FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR: MES/JS190
CURRENT ISSUES IN ISRAELI POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Fall 2004

TT 4:00-5:15
S319 Callaway

Instructor:
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Content: Israel has been facing continuous turmoil since September 2000. This situation has caused rapid changes in Israeli politics and society/societies. This course examines in depth current issues facing Israeli society from the center to the margin. Topics range from divisions in Israeli society, consensus in the society, Arabs in Israel, Mizrahim in Israeli society, the Arab/Israeli conflict, foreign workers in Tel Aviv, languages and language policy in Israel, army life, women in Israel, current state and local politics and more. Students will read scholarly materials but will also regularly read electronic Israeli press in English and will keep a journal. Classes will be devoted to specific topics, however, current issues will be dealt with regularly. Class discussions are the main mode of instruction.

Texts:

Chapters and parts from:

*The New York Times*
*HaAretz*, English Edition at [www.haaretzdaily.com](http://www.haaretzdaily.com) or in Hebrew at [www.haaretz.co.il](http://www.haaretz.co.il)
Several articles

**Course Requirements:**

- No prerequisite. All students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions and activities. They are also expected to attend a few out-of-class activities such as 4 films and several lectures. Only two absences are allowed; further absences will result in lowering the grade.

- Students will have to keep a journal with entries written twice a week on the learnlink conference concerning current events in Israel. There will be three quizzes, a novel report, a bibliographical assignment, and a short research paper.

- Students will be divided into four groups and will present on topics of their choice.

**Composition of Final Grade:**

- class participation 10%
- class presentation 10%
- journal 15%
- bibliographical assignment 10%
- research paper 20%
- novel report 15%
- quizzes 20%

**Tentative schedule:**

**Thursday, August 26**

*Introduction to current Israeli experience*

**FILM: The Wonder of Israel [a critical viewing]**

**Tuesday, August 31**

*Israeli timeline overview I*

**Readings:** Reich/Kieval, Chapter 2 (pp. 37-64)
Thursday, September 2  
**Israeli timeline overview II**  
*Readings: Reich/Kieval, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-36)*

Tuesday, September 7  
**Israeli timeline overview III**  
*Readings: Rogan/Shlaim, Chapters 2 and 4*

**Wednesday, September 8**  
**FILM: Sallah** (212 Candler, 7pm)

Thursday, September 9  
**Israeli timeline overview IV**  
*Readings: Reich/Kieval, Chapters 5 and 6 (pp. 139-202)*

Tuesday, September 14  
**Israeli timeline overview V**  
*Readings: Arian, Chapters 1 and 2 (pp. 1-41)*  
**Presentation I**

Thursday, September 16  
Rosh Hashana – **no class**

Tuesday, September 21  
Bibliographical work at the library (Ms. Tarina Rosen)  
Meet in **312 Woodruff Library**

Thursday, September 23  
**Israeli timeline overview VI**  
*Readings: Shapira*  
**Presentation II**

Tuesday, September 28  
Review; **Quiz #1**

Thursday, September 30  
Sukkot – **no class**

Tuesday, October 5  
**Israeli political structure I**  
*Readings: Arian, Chapter 9 (pp. 237-279) and Chapter 12 (pp. 351-383)*  
**Bibliographical Assignment Due**

Thursday, October 7  
Shemini Atzeret – **no class**

Tuesday, October 12  
Fall Break – **No class**

Thursday, October 14  
**Israeli political structure II**  
*Readings: Arian, Chapters 5 and 6 (pp. 103-178)*  
**Presentation III**

Monday, October 18  
**FILM I: Mid Summer Blues** (212 Candler, 7pm)
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 19</td>
<td>Israeli political structure III</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Arian, Chapters 7 and 8 (pp. 178-237)</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 21</td>
<td>The Israeli “left”</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Arian, Chapter 12 (pp. 351-382)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, October 26</td>
<td>The settlement issue and the Israeli “right”</td>
<td><strong>FILM:</strong> <em>The Power and the Glory</em></td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Sprinzak, Chapters 5 and 8</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 28</td>
<td>Israeli nuclear history</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> TBA</td>
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<td><strong>Novel Report due</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 2</td>
<td>Different segments of Israeli society</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Ben-Rafael; Arian, Chapter 2 (pp. 19-42); Oppenheimer; Chetrit; Shohat</td>
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<td>Thursday, November 4</td>
<td>The Ethiopian Jews in Israel</td>
<td><strong>Guest Lecturer:</strong> Professor Don Seeman</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong> TBA</td>
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<td><strong>Quiz #2</strong></td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 9</td>
<td>Religion and politics in Israel</td>
<td><strong>Guest Lecturer:</strong> Mr. Jakub Kakietek</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Schiff, Chapters 2 and 3 (pp. 37-87); Kamil</td>
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<td>Thursday, November 11</td>
<td>The Israeli army and its impact on the society</td>
<td><strong>Guest Lecturer:</strong> Ms. Noa David</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong> TBA from Lomsky-Feder, E. and Ben-Ari, E.; Bloom</td>
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<td>Thursday, November 11</td>
<td><strong>FILM:</strong> <em>Yossi and Jager</em> (212 Candler, 7pm)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 16</td>
<td>The Arab citizens of Israel</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Landau, pp. 1-11; Lustick, pp.1-28</td>
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<td>Thursday, November 18</td>
<td>Excerpt from the Israeli TV: an interview with Edward Said</td>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Rogan and Shlaim, chapter 9 (pp. 206-219)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, November 23</td>
<td><strong>FILM:</strong> <em>Palestine is Still the Issue</em></td>
<td><strong>Discussion</strong></td>
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Quiz #3

Thursday, November 25  Thanksgiving Holiday - No class

Tuesday, November 30  History of Israeli songs
   Readings:

Tuesday, November 30  FILM: *A Trumpet in the Wadi* (7pm)

Thursday, December 2  Languages and language policy in Israel
   Readings: Spolsky/Shohamy, pp. 1-64

Tuesday, December 7  Summary

Thursday, December 9  Research Paper due
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY


Schiff, G. S. Tradition and Politics: The Religious Parties of Israel.

Schnall, D. S. Radical Dissent in Contemporary Israeli Politics: Cracks in the Wall.


NOVEL REPORT

As part of the course, please select one of the following novels, read it carefully and submit a report in which you connect the novel to issues in Israeli politics and society by October 28, 2004.

Aron Appelfeld. The Conversion
   _____ The Iron Tracks
   _____ Katerina
   _____ Unto the Soul

David Grossman. Be my Knife
   _____ The Zigzag Kid
   _____ The Book of Intimate Grammar
   _____ See Under, Love

Batya Gur. Murder Duet: A Musical Case
   _____ Murder on the Kibbutz
   _____ Literary Murder: A Critical Case

Sami Michale. A Trumpet in the Wadi
   _____ Victoria
   _____ Refuge

Amos Oz. Black Box
   _____ My Michael

Meir Shalev. Esau: A Novel
   _____ Four Meals
   _____ The Loves of Judith

A.B. Yehoshua. A Journey to the End of the Millennium
   _____ Mr. Mani
   _____ The Lover
   _____ A Late Divorce
   _____ Open Heart