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Contemporary Issues in Israeli Politics and Society
(HIST 489SWR/POLS 490SWR)
Spring 2009, Emory University
Dr. Doron Shultziner (dsulczi@emory.edu**)**

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This colloquium looks at developments in Israeli politics, society and constitutional arrangements from the 1990s until present day. We will explore contemporary issues in view of their historical evolution. New political players, and societal and political phenomena in Israel will be discussed as well.

Examination and Grading: Students will write two short papers (1500 words) during the semester, each constitutes 20% of the final grade. First short paper is due in early March and the second paper is due in early April. A final paper (about 20 pages) will constitute 60% of the final grade. The final paper is due May 5, 2009. Active class participation is necessary and may count up to an additional 10% *bonus* to the final grade. Students will send weekly reflection paragraphs about the readings and lead discussions on chosen topics. Students are also required to meet with the course assistant Dr. Chris Palazzolo for their final paper.

The syllabus is subject to change based on class dynamics and availability of guest speakers. Students are strongly advised to follow current events on the Israeli daily Haaretz: www.haaretz.com

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1. **Introduction and Historical Background (1.26.09)**

Mahler, Gregory S. 2004. *Politics and Government in Israel: The Maturation of a Modern State*. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.
    Chapter 1: History and the Creation of Israel, pp. 13-52.
    Chapter 5: The Prime Minister and the Knesset, pp. 141-169.

Shafir, Gershon and Yoav Peled. 2002. *Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
        Introduction: pp. 1-23.

Kimmerling, Baruch. 1999. Elections as a Battleground over Collective Identity. In *The Elections in Israel 1996*, eds. Asher Arian and Michal Shamir. Albany: SUNY Press. Pp. 27-44.

Bar-Tal, Daniel, and Dikla Antebi. 1992. Siege Mentality in Israel. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations* 16.

Additional recommended reading:

Ben-Ami, Shlomo. 2006. *Scars of War, Wounds of Peace: The Israeli-Arab Tragedy*. London: Phoenix. Chapter 1: Prelude: The Birth of an Intractable Conflict, pp. 1-21.
    Chapter 2: Bisecting the Land or Zionism's Strategy of Phases? pp. 22-48.

2. The Labor Party (2.2.09)

Shafir, Gershon and Yoav Peled. 2002. *Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
>   Chapter 2: pp. 37-73.
>   Chapter 8: pp. 213-230.

Lochery, Neill. 2007. No Longer Dominant, Playing for Second: The Israel Labour Party in the 2006 Election. *Israel Affairs* 13(2): 305–324.

Movie: *Ashkenazim*. [in Emory's Media Library.]

Additional recommended reading:

Yaniv, Michal. 1999. Peres the Leader, Peres the Politician. In *The Elections in Israel 1996*, eds. Arian, Asher and Michal Shamir. Albany: State University of New York Press. Pp. 211-239.

3. The Likud Party (2.9.09)

Peleg, Ilan. 2009. The Israeli Right. In *Contemporary Israel*, ed. Robert O. Freedman. Boulder: Westview. Pp. 21-44.

Naor, Arye. 2005. Hawks' Beaks, Doves' Feathers: Likud Prime Ministers Between Ideology and Reality. *Israel Studies* 10(3): 154-191.

Mendilow, Jonathan. 1999. The Likud's Double Campaign: Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea. In *The Elections in Israel 1996*, eds. Arian, Asher and Michal Shamir. Albany: State University of New York Press. Pp. 187-210.

Spyer, Jonathan. 2007. Downfall of a Dominant Party: The Likud and the 2006 Election. *Israel Affairs* 13(2): 289–304.

Additional recommended reading:

Galanti, Sigal B. 2008. From the Margins to a Continuing Governing Position: The Miracle of the Israeli Rightist Likud Elite. *World Political Science Review* 4(1).

Mendilow, Jonathan. 2002. The Likud's Campaign and the Headwater Defeat. In *The Elections in Israel 1999*, eds. Arian, Asher and Michal Shamir. Albany: State University of New York Press. Pp. 197-220.

4. Mizrachi Politics (2.16.09)

Shafir, Gershon and Yoav Peled. 2002. *Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
>   Chapter 2: pp. 74-95.

Shohat, Ella. 1988. Sephardim in Israel: Zionism from the Standpoint of Its Jewish Victims *Social Text* 19(20): 1-35.

Shalom Chetrit, Sami. 2000. Mizrahi Politics in Israel: Between Integration and Alternative. *Journal of Palestine Studies* 29(4): 51-65.

Additional recommended reading:

Shohat, Ella. 1999. The Invention of the Mizrahim. *Journal of Palestine Studies* 29(1): 5-20.

5. Ultra-Orthodox Parties (2.23.09)

Shafir, Gershon and Yoav Peled. 2002. *Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

  Chapter 5: The wages of legitimation: Zionist and non-Zionist Orthodox Jews. pp. 137-155.

Bick, Etta. 2001. The Shas phenomenon and religious parties in the 1999 elections. *Israel Affairs* 7(2): 55-100.

Cohen, Asher. 2007. The Religious Parties in the 2006 Election. *Israel Affairs* 13(2): 325-345.

Additional recommended reading:

Doron, Gideon and Rebecca Kook. 1999. Religion and the Politics of Inclusion: The Success of the Ultra-Orthodox Parties. In *The Elections in Israel 1996*, eds. Arian, Asher and Michal Shamir. Albany: State University of New York Press. Pp. 67-83.

6. The National Religious Camp (3.2.09)

Shafir, Gershon and Yoav Peled. 2002. *Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

  Chapter 6: pp. 159-183.

Inbari, Motti. 2007. Religious Zionism and the Temple Mount Dilemma — Key Trends. *Israel Studies* 12(2): 29-47.

Bick, Etta. 2007. A Clash of Authority: Lay Leaders and Rabbis in the National Religious Party. *Israel Affairs* 13(2): 401–417.

Additional recommended reading:

Newman, David. 2005. From Hitnachalut to Hitnatkut: The Impact of Gush Emunim and the Settlement Movement on Israeli Politics and Society. *Israel Studies* 10(3): 192-224.

Cohen, Asher. 2005. The Religious Zionism and the National Religious Party in the 2003 Elections: An Attempt to Respond to the Challenges of Religious, Ethnic, and Political Schism. In *The Elections in Israel 2003*, eds. Arian, Asher and Michal Shamir. Albany: State University of New York Press. Pp. 187-213.

7. Arab Israeli Politics (3.16.09) – Guest Speaker Israeli Ambassador Reda Mansour

Shafir, Gershon and Yoav Peled. 2002. *Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship*. Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

  Chapter 4: The Frontier within: Palestinians as third class citizens pp. 110-136.

Frisch, Hillel. 2007. Stability Amidst Flux: The Arab Parties Come of Age in the 2006 General Elections. *Israel Affairs* 13(2): 368–383.

The Haifa Declaration. May 15, 2007.

Rekhess, Eli. 2007. The Evolvement of an Arab–Palestinian National Minority in Israel. *Israel Studies* 12(3): 1-28.

Additional recommended reading:

Rouhana, Nadim, Nabil Saleh and Nimer Sultany. 2005. Voting without Voice: About the Vote of the Palestinian Minority in the 16th Knesset Elections. In *The Elections in Israel 2003*, eds. Arian, Asher and Michal Shamir. Albany: State University of New York Press. Pp. 215-243.

8. New Groups: Russian, Ethiopians, Overseas Workers (3.23.09) – Guest speaker – Benny Hary

Shafir, Gershon and Yoav Peled. 2002. *Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship.* Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
Chapter 12: Emergent citizen groups? Immigrants from the FSU and Ethiopia and overseas labor migrants. pp. 308-334.

Additional recommended reading:
Khanin, Vladimir. 2007. The Revival of 'Russian' Politics in Israel: The Case of the 2006 Election. *Israel Affairs* 13(2): 346-367.
Kemp, Adriana, Rebeca Raijman, Julia Resnik, and Silvina Schammah Gesser. 2000. Contesting the limits of political participation: Latinos and black African migrant workers in Israel. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 23(1): 94-119.

9. Gender and Politics (3.30.09)

Shafir, Gershon and Yoav Peled. 2002. *Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship.* Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.
Chapter 3: Pp. 95-109.
Yishai, Yael. 2001. Women in the 1999 elections, still a glass ceiling? *Israel Affairs* 7(2): 303–318.
Raday, Frances. 2005. Women's Human Rights: Dichotomy between Religion and Secularism in Israel. *Israel Affairs* 11(1): 78–94.
Additional recommended reading:
Herzog, Hanna. 1998. Homefront and Battlefront: The status of Jewish and Palestinian Women in Israel. *Israel Studies* 3(1): 61-84.

10. The IDF as a Political Player (4.6.09)

Peri, Yoram. 2006. *Generals in the Cabinet Room.* Washington D.C.: United States Institute for Peace.
Chapters 3-12, pp. 47-196.

11. Israel and the United States (4.13.09) – Guest Speaker David Tal

Freedman, Robert O. Israel and the United States. In *Contemporary Israel*, ed. Robert O. Freedman. Boulder: Westview. Pp. 253-295.

12. The Supreme Court (4.20.09)

Hofnung, Menachem. 1999. Israeli Constitutional Politics: The Fragility of Impartiality. *Israel Affairs* 5(2): 34–54.
Barak, Aharon. 1998. The Role of the Supreme Court in a Democracy. *Israel Studies* 3(2): 6-29.
Kretzmer, David. 2005. Human Rights. *Israel Affairs* 11(1): 39-64.
Shultziner, Doron. 2006. A Jewish Conception of Human Dignity: Philosophy and Its Ethical Implications for Israeli Supreme Court Decisions. *Journal of Religious Ethics* 34(4): 663–683.

13. Conclusion Class – Paper Presentation (4.27.09)