

ISRAELI MEDIA
Syllabus
Fall 2015

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides students with an in-depth understanding of current political, social and religious developments in Israel by reading and analyzing Israeli media including newspapers, web sites, blogs, TV clips and more. During the first part of the course students learn the development of the Israeli media as well as the connection between different newspapers to different political parties and religious sectors and the role they play in contemporary political and social debates. Through the study of historical texts and current media, students gain an understanding of Israel's complex multi-party political system, key political actors, the economic structure and the differences between the religious and political sectors in Israeli society.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To gain a deeper understanding of Israeli history, society and politics
- To develop insight into Israeli identity and national and regional conflicts through analyzing Israeli newspapers and other sources of local media
- To develop familiarity with major political players and other political and social powers shaping Israel today
- To understand the media's role in local politics and the relations between different political parties and different media outlets

READING MATERIAL:

Required articles:

- The Uniquely Awful Role of Sheldon Adelson in the Israeli Election, Gershon Gorenberg:
<http://prospect.org/article/uniquely-awful-role-sheldon-adelson-israeli-election>
- What happens in Vegas this weekend could decide the next Republican presidential nominee, Kira Lerner
<http://thinkprogress.org/election/2015/04/24/3650498/gop-sheldon-adelson-primary/>

- Sheldon Adelson Winning Israel's Newspaper War, P.J. Tobia, PBS:
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/when-fair-and-balanced-came-to-israel/>
- Comparing the Israeli and US Electoral Systems:
<http://embassies.gov.il/washington/NewsAndEvents/Pages/Israel-Elections-2013-Differences-between-Israeli-and-US-Electoral-System.aspx>
- The problem with Israel's electoral system, Gidi Grinstein, The Jewish Journal:
http://www.jewishjournal.com/opinion/article/the_problem_with_israels_electoral_system
- Israel's Election System Is No Good, Professor Bernard Lewis, The Wall Street Journal:
<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB123854102203575623>
- Israel's political parties: <http://www.israelection2015.org/parties/>
- Everything you need to know about the Israel Hayom law, Anshe Pfeffer, Haaretz:
<http://www.haaretz.com/news/national/.premium-1.626053>
- The media, military and modern Israel, Professor Yoel Cohen, The Jewish Chronicle:
<http://www.thejc.com/comment-and-debate/comment/102892/the-media-military-and-modern-israel>

Required books:

1. Asher Arian, Politics in Israel: The Second Republic, Washington D.C.: CQ Press, 2005
2. Colin Schindler, A History of Modern Israel, Cambridge University Press, 2008. Pages: 123-351
3. Sachar, Howard, A History of Israel: from the Rise of Zionism to Our Time, Knopf, New York, second edition in paperback, 2003, pages: 279-309, 429-510, 831-875, 1003- the end.
4. Gershon Shafir and Yoav Peled, <http://www.haaretz.co.il/news/politi/.premium-1.2504567> Being Israeli: The Dynamics of Multiple Citizenship, Cambridge University Press, pages: 213-348

* In addition, students are required to follow the Israeli media on a regular basis and to be ready to discuss in class major current events and political developments. Recommended Israeli sources:

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

GRADES:

The final grade for this course will consist of the following percentages:

Test: 40%

Participation*: 40%

Presentations: 20%

***Participation:** Students are expected to come to class prepared and to participate in classroom discussion. During the course, each student will present at least one article and will lead a discussion about a current subject covered by the Israeli media.