

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
POLITICAL SCIENCE 437  
POLITICS IN ISRAEL

Professor Harold M. Waller  
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Office Hours: TTh 11:45-12:15 and T 4:15-5:15

Fall 2017  
TTh 2:35 – 3:55  
Leacock 14

Required Books

Brent E. Sasley and Harold M. Waller, *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society*

Course Pack (Available in Bookstore)

Note: Assigned readings in the textbook are required. Other readings are marked R (required) or S (supplementary). Generally the required readings are included in the Course Pack.

Part I

HISTORICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

September 5

The Jewish People Before Zionism

S & W, Ch. 1

Reich, R: Ch. 1.

Elazar and Cohen, S: pp. 1-26.

September 7-12

Zionism: Theory and Practice

S & W, Ch. 2

Avineri, R: pp. 3-13, 88-100. S: Ch. 7, 17.

Dieckhoff, R: Ch. 5.

Hertzberg, R: Selections on Ahad Ha-am, Rabbi Kook,

S: Ben-Yehudah and Borochoy.

Reinharz, R: Ch. 2. S: Ch. 5..

September 14- 19

Yishuv Politics During the Mandate Period

S & W, Ch. 3.

Reich, R: Ch. 2.

Migdal, R: Ch. 3.

Shapira, S: Ch. 4 – 5.

September 21

Creation of the State: 1948-1950

S & W, Ch. 4.

Shapira, S: Ch. 6

September 26      Consolidation and Political Development After 1950  
Troen, R: Ch. 1, 7.  
Shapira, R: Ch. 8 – 9.  
Medding, *Founding*, S: pp. 134-176.

PART II                      THE CONTEXT OF ISRAELI POLITICS

September 28      Society and Political Culture  
S & W, Ch. 5  
Elazar, *Building*, R: pp. 185-206.  
Diskin, R: Ch. 1.

October 3            Israel and the Diaspora  
Elazar, *People and Polity*, R: pp. 112-133, S: pp. 134-152.  
Elazar & Cohen, S: pp. 279-303.

October 5-10        Religion and Politics  
S & W, Ch. 6  
Liebman & Don-Yehiya, *Religion and Politics*,  
R: pp. 31-40, S: Ch. 2 and 4.  
Yedgar, R: Ch. 6.  
Ravitzky, S: pp. 11-40.  
Elazar, *Building*, S: Ch. 7.

October 12-17      Political Parties and the Party System  
S & W, Ch. 9  
Arian and Shamir, 2009, R: pp. 41-68.  
Mendilow, R: Ch. 1, 7. S: Ch. 2, 5, and 6.  
Cohen, S: pp. 1-27.

October 19-26      The Electoral System and Voting Behavior  
S & W, Ch. 8 and 10  
Arian & Shamir, 2009, R: 1-18 and 275-298.  
Arian & Shamir, 2006, R: pp. 15-44 and 69-102.  
Rahat, R: Ch. 4.

October 31           Interest Groups  
S & W, Ch. 11  
Drezon-Tepler, R: pp. 47-78, S: pp. 79-102.  
Yishai, R: pp. 211-246, S: pp. 247-280.  
Ben-Porat, S: Ch. 6.

November 2         Minority Politics  
S & W, Ch. 7  
Dowty, R: Ch. 9.

Arian and Shamir, 2009, R: pp. 93-122.  
Arian and Shamir, 2006, R: pp. 159-188.  
Cohen-Almagor, S: *Democracy*, Ch. 12.

### PART III

### INSTITUTIONS

November 7

The Knesset  
S & W, Ch. 12  
Cohen-Almagor, *Institutions*, R: Ch. 8.  
Elazar, *Constitutionalism*, S: pp. 219-231.

November 9-14

The Government  
S & W, Ch. 13  
Ben-Porat, R: Ch. 3.  
Cohen-Almagor, *Institutions*, S: Ch. 7.  
Elazar, *Constitutionalism*, S: pp. 232-248, pp. 260-262.

November 18-21

The Legal System  
S & W, Ch. 14  
Elazar, *Constitutionalism*, R: pp. 249-254, 133-142.  
Cohen-Almagor, *Institutions*, R: Ch. 9.  
Meydani, R: Ch. 5.  
Troen, S: Ch. 3.

### PART IV

### THE STATE OF THE ISRAELI SYSTEM

November 23

Political Economy  
S & W, Ch. 15.  
Rubin, R: Ch. 6.

November 28

Public Policy: Security and Foreign Relations  
S & W, Ch. 16  
Peri, *Generals*, R: Ch. 3 and 10.

November 30

Assessment of the System and Prospects for Change  
S & W, Ch. 17 – 18.  
Rubinstein, R: pp. 168-184, S: pp. 156-167.  
Hazony, R: Ch. 2 and Epilogue.  
Dowty, R: Ch. 10.  
Sprinzak, *Brother*, S: Ch. 7-8.  
Shindler, R: Ch. 14.  
Peleg, Samuel, R: “Right of Center: Rearranging the Israeli Political Map,” *Israel Studies Review*, 30: 130-133 (2015).

ITEMS ON RESERVE OR AVAILABLE ONLINE

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|---|---|
| Arian, Asher and<br>Shamir, Michal (eds.)     | <i>The Elections in Israel, 2009</i>  |
| Arian and Shamir                              | <i>The Elections in Israel, 2006</i>  |
| Avineri, Shlomo                               | <i>The Making of Modern Zionism</i>   |
| Ben-Porat, Guy                                | <i>Israel Since 1980</i>  |
| Cohen, Mitchell                               | :”Labor Zionism, the State, and Beyond,” <i>Israel Studies Review</i> , 30 (Winter 2015), 1-27. |
| Cohen-Almagor, Raphael                        | <i>Israeli Democracy at the Crossroads</i>  |
| Cohen-Almagor, Raphael                        | <i>Israeli Institutions at the Crossroads</i>   |
| Dieckhoff, Alain                              | <i>The Invention of a Nation</i>  |
| Diskin, Abraham                               | <i>The Last Days in Israel</i>  |
| Dowty, Alan                                   | <i>Jewish State: A Century Later</i>  |
| Drezon-Tepler, Marcia                         | <i>Interest Groups and Political Change in Israel</i>   |
| Elazar, Daniel J. (ed.)                       | <i>Constitutionalism: The Israeli &amp; American Experiences</i>                                |
| Elazar, Daniel J.                             | <i>Israel: Building a New Society</i>   |
| Elazar, Daniel J.                             | <i>People and Polity</i>  |
| Elazar, Daniel J. and<br>Cohen, Stuart        | <i>The Jewish Polity</i>  |
| Hazon, Yoram                                  | <i>The Jewish State</i>   |
| Hertzberg, Arthur                             | <i>The Zionist Idea</i>   |
| Liebman, Charles<br>and Don-Yehiya, Eliezer   | <i>Religion and Politics in Israel</i>  |
| Medding, Peter                                | <i>The Founding of Israeli Democracy, 1948-1967</i>   |
| Mendilow, Jonathan                            | <i>Ideology, Party Change, and Electoral Campaigns in Israel, 1965-2001</i>                     |
| Meydani, Assaf                                | <i>The Israeli Supreme Court and the Human Rights Revolution</i>                                |
| Peri, Yoram                                   | <i>Generals in the Cabinet Room</i>   |
| Rahat, Gideon                                 | <i>The Politics of Regime Structure Reform in Democracies</i>                                   |
| Ravitzky, Aviezer                             | <i>Messianism, Zionism, and Jewish Religious Radicalism</i>                                     |
| Reich, Bernard                                | <i>A Brief History of Israel</i>  |
| Reinharz, Jehuda and<br>Shapira, Anita (eds.) | <i>Essential Papers on Zionism</i>  |
| Rubin, Barry                                  | <i>Israel: An Introduction</i>  |
| Shapira, Anita                                | <i>Israel: A History</i>  |
| Shindler, Colin                               | <i>A History of Modern Israel</i>   |
| Sprinzak, Ehud                                | <i>Brother Against Brother</i>  |
| Troen, S. Ilan and<br>Lucas, Noah             | <i>Israel: The First Decade of Independence</i>   |
| Yedgar (Yadgar), Yaacov                       | <i>Secularism and Religion in Jewish-Israeli Politics</i>                                       |

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Mid-Term Examination	20%
Formal Final Examination	40%
Term Paper (about 15 pages, due Nov. 28, hard copy only)	40%

Failure to submit the term paper or to write the Final Examination will result in a grade of J for the course.

Please note that the option of additional work is not available. There will be a supplemental examination. According to Senate regulations, instructors are not permitted to make special arrangements for final examinations. Please consult the Calendar, section 4.7.2.1, General University Information and Regulations, at [www.mcgill.ca](http://www.mcgill.ca).

### LECTURE SCHEDULE

Lectures will be from 2:35 to 3:55 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion during the lecture period.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures. (See [www.mcgill.ca/integrity](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity) for more information.

### POLICY STATEMENTS

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or French any written work that is to be graded.

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.