Syllabus

ISRAELI POLITICS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE - 56961

Last update 12-09-2013

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Political science

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Reuven Hazan

Coordinator Email: reut.itzko@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Wed 9:15-10:15

Teaching Staff: Prof Reuven Hazan
Course/Module description:
This course examines Israeli politics in comparison to other democracies, on a theoretical and conceptual level as well as at a practical level. The course focuses on three main axes: 1. a review of the relevant academic literature of the main factors in comparative politics in general and in Israeli politics in particular; 2. a comparative analysis of the institutional arrangements adopted in Israel in comparison to other countries; 3. the presentation and discussion of the most recent research on Israeli politics in academia, at research institutes and in the political arena aimed at advancing proposals for political reform and assessing them comparatively.

Course/Module aims:
To understand Israeli politics in-depth and to familiarize the students with the strengths and weaknesses of Israeli politics. To have the students locate the institutional arrangements in Israeli politics in a comparative context. To have the students know the professional literature relevant for central issues of Israeli politics and to critically examine suggestions for political reform in Israel.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
1. To differentiate between different institutional arrangements based on classifications in the academic literature
2. To compare between the Israeli political institutions and those of other western democracies
3. To point out the strengths and the weaknesses of the Israeli political system
4. To examine in-depth various suggestions for political reform in Israel
5. To critically discuss suggestions for political-institutional reform in Israel based on theoretical knowledge and comparative empirical examples.

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Mostly frontal lectures, but also several presentations by the students in small groups.

Course/Module Content:
1. Introduction: the comparative approach to politics
2. Is Israel unique?
3. Political reform
4. Regime type: presidential or parliamentary
5. The regime type in Israel: current status and suggestions for reform
6. Political parties
7. Political parties in Israel: current status and suggestions for reform
8. Electoral systems
9. The electoral system in Israel: current status and suggestions for reform
10. Candidate selection
11. Candidate selection in Israel: current status and suggestions for reform
12. The legislature, the executive and the relations between them
13. The legislature, the executive and the relations between them in Israel: current status and suggestions for reform
14. Coalitions and accountability
15. Coalitions and accountability: current status and suggestions for reform

Required Reading:

116-135.


pp. 87-105.


Additional Reading Material:
See course website.

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 60 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 20 %

Additional information:
This syllabus is temporary and is therefore not binding. The final binding syllabus is the one uploaded to the course website.
The grade will be calculated as follows: exam based on the reading material 20% (students must get a passing grade); attendance, participation and presentation 10% to 30%; final paper 50% to 70%.
For a full list of the course’s reading materials, including both the mandatory and recommended reading, see the course website in the Moodle system.
During the course the lecturer can, based on his academic judgment, make changes in the course, including changing the assignments described in the syllabus or adding new assignments.