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)**

Chapter 1: History and the Creation of Israel, pp. 13-52.  
Chapter 5: The Prime Minister and the Knesset, pp. 141-169.


**Additional recommended reading:**
2. **The Labor Party (2.2.09)**


- Chapter 8: pp. 213-230.


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

Additional recommended reading:


3. **The Likud Party (2.9.09)**


Additional recommended reading:


4. **Mizrachi Politics (2.16.09)**


- Chapter 2: pp. 74-95.

Additional recommended reading:

5. **Ultra-Orthodox Parties (2.23.09)**


Additional recommended reading:


6. **The National Religious Camp (3.2.09)**


Chapter 6: pp. 159-183.


Additional recommended reading:


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


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


Additional recommended reading:

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

Additional recommended reading:

9. Gender and Politics (3.30.09)

Additional recommended reading:

10. The IDF as a Political Player (4.6.09)
Chapters 3-12, pp. 47-196.

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

12. The Supreme Court (4.20.09)

13. Conclusion Class - Paper Presentation (4.27.09)