

PSCI 3700.002, Israeli Politics
TR 3.30-4.50p, GAB 317
Syllabus, Fall 2015

Dr. Elizabeth Oldmixon
oldmixon@unt.edu
Office: Wooten Hall 156
Office hours: W 9.00-10.00a, R 1.00-3.00p, and by appt.

Course Description

This course investigates the government and politics of modern Israel. We begin with the historical and intellectual foundations of the state, and move to Israel's political institutions and social cleavages. Finally, we discuss the relationship between Israel and the United States. Two major themes should be kept in mind. The first is that security concerns are paramount—in spite of expectations to the contrary. The second is that while Israel is a Jewish state, it is incredibly diverse—including on the basis of religion. Students should be warned: this is not a class on Middle East politics. Please note that the instructor reserves the right to amend this syllabus.

Communications

Office hours are listed above and students are welcome to stop in any time the door is open. Email messages will be answered within 24 hours, unless the message is received on a weekend. A note on etiquette: please sign your emails with your name and include an appropriate salutation. (Hint: you cannot go wrong with, “Hi, Dr. Oldmixon.”)

A Blackboard page is maintained for this course at <https://learn.unt.edu/>. Students are responsible for checking Blackboard regularly for assignments and notices. Some course assignments will be submitted in Blackboard and student grades will be posted in Blackboard.

If you wish to receive course-related reminders via email or text, you may sign up to receive notifications at this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/israelipo> or text @israelipo to 81010.

Required Reading

Mahler, Gregory S. 2011. *Politics and Government in Israel: The Maturation of a Modern State*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, Inc.

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard.

Grading

Your course grade will be based on the following components.

Component	Percent of Course Grade	Due Dates
Map Quiz/In-class activities	15	TBD
Empirical research paper	35	Sept 18, Oct 16, Nov 20
Examinations (2 x 25)	50	Oct 27, Dec 8

Course grades will be rounded to the nearest percent and assigned according to the following scale: 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, <60% F.

Empirical Research Paper Over the course of the semester, students will write an empirical research paper. It will be due in several stages. On September 18, students will turn in a hypothesis, identifying the dependent and independent variables, as well as a short paragraph explaining the expected relationship. On October 16, students will turn in a short literature review and brief explanation of how they will test their hypothesis using the Israeli National Election Study data. On November 20, students will turn in the completed research paper. Additional information is available on Blackboard. Students are encouraged (but not required) to work on this project in groups of no more than three. All assignments are due via Blackboard by noon.

Exams There will be two exams. Exams will include a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. No make-up exams will be given unless you have a university-excused absence or a family or medical emergency, which is documented and verifiable. Students who will miss an exam due to travel with UNT athletic teams or performance groups, or for observance of a religious holiday should make arrangements to take their exams prior to their absences. On exams days, students may not 1) wear hats, sunglasses, or headphones; 2) leave the exam room, even to use the lavatory; 3) answer a phone call; 4) touch, use, or keep in view any electronic devices or class related materials; 5) take the exam after the first person has left.

Map Quiz/In-class Activities During the semester there will be several in-class quizzes and activities. The first will be a map quiz on September 1. The remainder of the activities/quizzes will be unannounced and may not be made up in case of absence.

Course Schedule

The dates for subjects are approximate. Unless otherwise instructed, you should plan to have all the readings completed for a topic by the date we begin the topic.

Part 1. The Development and Context of Israeli Politics

Science and Single Cases (Aug 25)

- No assignment

Ethnic Democracy...is that a thing? (Aug 27)

- Smootha, "Ethnic Democracy: Israel as an Archetype"
- Ghanem et al., "Questioning 'Ethnic Democracy': A Response to Sammy Smootha"

Zionism and the Idea of Israel (Sept 1, 3)

- Mahler, pp. 13-23, 47-55
- Herzl, "A Solution to the Jewish Question"
- Pinsker, "Auto-Emancipation"

State Formation (Sept 8, 10)

- Mahler, pp. 23-44
- Dowty, pp. 51-60
- The Hussein-McMahon Correspondence, No. 4

- The Balfour Declaration
- Proclamation of the State of Israel

Social and Economic Context (Sept 15, 17)

- Mahler, pp. 55-71, 73-81, 85-88
- The Status Quo Agreement
- Kop and Litan, “Israel’s Four Schisms”
- Rubin, “The New Face of Jewish Terror”
- Bronner, “Anger and Compassion for Arab Justice Who Stays Silent During Zionist Hymn”

Part 2. Governance and Politics

Institutional Politics (Sept 22, 24)

- Mahler, chapter 4, pp. 117-131
- Kershner, “Friends' Clash Reflects Battle Over Israeli Court”
- Kershner, “Israel Parliament Elects Ex-Speaker as President to Succeed Peres”
- Rosner, “The Tyranny of the Minority”

Representation and Electoral Politics (Sept 29, Oct 1)

- Mahler, pp. 131-138, 141-155, chapter 7
- AP, “Israel's Netanyahu Struggles to Govern With Narrow Majority”
- London, “The Evolution of Israeli Politics”
- Rudoren, “Bringing Ultra-Orthodox Traditions to Israel's Parliament, Olive Branch in Hand”

Policymaking (Oct 6, 8)

- Mahler, pp. 81-84, 88-92, 207-214, 222-236
- N.A., “Netanyahu Pivots to Asia”
- Dowty, “Israeli Foreign Policy and the Jewish Question”
- Kershner, “Israeli Cabinet Rejects Measure to Ease Jewish Conversions”

The Territories and the Peace Process (Oct 13, 15, 20)

- Mahler, chapter 10 and 11
- The Palestinian National Charter
- Susser, “Israel, the Arabs and Palestine: Facing Crucial Decisions”

Midterm Exam (Oct 27)

- The exam will be given in the computer-testing center, Sage 330.

Part 3. Major Social Divisions

National Differences (Oct 22, 29)

- Waxman, “Israel’s Other Palestinian Problem: the Future Vision Documents and the demands of the Palestinian minority in Israel”
- Rekhess, “The Evolvement of an Arab–Palestinian National Minority in Israel”
- A.B. Yehoshua, “Facing the Forests”

Religious and Ethnic Differences among Jews (Nov 3, 5, 10)

- Dowty, “The Communal Split”
- Dahan-Kalev, “You’re So Pretty—You Don’t Look Moroccan”
- Dowty, “Religion and Politics”
- AP, “After Deadly Attack, Israel Arrests Extremist in Crackdown”

Part 4. Israel and the United States

Mass Attitudes (Nov 12)

- Cavari, “Six Decades of Public Affection: Trends in American Public Attitudes toward Israel”

Government Relations (Nov 17, 19)

- Holbrooke, Richard. “Washington’s Battle Over Israel’s Birth”
- Nathanson and Mandelbaum, “Aid and Trade: The Economic Relationship Between the United States and Israel, 1948-2010”
- Kershner, “Iran Deal Denounced by Netanyahu as ‘Historic Mistake’”

No class (Nov 24, 26)

Diaspora Relations (Dec 1, 3)

- Waxman, “The Pro-Israel Lobby in the United States: Past, Present and Future”
- Pew Research Center, “A Portrait of Jewish Americans,” chapter 5
- Ben-Gurion and Blaustein, “An Exchange of Views”

Final Exam (Dec 8, 1.30-3.30p)

- The exam will be given in the computer-testing center, Sage 330.

Class Policies

For course drop information, see schedule at essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/scheduleclass.html.

Policies on academic dishonesty are available at <http://www.vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>.

Laptops Research suggests that using laptops in class is negatively associated with student success. I advise against using laptops, but it is up to you. The larger problem is that laptop use negatively affects student success for the people sitting around laptop users. Laptop users should take care not to distract their peers.

Late Assignments If for some substantial reason you cannot turn in your assignments at the scheduled time, you should contact me prior to the due date to request an extension. Assignments turned in late but on the due date will be eligible for 90% of the total points; assignments turned in the day following the due date will be eligible to receive 80% of the total points; assignments turned two days following the due date will be eligible to receive 70% of the total points. Assignments turned in three days following due date or later will not be eligible to receive any credit. Please note that assignments may be turned in early.

Department of Political Science Statement on Acceptable Student Behavior Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students

engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>.

Departmental Statement of ADA Compliance The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation.

Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Department of Political Science Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism The UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline defines cheating and plagiarism as the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying others' tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating without authority with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.

Normally, the minimum penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a grade of "F" in the course. In the case of graduate departmental exams, the minimum penalty shall be failure of all fields of the exam. Determination of cheating or plagiarism shall be made by the instructor in the course, or by the field faculty in the case of departmental exams. Cases of cheating or plagiarism on graduate departmental exams, theses, or dissertations shall automatically be referred to the departmental Graduate Studies Committee.

Cases of cheating or plagiarism in ordinary coursework may, at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department Chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it.

In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

Department of Political Science Policy on Academic Integrity The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at: http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf.

Violations of academic integrity in this course will be addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT The UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16 “Student Standards of Academic Integrity.”