

## **TOPICS IN COMPARATIVE POLITICS II: JEWS AND POWER**

Faculty of Arts and Science, Department of Political Science, Fall 2023

POL 378 H S

**Olga Talal, PhD**

**Lectures:** Thursday, 3-5pm  
**Location:** Sydney Smith Hall 1083  
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The rich human fabric comprising contemporary Israeli society is divided along multiple identity-based lines. It is divided nationally (between Jews and Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel), religiously (between religious and secular Jews, Muslims and Christians), and ethnically (between Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jews). Other salient identity markers separate new immigrants from the older ones and city dwellers from residents of peripheral areas - within state borders and outside them, located in Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. In this course, students will learn about the complex web of cross-cutting identities within Israeli society and how these identities are (re)shaped by power. We will pay special attention to the interrelations of political power, identity politics, and public policy in Israel.

### TEXTS:

Online course readings are accessible through Quercus.

### FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS:

One two-hour lecture per week. Course requirements include quizzes, an essay proposal, a final essay, and a final exam.

Quizzes	30% (3 quizzes, 10% each)
Essay proposal	10%
Essay	35%
Final test	25%

Quizzes (30%) – Students will take three (3) quizzes on course readings and lecture materials. Quiz materials are not cumulative. These are short (10 min) quizzes administered **in class** at the beginning of lectures. The quizzes will present multiple-choice questions and true/false statements.

Essay proposal (10%) – The proposal provides an opportunity to receive feedback and prepare students for writing the final essay. It is the roadmap for developing your final paper, and it includes several key components: A title, a research question, a topic description (one paragraph), a main argument (one paragraph), a brief literature review (two paragraphs) and a list of academic references (at least seven). The essay proposal should be no longer than 2 pages, not

including references, double-spaced, font size 12, and standard margins (1 inch). **Essay proposals are due in class on February 1st.** Please sign and date your proposal prior to submission.

Research essay (35%) - The research paper should be approximately 10 pages long, double-spaced, with font size 12, and standard margins (1 inch). **The papers are due in class on March 21st.** The penalty for late submission is 5% a day, for a maximum of 7 days after the due date, at which point, late submissions will no longer be accepted, except for medical or personal emergencies and only with proper documentation.

I encourage you to research topics that truly interest you. You may develop one of the topics surveyed in the course, a relevant topic to the course materials not covered in the syllabus, or a case study that explores a topic relevant to the course content. Given your discretion in choosing the topic of the final essay, I strongly recommend you seek my advice on your research focus and additional research materials.

Students are advised to exercise best practices for saving their essay drafts (on personal computers, clouds, external hard drives, etc.) before submitting the essay in class on the due date. The student should keep a copy of the essay until the marked essay is returned and the grade posted. Please sign and date your essay prior to submission.

Final test (25%) – The final test will take place during the last lecture of the term (December 5th). It will include essay questions and draw on materials from course readings and lectures. Late tests will not be administered except for medical or personal emergencies and only with proper documentation.

PREREQUISITES: 1.0 credit in POL/ JPA/ JPF/ JPI/ JPR/ JPS/JRA courses

### Plagiarism and *Ouriginal*

According to U of T's Code of Behavior on Academic Matters: "It shall be an offence for a student knowingly: (d) to represent as one's own any idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e. to commit plagiarism....(e) to submit, without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere."

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and all cases of plagiarism will be sent to the Dean's Office for appropriate action. For further information on the University of Toronto's policy regarding plagiarism, you may look at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation website (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>).

Students are strongly advised to keep rough and draft work and hard copies of their essays and assignments before handing in to *Original*. These should be kept until the marked assignments have been returned.

### COMMUNICATION POLICY

Students are encouraged to visit during office hours on Tuesdays between 2 and 4 pm. You are also welcome to email the lecturer with **short** questions and requests at [olga.talal@utoronto.ca](mailto:olga.talal@utoronto.ca). Please allow up to 2 business days for a response.

Course announcements, readings, and all other information will be posted on Quercus at:

<https://idpz.utorauth.utoronto.ca/idp/profile/SAML2/Redirect/SSO?execution=e2s1>

### ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: [disability.services@utoronto.ca](mailto:disability.services@utoronto.ca) or <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>.

### ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES:

It is the policy of the University of Toronto to arrange reasonable accommodation of the needs of students who observe religious holy days other than those already accommodated by ordinary scheduling and statutory holidays. Students have a responsibility to alert members of the teaching staff in a timely fashion to upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences. Instructors will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, examinations or other compulsory activities at these times. If compulsory activities are unavoidable, every reasonable opportunity should be given to the students to make up work that they miss, particularly in courses involving laboratory work. When the scheduling of tests or examinations cannot be avoided, students should be informed of the procedure to be followed to arrange to write at an alternate time.

## COURSE READINGS

### Introduction (January 11<sup>th</sup>)

- Nachmias, D. (2009). Israel Studies: An Anthology National Government Institutions. <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/israel-studies-an-anthology-national-government-institutions>

## Part I - The Great Divides

### National divide - Jews and Palestinian Arabs in Israel (January 18<sup>th</sup>)

- Peleg, Ilan, and Dov Waxman. *Israel's Palestinians: the conflict within*. Cambridge University Press, 2011. Chapter 1 “Palestinians in Israel: Separate and Unequal” pp.19-46.
- Ghanem, As’ad “Understanding the Divide: Arabs and Jews in Israel”, in *Handbook of Israel: Major Debates : Major Debates*, Walter de Gruyter GmbH, 2016. *ProQuest Ebook Central*, <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/lib/utoronto/detail.action?docID=4718381>.

### Jewish subdivisions - Ashkenazi, Mizrahi, Russian-speaking, and Ethiopian (January 25<sup>th</sup>)

- Smootha, Sammy, 'The Jewish Ethnic Divide and Ethnic Politics in Israel', in Reuven Y. Hazan and others (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society* (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 8 Oct. 2020), [https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190675585.013.12\\_update\\_001](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190675585.013.12_update_001), accessed 25 July 2023.
- Khanin, Vladimir (Ze'ev). "Russian-Jewish Political Experience in Israel: Patterns, Elites and Movements." *Israel Affairs* 17.1 (2011): 55-71.
- Uri Ben-Eliezer (2008) Multicultural society and everyday cultural racism: second generation of Ethiopian Jews in Israel's ‘crisis of modernization’, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 31:5, 935-961, DOI: [10.1080/01419870701568866](https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870701568866)

### Arab subdivisions - Muslim, Christian, Druze, Circassian, and Bedouin (February 1<sup>st</sup>)

- Arik Rudnitzky, "Arab Citizens of Israel Early in the Twenty-First Century", INSS memo 150, October 2015. **Chapter 1 (pp.13-18), Chapter 3 (pp.57-66).** [http://www.inss.org.il/uploadImages/systemFiles/memo150%20\(6\).pdf](http://www.inss.org.il/uploadImages/systemFiles/memo150%20(6).pdf)
- Nisan, M. 2010. The Druze in Israel: Questions of identity, citizenship, and patriotism. *The Middle East Journal*, 64(4), 575-596. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/400811/pdf>

### Religious divides (February 1<sup>st</sup>)

- The Status-Quo Agreement - <https://israeled.org/resources/documents/david-ben-gurion-and-the-status-quo-agreement-jewish-laws-to-be-protected-in-the-coming-state/>
- The Proclamation of the State of Israel - <https://main.knesset.gov.il/en/about/pages/declaration.aspx>
- Yedidia Z. Stern, "Religion, state, and the Jewish identity crisis in Israel", Center for Middle East Policy, the Brookings Institute, 2017. [https://www.brookings.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2017/03/cmep\\_20170331\\_jewish-identity-crisis.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2017/03/cmep_20170331_jewish-identity-crisis.pdf)
- Cohen, Asher, 'Religion, Society, and Politics in Israel', in Reuven Y. Hazan and others (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society* (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 7 June 2018), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190675585.013.10>

### **Settlers** (February 8<sup>th</sup>)

- Haklai, Oded. "Religious—Nationalist Mobilization and State Penetration: Lessons from Jewish Settlers' Activism in Israel and the West Bank." *Comparative Political Studies* 40, no. 6 (2007): 713-739
- David Newman. 'From *Hitnachlut* to *Hitnatkut*: The Impact of Gush Emunim and the Settlement Movement on Israeli Politics and Society,' *Israel Studies* vol. 10, 3, fall 2005, 192-224.

### **Multiculturalism – reality and idea** (February 15<sup>th</sup>)

- Ram, Uri, 'Sociopolitical Cleavages in Israel', in Reuven Y. Hazan and others (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society* (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 8 Oct. 2020), [https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190675585.013.8\\_update\\_001](https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190675585.013.8_update_001), accessed 25 July 2023.
- Kook, Rebecca B, 'Multiculturalism and Identity Politics,' in Joel Peters and Rob Geist Pinfold (eds.), *Understanding Israel: Political, Societal and Security Challenges* (2019), London: Routledge. pp.119-133.

### **Reading Week – No Class (February 22nd)**

## **Part II – Power, Public Policy, and Diaspora**

### **Israel – The Jewish State** (February 29<sup>th</sup>)

- Galnoor, Itzhak, 'Israeli Democracy under Stress' in Joel Peters and Rob Geist Pinfold (eds.), *Understanding Israel: Political, Societal and Security Challenges* (2019), London: Routledge. pp. 29-45.

- Neuberger, Benjamin, 'From Liberal Democracy to Ethnocracy: Different Conceptions of Israel's Democracy' in Reuven Y. Hazan and others (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society* (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 7 June 2018), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190675585.013.9>, pp.705-740.

### **Integration of Palestinian Arabs (March 7<sup>th</sup>)**

- Ephraim Lavie, "Arabs in Israel: Between Integration and Alienation", INSS [http://www.inss.org.il/uploadimages/Import/\(FILE\)1283331796.pdf](http://www.inss.org.il/uploadimages/Import/(FILE)1283331796.pdf)
- Galnoor, Itzhak, 'Arab Citizens in the "Jewish" State of Israel', in Reuven Y. Hazan and others (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society* (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 7 June 2018), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190675585.013.9>

### **Israel and the Jewish Diaspora (March 21<sup>st</sup>)**

- Waxman, Dov, 'Israel and the Jewish People,' in Joel Peters and Rob Geist Pinfold (eds.), *Understanding Israel: Political, Societal and Security Challenges* (2019), London: Routledge. pp.265-279.
- Sucharov, Mira, 'Israel and the Jewish Diaspora', in Reuven Y. Hazan and others (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Israeli Politics and Society* (2021; online edn, Oxford Academic, 7 June 2018), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190675585.013.31>

### **Studying Israel – Course conclusions (March 28<sup>th</sup>)**

- Rebecca Kook, "Between Uniqueness and Exclusion: The Politics of Identity in Israel in Comparative Perspective," in Michael Barnett, ed., *Israel in Comparative Perspective: Challenging the Conventional Wisdom* (Albany, New York: SUNY, 1996), 199-225.
- Alexander Yakobson, "Jewish Peoplehood and the Jewish State, How Unique?: A Comparative Survey," *Israel Studies* 13:2 (2008), 1-27.

### **Final test (April 4<sup>th</sup>)**