



HNRS 2033

Politics of Modern Israel

Spring 2022 MWF 10:30-11:20
Instructor Dr. Leonard Ray (lray2@lsu.edu)

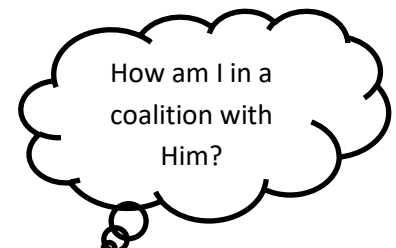
- Who were the Zionists, and what Israel did they imagine?
- What does it mean to be a democratic & Jewish State?
- What is the role for Arab citizens of a Jewish state?
- Are we headed for a two state or a one state “solution”?
- How will Israel maintain its regional nuclear monopoly?
- Can the diverse anti-Netanyahu coalition survive?

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the political system of the modern state of Israel. After a review of the history of the Zionist movement and the foundation of the state of Israel, the course will focus on the social, economic, and demographic evolution of the country since 1948. These developments help explain the diversity of political parties which compete in legislative elections, and comprise coalition governments of varying (in)stability. (Whether there will be an early election during the course of the semester is always a possibility). The course will cover quirks of the Israeli system, such as the use of judicial review in the absence of a written constitution, the use of primaries in a PR system, and the failed experiment with the direct election of the Prime Minister. We will conclude with discussions of some of the ongoing controversies in Israeli politics, including what exactly it means to be a Jewish State, external relationships, and the future of the territories occupied in 1967. We close with a return to the Zionist writers of the late 19th century and ask whether they would recognize the state whose creation their writings inspired.



Issawi Frej, Arab MK, Meretz party
And Minister of Regional Cooperation



Ayelet Shaked, MK & Minister of the
Interior