



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



Faculty of Law

Rothberg International School
Department of Summer Courses
and Special Programs

הפקולטה למשפטים

ביה"ס לתלמידים מחו"ל ע"ש רוטברג
המחלקה לקורסי קיץ
ותוכניות מיוחדות

Mishpatim: Israeli and International Law

(SPLW401- 48790)

Dr. Daniel Ohana

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January 6– January 29, 2026

60 Academic Hours, 4 Academic Credits

Tentative syllabus

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description and Objectives

This course aims to provide Australian students with an overview of the contemporary Israeli legal system, while enabling them to explore the major challenges it has grappled with in recent years, including the outbreak of the war in the aftermath of the massacre perpetrated by Hamas on October 7, 2023. The course begins with introductory classes designed to impart knowledge of the basic concepts and institutional framework of Israeli law and government. Classes during the remainder of the seminar focus on more specific areas of Israeli law. They feature guest lectures by leading academics and experienced practitioners, who provide students with information on the latest developments in their fields of expertise. During the program, students will also participate in tours of the Supreme Court of Israel, the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) and the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum. Class attendance and participation in field trips is mandatory. Students who do not regularly attend class will not receive credit for the course.

Assessment

Students are required to take a four-hour exam at the end of the course. The grade for the course will be determined based on the final exam only.

Some graduate (JD or LLM) students may be required to write an essay instead of, or in addition to, the exam in order to receive accreditation from their university for participation in the course. Students within this category are requested to notify the instructor at the beginning of the course of the requirements that apply to them. JD and LLM students from the University of Western Australia are required to submit a 2,000 word paper (worth 20% of the final grade) in addition to writing the exam (worth 80%). The essay may be written following completion of the course, and students will be expected to submit it to the instructor by e-mail following their return to Australia. The topic of the essay will be selected in agreement with the instructor from a list of proposed subjects pertaining to Israeli law and the material taught in the course. Evaluation of the essay will be based on the following criteria: thoroughness of research; presentation and organization (including references and a bibliography); quality and style of writing; and the strength of the presented argument, including demonstrated comprehension of pertinent materials, clarity of reasoning, and originality of the ideas developed in the paper.

Readings

The course is conducted exclusively in English; proficiency in spoken or written Hebrew is not a prerequisite for participation in the program. Israeli statutes and Supreme Court decisions relevant to the material discussed in class are in great part available online in English translation. The scholarly articles compiled for the course summarize, in English, leading court cases and legal doctrines. An online site administered by the Rothberg International School is available to enable easy interaction between students and the instructor throughout the course of the program. By accessing the site, students will be able to obtain general information and announcements about the program. Background material and course readings will be posted online in the period leading up to the course, so as to give students the opportunity to familiarize themselves in advance with the various topics addressed during the program. Students are expected to complete the readings before class and be prepared to discuss them.

Course Outline

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

- **Introduction to Israel as a Society and State (4 academic hours) (8:30-12:00)**

Guest speaker:

Dr. David Mendelsson, Rothberg International School, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

- **Historical Background and Sources of Israeli Law (2 academic hours) (13:00-14:30)**

Thursday, January 8, 2026

- **Jewish and Religious Law in the Israeli Legal System (2 academic hours) (8:30-10:00)**

Guest speaker:

Prof. Benny Porat, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

- **Family Law in Israel through the Prism of International Private Law (2 academic hours) (10:30-12:00)**

Guest speaker:

Prof. Sharon Shakargy Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

- **FIELD TRIP – TOUR OF THE KNESSET (ISRAELI PARLIAMENT) (2 academic hours) (12:30-14:00)**

Sunday, January 11, 2026

- **The Israeli High Court of Justice's Powers of Judicial Review vis-à-vis the Executive Branch: Rule by Reasonableness? (2 academic hours) (8:30-10:00)**
- **Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty: Constitutional Revolution or Judicial Expansionism under the Cloak of Rights Rhetoric? (2 academic hours) (10:30-12:00)**

Monday, January 12, 2026

- **FIELD TRIP – TOUR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ISRAEL (2 academic hours) (10:30-12:00)**
- **THE LEVIN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PLAN: BACKGROUND, ISSUES AND FUTURE CONCERNS (2 academic hours) (13:00-14:30)**
- **The Increasing Politicization of the Appointment of Judges and the Attorney General (2 academic hours) (15:30-17:00)**

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

- **International Law pertaining to the Arab-Israeli Conflict (4 academic hours) (8:30-12:00)**

Guest speaker:

Prof. Guy Harpaz, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

- **The International Law of Armed Conflict and the Arab-Israel Dispute (2 academic hours) (10:30-12:00)**

Guest speaker:

Prof. Robbie Sabel, Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

- **The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict from the Perspective of International Criminal Law (4 academic hours) (8:30-12:00)**

FIELD TRIP – YAD VASHEM HOLOCAUST MUSEUM (13:00-17:00) (4 academic hours)

Thursday, January 15, 2026

- **Counter-Terrorism Law: Israel's Compliance with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (2 academic hours) (9:00-10:30)**
- **Counter-Terrorism Law: Security Detention in the wake of Israel's Response to the October 7, 2023 Massacre (2 academic hours) (11:00-12:30)**
- **Human Rights and the Challenge of Regulating Freedom of Expression in Times of War and Emergency (2 academic hours) (14:00-15:30)**

Sunday, January 18, 2026

- **The Challenges of Defining Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State from a Constitutional Law Perspective -Part I: Basic Law: Israel as the Nation-State of the Jewish People ((2 academic hours) (8:30-10:00)**
- **The Challenges of Defining Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State from a Constitutional Law Perspective - Part II: The Disqualification of Political Actors Hostile to the Jewish and Democratic Character of the State of Israel (2 academic hours) (10:30-12:00)**
- **The Challenges of Defining Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State from a Constitutional Law Perspective - Part III: The Status of the Arabic Language under Israeli Law (2 academic hours) (13:30-15:00)**

Monday, January 19, 2026

- **The Precarious Position of Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in Israel: Legal and Economic Perspectives (2 academic hours) (10:30-12:00)**

Guest speaker:

Sigal Rozen, The Hotline for Refugees and Migrants

- **The Evolution of LGBT Rights in Israel (2 academic hours) (13:30-15:00)**

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

- **Legal Issues Relating to the Bedouin in Israel (2 academic hours) (9:00-10:30)**

FIELD TRIP – THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ISRAEL (11:00-12:30) (2 academic hours)

Sunday, January 25, 2026

- **Integrating the Ultra-Orthodox into Israeli Society and Economy (2 academic hours) (8:30-10:00)**

Guest speaker:

Dr. Gilad Malach, Israel Democracy Institute

- **The Right to Equality and the Challenge of Integrating Ultra-Orthodox Jews: The Military Draft Deferment (PART I) (2 academic hours) (10:30-12:00)**
- **The Right to Equality and the Challenge of Integrating Ultra-Orthodox Jews: Gender Segregation in Higher Education and the Public Sphere (PART II) (2 academic hours) (13:30-15:00)**

Monday, January 26 + Tuesday, January 27, 2026

STUDY DAYS – NO CLASS

Wednesday, January, 28, 2026

FINAL EXAM (10:30-14:30)