ISRAELI POLITICS
Department of Political Science
Tel Aviv University
Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Evgeni Klauber
TIME: TBD
ROOM: N/A
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 13:00-14:00 and by appointment
OFFICE: Naftali, Room 531
E-MAIL: klaubere@post.tau.ac.il

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 Objectives:
- 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.

Texts and Readings:
The texts for this course will provide students with the necessary background information and facts for understanding of Israeli politics. The texts will be available on Virtual TAU website and/or will be distributed by e-mail. Additionally, and very importantly, there are a significant number of required readings drawn from current academic journals and periodicals on Israeli politics. These readings also will be available as downloadable documents (Microsoft Word or PDF formats) on the Virtual TAU website and/or distributed by e-mail. The syllabus will be available in both PDF and Word formats so that you can use hyperlinks to the required and recommended readings. It is a requirement of the course that students will be able to access these resources through their own computers or through many computers provided for students’ use on campus.
Course Requirements:

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. 15% 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 Virtual TAU 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 (15%), (approximately 4-6 double-spaced pages). You will be asked to write an analytical report on some important issue 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 15% of the course grade. Further instructions about the organization and format of the paper will be announced in a timely manner through the Virtual TAU website. All assignments must be printed out (not e-mailed) and submitted to me before the lectures or to my mailbox in Naftali building, fifth floor.

Grading Summary:
- Attendance and participation: 15%
- Two exams, midterm and final take-home exam (30% each): 60%
- Short paper (2-3 pages): 10%
- Long paper: (4-5 pages): 15%
- Take-home tasks: (will be announced during the semester)

Grading System:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100%</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
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<td>C</td>
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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 critical illness. Special occasions need proper documentation and 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.
Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:¹

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:

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 Virtual 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:*

*Recommended 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:**

TAU International Course Guidelines

Rules and Respectful Behavior
- No cell phones or laptops permitted in class unless approved by instructor for use.
- Tardiness to class is not permitted.
- As our courses bring together students from many different styles of learning and from a wide variety of home institutions, we ask that students remain respectful to and patient with fellow classmates at all time as some students may be more familiar with certain course material or procedures than others.

Learning Accommodations
In accordance to University guidelines, students with learning disabilities or accommodation requests must submit official documentation from their home country / university (translated into English by notary if not already in English) to TAU International (tauiacademic@tauex.tau.ac.il) in advance of arrival describing in detail any specific needs they have. 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 they may have. TAU International and its faculty cannot guarantee that all accommodations received at the home school can be similarly met at TAU but certainly does the best it can to make any suitable accommodations possible that are needed.

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 below if there is an in-class midterm or final exam as this date/exam cannot be changed. 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. Missing classes will be reflected in the final grade of the course. Up to three justified absences from classes will be accepted (for example: emergency matter or illness, both of which will require an official doctor’s note sent to the faculty on the day of the absence). Such cases of absence should be reported to your lecturer immediately and again, a doctor’s note is required. 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 TAU Academic Policy, if a student's behavior or attendance during the semester is disagreeable his/her course participation may be cancelled at the discretion of TAU.

Students are responsible for reading and adhering to the policies and procedures in the TAU International Academic Handbook posted here at all times.