



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Government of Israel - 56103

Last update 26-10-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Political Science

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Assaf Shapira

Coordinator Email: Assaf.Shapira1@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Assaf Shapira

Course/Module description:

The course aims to provide students of political science an introduction to the political system of Israel. The course touches upon the political history of the State of Israel, description and analysis of the state's authorities and powers, and the party system.

Course/Module aims:

1. Gaining knowledge and understanding of basic principles of the political system in Israel;
2. Understanding of the institutional, legal and historical principles that guide the actions of state authorities;
3. Enhancing the ability to understand and analyze the different contexts of political events.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. To become familiar and understand seminal events as well as political decisions that have shaped the political system of the State of Israel;
2. To analyze historical and political processes through the aid of different sources and methods;

Attendance requirements(%):

70

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, class discussions, term paper and a final exam.

Course/Module Content:

The Roots of Israeli Democracy.
Electoral System.
The Knesset.
The government and the president of the state.
Parties.
T₁₇ Constitutional framework.
Patterns of participation in elections.
Political representation.

*Civil Service.
Local government.
Evaluation of Israeli Democracy.*

Required Reading:
see the list in Hebrew

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:
*Written Exam % 75
Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports
/ Forum / Simulation / others 25 %*

Additional information:
An updated syllabus will be published in course website (Moodle).