

2014-2015

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CYCLE  
MASTER

# DESCRIPTIF ENSEIGNEMENT

**INTITULE DU COURS :** Israeli Politics and the Arab Spring

*COURSE'S TITLE :*

**ENSEIGNANT(S) :** Professor Itai SENED

**FONCTION(S) :**

**TYPE DE COURS :**  SEMINAIRE D'OUVERTURE  SEMESTRE 2

## RESUME DU COURS / OBJECTIFS

The course places current Israeli and Middle Eastern political issues and events within the context of existing political theories. In the course we will discuss the politics and ideology of pre-state Israel and the foundation of the state, the creation of modern Israeli political institutions, electoral competition, and government coalitions. Finally, we will cover some chapters of the current Middle Eastern Politics that are often referred to as "The Arab Spring" and seem to be of particular current interest.

## SYLLABUS / TARGETS

The course will emphasize that: (1) Israeli and Middle Eastern Politics must be understood in light of the culture and history of the Jewish and the Arab people who make the bulk of its population. (2) Politics must be taught and understood from a theoretical perspective. It is not enough to count events. We must provide a theoretical account of the logic behind them.

The Course is divided into 5 chapters: *Theory, Contemporary Israel, Electoral Competition, The Palestinians and The Arab Spring*. At the end of each chapter we will ask each student to submit a memo. In addition, there will be a midterm and a final in this class. The midterm will count for 30% of the final grade. The memos and class participation will count for 30% of the grade. The remainder 40% of the final grade will be determined by the final exam.

## **PLAN / SEANCES :**

### **Introduction**

*1<sup>st</sup> Meeting: Introduction to Middle Eastern Realities*

#### **1. The Theory**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: Introduction to Political Science and Rational Choice Theory*

*3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: Rational Choice Theory I: The Collective Action Problem*

*4<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Rational Choice Theory II: The Collective Choice Problem*

*5<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Resource Allocation and the Study of Comparative Politics*

#### **2. Contemporary Israel: Ideology, Culture, Political Economy and Institution**

*6<sup>th</sup> Meeting: The Road to Statehood: An Institutional Perspective*

*7<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Society Culture and Ideology: An Historic Perspective*

*8<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Contemporary Israeli Society and Culture*

*9<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Political Economy, The Knesset and Government*

*10<sup>th</sup> Meeting: The Judiciary System of Israel Its Origins and Structure*

*11<sup>th</sup> Meeting: The Histadrut, its origin rise to power and fall*

*12<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Local Government, the military and other Interests*

#### **3. Electoral Competition: Theory and Evidence**

*13<sup>th</sup> Meeting: The Electoral System and Political Parties:*

*14<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Elections and Coalition Formation*

*15<sup>th</sup>: Electoral Reform and its aftermath.*

#### **4. The Palestinians and the Arab Spring**

*16<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Introduction to Middle Eastern Politics: A Short History*

*17<sup>th</sup> Meeting: The Palestinian Issue – Early Days: The Palestinian People*

*18<sup>th</sup> Meeting: The Peace Process and its Collapse*

#### **5. The 'Arab Spring'**

*19<sup>th</sup> Meeting: The Arab Spring*

*20<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Prospects for the Future: The Role International Organizations and Iran, Egypt and Turkey*

## **BIBLIOGRAPHIE :**

Asher Arian: *Politics in Israel: The Second Republic; 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition*, ISBN: 978-1-56802-932-0

Bickerton and Klausner: *A History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition) ISBN: 9780205753383

Schofield, Norman and Itai Sened: *Multiparty Democracy: Elections and Legislative Politics*

ISBN-10: 0521456584

Doron, Gideon and Itai Sened: *Political bargaining: theory, practice and process*, ISBN: 0761952519