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**Israeli Society: Particularity and Pluralism (48851)**

Dr. Jonathan Kaplan

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**July 4-25, 2023**

**Tentative Syllabus**

**Description**:   This course examines historical, social and political aspects of contemporary Israeli society. After analyzing the ideologies and groups that played a major role in the formation of Israeli society, class discussion will focus on social and political issues which are at the center of current debate in the country. Special attention will be devoted to an examination of the tension between the visions of Israel as a democracy and Israel as the Jewish nation-state.

**Learning Outcomes**: The course will prepare students to:

* Identify and describe the major social groups in Israeli society
* Communicate the essence and complexity of key social and political issues in Israel and the positions of different political and ideological groups on these issues.
* Present characteristic aspects of Israel’s political system
* Analyze and assess the character of Israel as both a democracy and Jewish nation-state

**Times**:              Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 16:30-19:30

**Office Hours**: By appointment.

**Requirements**: 1. Current preparation and participation in class (20% of final mark)

                        3. Final Exam July 25, 2023 (80% of final mark).

**Books**:            This following book will be used extensively during the course:

Reuven Y. Hazan, Alan Dowty, Menachem Hofnung and Gideon Rahat, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society* (New York: 2021)

**Earning graduate credits for this course:**

o Graduate students are expected to inform the Rothberg International School at rissummer@savion,huji.ac.il of their interest in earning graduate credits for their summer course(s).

o Graduate students must complete a 25-page, double-spaced, seminar paper with a bibliography, instead of the course's standard final assessment. The students will discuss this paper in class. The topic and bibliography for these papers must be chosen in agreement with each course instructor. Students must approach course instructors by the end of the first week of the course and arrange a time to meet and define their paper topic and bibliography.

o The seminar paper must make use of at least five scholarly sources (books or academic articles), in addition to Internet resources.

o The graduate seminar papers must be submitted within 2 months following the course completion.

[**Reading List**](https://huji.alma.exlibrisgroup.com/leganto/public/972HUJI_INST/lists/6791515860003701?auth=SAML)

**Course Outline**

Required readings are marked with an asterisk.

1. The Origins of Israeli Society: Formative Ideologies

\*Gideon Shimoni, “Ideological Perspectives” in Moshe Davis, ed. *Zionism in Transition* (New York: 1980): pp. 3-42. **Overseas Library 933.632 D263; ERESERVE**

2. The Origins of Israeli Society: Waves of Immigration

\* Asher Arian, “People of Israel” in *Politics in Israel: The Second Republic*, 2d ed.(Washington, D.C.: 2005), pp. 19-47. **Overseas Library E329 A696; ERESERVE**

3. The Origins of Israeli Society: The Creation of a Political Entity

\*Peter Medding, “Founding an Independent State”, “Founding Democratic Political Structures” in *The Founding of Israeli Democracy, 1948-1967* (New York: 1990): pp. 8-42. **Overseas Library E320.9 M488; E-BOOK**

\*“The Proclamation of the State of Israel” pp. 12-15. “First Knesset – The Law of Return” p. 40. “First Knesset - The Debate on a Constitution” pp. 41-47 in Itamar Rabinovich and Jehuda Reinharz, eds., *Israel in the Middle East*: *Documents and Readings on Society, Politics and Foreign Relations, Pre-1948 to the Present* (Hanover and London: 2008)*.*  **Overseas Library E990(029) R116; ERESERVE**

4-5. The Mass Immigration, Ethnicity and the Socio-Economic Gap in Israel

\*Sammy Smooha, “The Jewish Ethnic Divide and Ethnic Politics in Israel,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

\*Sammy Smooha, “The Mass Immigrations to Israel: a Comparison of the Failure of the Mizrahi Immigrants of the 1950s with the Success of the Russian Immigrants of the 1990s,” *Journal of Israeli History* 27:1 (2008): pp.1-27. **E-JOURNAL**

6. Immigration during the 1990s

\*Zvi Gitelman, “The ‘Russian Revolution’ in Israel,” in Alan Dowty, ed., *Critical Issues in Israeli Society* (Westport, Connecticut: 2004) pp. 95-108. **Overseas Library E320.9 D752; E-BOOK**

\*Adane Zawdu and Sarah S. Willen, “Immigration Dynamics and Changing Constructions of Jewish Nativeness in Israel,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

**Thursday July 6: Study Outing to Abu Ghosh: Visit the Community Center, Crusader Church, Mosque – Traditional Lunch – Kastel, Har Adar, Latrun**

7-8. Arab Citizens in a Jewish State

\*Itzhak Galnoor, “Arab Citizens in the ‘Jewish’ State of Israel,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

9-10. Religion and State: Politics and Legislation

\*“The ‘Status Quo’ Letter by David Ben Gurion” in Daniel Shimshoni, *Israeli Democracy: The Middle of the Journey* (New York and London: 1982): p. 478. **Overseas Library E321.8 S556; ERESERVE**

\*Asher Cohen, “Religion, Society, and Politics in Israel,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

\*Guy Ben-Porat, “Religion in Israeli Politics,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

11-12. The Ultra-Orthodox in Israel

\*Nurit Stadler, Edna Lomsky-Feder and Eyal Ben-Ari, “Fundamentalism’s Encounters with Citizenship: The Haredim in Israel,” *Citizenship Studies* 12:3 (2008): pp. 215-231. **E-JOURNAL**

**Thursday July 13 or Sunday July 16: Half-day walk in Mea She’arim**

13-14. Women in Israel

\* Reut Itzkovitch-Malka, “Gender in Israel,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

15-16. The Territories

\*Oren Barak, “Israel’s Policy in and toward the West Bank and the Gaza Strip,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

\*Arie Perliger and Ami Pedahzur, “The Territories in Israeli Politics,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

17. Political System

\*Matthew S. Shugart, “The Electoral System of Israel,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

\*Reuven Y. Hazan, “Parties and the Party System of Israel,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

\*Gideon Rahat, “Political Reform in Israel,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society*.

18. Israel’s Search for Identity

\*Two of the following:

Alexandra Nocke, “Mapping Yam Tikhoniut,” in *The Place of the Mediterranean in Modern Israeli Identity* (Leiden and Boston: 2009), pp. 137-173.

Neta Oren and Daniel Bar-Tal, “Ethos and identity: Expressions and changes in the Israeli Jewish society,” *Estudios de Psicología* 27 (2006), pp. 293-316.

Dov Waxman, “The Crisis of Israeli Identity,” in *The Pursuit of Peace and the Crisis of Israeli Identity: Defending/Defining the Nation* (New York: 2006), pp. 109-144.

Yaacov Yadgar, “Conclusion: Israel, Judaism, and Critique,” in *Israel’s Jewish Identity Crisis: State and Politics in the Middle East* (Cambridge: 2020), pp. 172-195.