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Jindal School of International Affairs
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JINDAL CENTRE FOR ISRAEL STUDIES (JCIS)

HUJI Visiting Faculty Seminar

ISRAELI POLITICS AND SOCIETY

by



Professor Menachem Hofnung

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Biography

Menachem Hofnung is teaching at the Department of Political Science of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Professor Hofnung was a President of the Israeli Law and Society Association (2007-2010), Chair of the International Political Science Association Research Committee on Political Finance (2006-2009), President of the Association for Israel Studies (AIS) (2013-2015) and Chair of the Department of Political Science of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2015-17). Professor Hofnung has served as the Academic Director of the Joint Graduate Program in Public Policy and Law at the Hebrew University; Academic Director, The Gilo Center for Democracy and Civic Education. Menachem Hofnung served as member of the National Commission on Campaign Finance Reform (Levin Commission, 2000, and was a member of the National Commission on the Structure of Governmental Administration in Israel (Magidor Commission, 2006). Menachem Hofnung's research covers national security and civil liberties, constitutional politics and comparative political finance. Professor Hofnung has served in the Israeli Defense forces as a combat officer and retired from reserve duty at the rank of Major. Professor Hofnung also taught at the University of California at Berkeley and Irvine, San Francisco State University, the University of Florida at Gainesville, Moscow State University and was a Research Fellow at the Center for Law and Society at the University of California at Berkeley and Sydney University, Australia.

Course Details

Teaching: 15 Hours
Credits: Two Credits

Venue: O.P. Jindal Global University
Sonipat-131001, NCR of Delhi

Duration: 12 – 21 February 2018

Monday: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Venue: Class room No. 10)

Tuesday: 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm (Venue: Class room No. 44)

Wednesday: 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm (Venue: Class room No. 44)

Thursday: 8:00 pm – 10:00 pm (Venue: Class room No. 44)



Jindal Global Law School
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 Liberal Arts & Humanities**
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Course Description

Course description

The course aims to provide students an introduction to the political system of Israel. The course touches upon the political history of the State of Israel, description and analysis of the state's authorities and powers and provides an overview of Israeli Society.

The course is organized into three parts. The first part establishes the historical and political background against which contemporary Israeli politics plays out. The second part deals with structure and powers of the state's branches of government. The third part of the course focuses on a number of crucial cleavages and debates within Israeli society – along political, religious, ethnic, and national lines. Although this course is not about the Arab-Israeli or Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, their influence on Israeli politics and society will be addressed.

Course Requirements

Our class time will be split between lectures and discussions. Students are expected to attend all classes having read the assigned readings and ready to participate in class discussions.

Please note: For each class, you will be assigned required readings and further suggested readings. Further readings will not be a part of the assessment but will help you understand the content better.

Assessment: 2500 word essay to be submitted via turn it in on by March 22, 2018

Text Book

- Brent E. Sasley and Harold M. Waller. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Further suggested readings and podcasts

You should also keep up on current events relating to Israel. Among others, the following Israeli daily newspapers (English editions) should be useful:

- <http://haaretz.com>
- <http://www.ynetnews.com>
- <http://www.jpost.com/>

A good source of information is TLV1, an English-language podcast network based in Tel Aviv. TLV1 shows are aimed at engaging local and international audiences on topics in Israel. <https://tlv1.fm>

Course Schedule

The dates for subjects are approximate. You should plan to have all the readings completed for a topic by the date we begin class meetings about it.

Monday, February 12, 2018: The Origins of Israeli Polity:

- 1) **Jewish Community under the British Mandate.**
- 2) **State Building, 1947-1949.**

Sasley and Waller. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society*, pp. 1-54.

Further recommended reading

- Horowitz Dan. "Dual Authority Polities", *Comparative Politics*, 14(3), 1982, pp. 329-349.
- Colin Shindler, *A History of Modern Israel*. pp. 38-77
- Declaration of Independence:
<http://www.israel.org/mfa/go.asp?MFAHoohbo>

Tuesday, February 13, 2018: The Government of Israel

- 1) **The Legislature and the Executive:**
- 2) **The Court System (civil courts, religious, labor, military and specialized courts)**

- Sasley and Waller. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society*, pp. 187-230.
- Please familiarize yourself with the Knesset Homepage, (English)
<http://www.knesset.gov.il/main/eng/engframe.htm>
- Recommended: For translation of important Supreme Court decisions see:
<http://elyon1.court.gov.il/eng/home/index.html>

Wednesday, February 14, 2018: Judicial Review and Constitutional Politics

- Barak Aharon, "The Role of the Supreme Court in a Democracy" *Israel Studies* 3 (1998), pp. 6-29.
- Menachem Hofnung & Mohammed S. Wattad, "The Judicial Branch in Israel" (2018, yet unpublished).

Additional Recommended Reading

- Translation of Israeli Basic Laws can be found at:
https://www.knesset.gov.il/description/eng/eng_mimshal_yesodi.htm
- Hirschl Ran, "The Political Origins of Judicial Empowerment through Constitutionalization: Lessons from Israel's Constitutional Revolution", *Comparative Politics*, 33(3), 2001, pp. 315-335.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/829019>

Thursday, February 15, 2018: The Electoral System and Political Parties

- Sasley and Waller. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society*, pp. 114-169.

Additional Recommended Reading:

- Party Politics, Special issue: Israeli Party Politics: New Approaches, New Perspectives. <http://journals.sagepub.com/toc/ppqa/14/6>

Monday, February 19, 2018: Politics of Religion and Ethnic Identity

- 1) **Politics of Religion;**
- 2) **Arabs in a Jewish State.**

- Sasley and Waller. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society*, pp. 72-113
- Neuberger, Benyamin. 'Religion and State in Europe and Israel', *Israel Affairs*, 6(2), (1999) pp. 65- 84.

Recommended Readings:

- Sa'di, Ahmad H. "Catastrophe, Memory and Identity: Al-Nakbah as a Component of Palestinian Identity", *Israel Studies*, 7(2), 2002. Available online:
<http://muse.jhu.edu/article/14503/pdf>
- Alan Dowty, "Is Israel Democratic? Substance and Semantics in the Ethnic Democracy Debate", *Israel Studies* 4(2) 1999, pp 1-15. Available online at <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/30245508.pdf>

Tuesday, February 20, 2018: National Security, Civil Liberties, Democracy and Occupation

- Sasley and Waller. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society*, pp. 244-256.
- Hofnung, *Democracy, Law and National Security in Israel*, 1996, pp. 213-260.

Recommended Reading

- Meydani Assaf and Shlomo Mizrahi, "The politics and strategies of defending human rights: the israeli case", *Israel Law Review*, 39(1) Spring 2006, pp. 39-56.
- Levy, Yagil. 2014. "The Paradox of Recruitment," *Defence Studies* 14(2), pp. 216-232.
- Pedahzur Ami and Holly McCarthy, "Against all odds – the paradoxical victory of the West Bank settlers: interest groups and policy enforcement", *Israel Affairs* 21(3), 2015, p. 443–461
- Colin Shindler, *A History of Modern Israel*. pp. 227-267.

Wednesday, February 21, 2018:

- 1) **The Palestinian issue and question of the State's borders?**
 - 2) **Overview and Wrap up**
- Eiland Giora, *Regional alternatives to the two-state solution*, BESA Center, Memorandum, 2010.
 - Sasley and Waller. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society*, pp. 268-286.

To enrol for this seminar course please write email to
rdgupta@jgu.edu.in, (Dr. Rohee Dasgupta, Jindal Centre for Israel Studies (JCIS), JSIA)
swarnima@jgu.edu.in (Swarnima Singh, JSIA Office)