



האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM



Faculty of Law

Rothberg International School
Department of Summer Courses
and Special Programs

הפקולטה למשפטים

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

Mishpatim: Israeli and International Law

Dr. Daniel Ohana

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February 2– February 26, 2026

45 Academic Hours, 3 Academic Credits

Tentative syllabus

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description and Objectives

This course aims to provide an overview of the contemporary Israeli legal system, while exploring 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 and the constitutional crisis around the role of the Supreme Court. 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.

Assessment

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

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

Tuesday, February 3, 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)**

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

THE LEVIN CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM PLAN: BACKGROUND, ISSUES AND FUTURE CONCERNS

- **Part I: The Israeli High Court of Justice's Powers of Judicial Review vis-à-vis the Executive Branch: Rule by Reasonableness? (2 academic hours) (10:30-12:00)**
- **Part II: Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty: Constitutional Revolution or Judicial Expansionism under the Cloak of Rights Rhetoric? (2 academic hours) (13:00-14:30)**

FIELD TRIP – TOUR OF THE KNESSET (ISRAELI PARLIAMENT) **(2 academic hours) (15: 00-16:30)**

Thursday, February 5, 2026

- **Part III - The Increasing Politicization of the Appointment of Judges and the Attorney General (2 academic hours) (10:30-12:00)**
- **Part IV – Populism and LAWFARE in the Israeli Criminal Justice System: Issues and Controversies surrounding the Trial of PM Benjamin Netanyahu (2 academic hours) (13:00-14:30)**

Sunday, February 8, 2026

- **International Law pertaining to the Arab-Israeli Conflict (2 academic hours) (8:30-10:00)**

Guest speaker:

Prof. Guy Harpaz, Provost of Rothberg International School, 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

FIELD TRIP – TOUR OF THE SUPREME COURT OF ISRAEL (2 academic hours)
(12:30-14:00)

Monday, February 9, 2026

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

Tuesday, February 10, 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) (10:30-12:00)
- 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) (13:00-14:30)

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

- 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) (10:30-12:00)
- The Precarious Position of Asylum-Seekers and Refugees in Israel: Legal and Economic Perspectives (2 academic hours) (13:00-14:30)

Guest speaker: Sigal Rozen, The Hotline for Refugees and Migrants

Thursday, February 12, 2026

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

Monday, February 16, 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

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

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Integrating the Ultra-Orthodox into Israeli Society and Economy (cont'd)

- **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: 00-14:30)**

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

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

FIELD TRIP – TOUR of THE RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL (11:00-12:30) (2 academic hours)

Monday, February 23, 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 and Divorce Law in Israel: At the Crossroads of Gender, Rights, and Religion (2 academic hours) (10:30-12:00)**

Guest speaker:

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

Tuesday, February 24 + Wednesday, February 25, 2026

STUDY DAYS – NO CLASS

Thursday, February 26, 2026

FINAL EXAM (10:30-13:30)