Syllabus

Security and Democracy in Israeli Politics - 56896

Last update 14-01-2016

**HU Credits:** 2

**Degree/Cycle:** 2nd degree (Master)

**Responsible Department:** political science

**Academic year:** 0

**Semester:** 2nd Semester

**Teaching Languages:** Hebrew

**Campus:** Mt. Scopus

**Course/Module Coordinator:** Dr. Amir Bar-Or

**Coordinator Email:** abaror@mail.huji.ac.il

**Coordinator Office Hours:** Monday 1500-1545
(by appointment)

**Teaching Staff:**
Dr. Amir Bar-Or

Course/Module description:

Issues that highlight the clash between democratic values and Israel's security challenges.

Course/Module aims:

The course focuses on:
1. Defending Israel's democracy in light of the overarching security challenges and their impact on the shaping of Israeli society.
2. The way Israeli democracy copes with the national security challenge posed by an indigenous Arab minority.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
1. To identify Israel's security challenges.
2. Critically analyze how the state's institutions cope with the security challenges, some of which endanger the very existence of the state and others that impede the functioning of Western-style democracy.
3. Evaluate the centrality of Israel's security issues.

Attendance requirements(%):

Attendance compulsory in accordance with university regulations (100%)

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lectures and class discussions

Course/Module Content:
1. Presentation of course subject and theoretical background: national security and democracy.
2. The nature of Israeli democracy.
3. The development of Israel's security problem.
4. The centrality of security in Israeli life in Israeli society and the army.
5. State security and Palestinian Arabs living in Israel - main issues:
   a. The establishment of martial law after the of the War of Independence; expulsion plans from state lands during the 1950s.
   b. A fifth column?
   c. The decision not to institute compulsory military service.
6. The tension between democracy and national security select issues:
   a. Changes in civil society versus conservatism in the security establishment.
   b. Trial and the rule of law versus changing security challenges
   c. Media and freedom of expression versus security censorship
   d. Civilian supervision over security.
   e. The connection between rule of law in the territories and government in Israel.
7. Course summary: Is Jewish democracy on the defense in Israel?

Required Reading:

Additional Reading Material:
Upon request

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 80 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
During the course the lecturer may decide, for academic reasons, on changes in the study program, including assignments that appear in the syllabus.