can and will take attendance regularly. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified and properly documented absences from classes may be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require a doctor’s note). Such cases of absence should be reported to the faculty immediately and again, a doctor’s note is required. Teachers are entitled to treat any lateness or absence without documentation as unexcused. Some of our courses such as Service Learning or the Internship Seminar require more practical in-class work; thus, attendance policies may be stricter in some courses and students then must adhere to the stricter attendance policy as outlined by the faculty/syllabus.

Students are required to arrive on time for classes. Teachers are entitled to treat any single case of lateness and/or repeated lateness as an unjustified absence.

Please note that according to official TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU with no due refund.

Grade Appeals
Students are responsible for checking grades once posted or distributed by faculty. The limited grade appeals window and the detailed procedure for appealing a grade – whether a graded assignment, exam or final grade – is outlined clearly in the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook posted here.
Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

1. Introduction: Research Traditions in Political Science; The Role of Theory in Comparative Politics; Israel the Exceptional?
   Required reading:
   Recommended reading:

2. Power and Influence in Israeli Politics: Who Governs?
   Required reading:
   Recommended reading:

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1 The course schedule and reading assignments are subject to change under certain circumstances. Any changes will be announced timely in class, and posted on TAU website. It is the student’s responsibility to check regularly Moodle TAU website to follow up with updates.
3. **Legitimacy and Authority. Legitimacy in Israel and the Occupied Territories**

Required reading:

Recommended reading:

4. **Toward Statehood: The Zionist Movement and the Jewish Community in Palestine Prior to 1948**

Required reading:

Recommended reading:
5. State as a Historical Phenomenon, State-centered Approach to the Development, State-in-Society as Alternative Approach; State Building in Israel and Palestine

Required reading:

Recommended reading:

6. Israel in the International Arena

Required reading:

Recommended reading:

7. Modernization, Dependency, Colonialism and Neocolonialism in Israeli Politics

Required reading:
8. **Immigration, Political Culture and Israel's Society**

Required reading:

   Required reading:

   Recommended reading:
   - Israeli Government’s Portal is here.

10. **Elections and Voting**

    Required reading:
11. **Parties and Interest Groups**
   Required reading:

12. **Coalition Politics in Israel**
   Required reading:

13. **Public Policy in Israel**
   Required reading:
14. The National Issue: Israeli Jews, Palestinians and the Arab World
Required reading:
Recommended reading:
Recommended videos:
- Dennis Ross - Middle East Peace Conference, William S. Boyd School of Law is here.

15. Israeli Arabs: Israel as an Ethnic Democracy
Required reading:

16. State and Religion: Judaism in the Jewish State
Required reading:
17. **The Socio-Economic Cleavage in Israel**

Required reading:


18. **Gender Issues in the Israeli Politics**

Required reading:

19. **The Future of Israel as a Jewish State**

Required reading: