



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

THE STATE OF ISRAELI DEMOCRACY - 56313

Last update 21-10-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: political science

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr Gayil Talshir

Coordinator Email: msgayil@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 14.10-15.10

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Gayil Talshir

Course/Module description:

The seminar provides a critical analysis of the contested ideas, concepts, policies and narratives in contemporary Israeli society.

Course/Module aims:

To provide analytical tools in reading Israeli society through the struggle for ideas between different actors, institutions and narratives.

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

- Understanding key narratives in Israel society in 2015 elections*
- Working within crisis of democracy theory to shed light on Israeli democracy*
- Experiencing independent research*

Attendance requirements(%):

80% + active participation

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, workshop, team-work, discussions and presentations.

Course/Module Content:

- Crisis of democracy theory*
- Party system change*
- Identity politics analysis*
- Actors: parties, NGOs, NSMs*
- Narrative analysis*
- Ideological analysis*
- Policy analysis*

Required Reading:

ACRI, The Association of Civil Rights in Israel, 2013, Anti-Democratic Initiatives, in <http://www.acri.org.il/en/category/democracy-and-civil-liberties/anti-democratic-legislation/> (accessed 27/7/2013).

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Arian Asher, Michael Philipov and Anna Knepelmann. 2009. *Israel Democracy Index*, Jerusalem: Israel Democracy Institute.

Avital Tomer, 2013. "Kendel on Concentrationalism" 29/5 *Calcalist*

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Beetham, David, and Kevin Boyle. 1995. *Introducing Democracy*. Cambridge: Blackwell.

Ben-Basat, Avi and Momi Dahan (eds). 2009. *The Political Economics of Municipalities*, Israeli Democracy Institute, Jerusalem.

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Bühlmann, Mare, Wolfgang Merkel, and Bernhard Weißels. 2008. *Democracy Barometer*. Zürich: NCCR.

Collier, David, and Steven Levitsky. 1997. "Democracy with Adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research." *World Politics* 49: 430-451.

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Croissant, Aurel, and Wolfgang Merkel, eds. 2004. *Special Issue of Democratization: Consolidated or Defective Democracy? Problems of Regime Change*. 1115.

Crouch, Colin. 2004. *Post-Democracy*. Cambridge: Polity.

Cutright, Philips. 1963. "National Political Development: Its Measures and Analysis". *American Sociological Review* 28: 253-264.

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Dahrendorf, Ralf 1992. „Die Zukunft der Bürgergesellschaft“, In: Bernd Guggenberger and Klaus Hansen, eds. *Die Mitte. Vermessungen in Politik und Kultur*. Opladen: Leske + Budrich: 74-83.

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Dalton Russell C., David Farrell and Ian McAllister. 2011. *Political Parties and*

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- Talshir Gayil (forthcoming) "Social Protest in view of the Crisis for Israeli Democracy: Between Economics, Politics and Identity", *Politika*, Jerusalem.
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Yiftachel, Oren. 2006. Ethnocracy: Land and Identity Politics in Israel/Palestine. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
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Yona Yossi and Avia Spivak (eds.) 2012. It Can Be Different. Tel Aviv: Kav Adom.

Additional Reading Material:

Israeli election books
Israeli democracy index

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 10 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 50 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 20 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

In addition there is an option for a seminar paper