



ecolipso

Women and Politics in Israel

Prof. Esther Hertzog

Second Semester (B)

Thursday 12:00-14:00

The academic course will focus on gender power relations in Israeli local and national politics and their connection to gender issues in Israel in general. It will discuss the background, processes and mechanisms of women's marginalization in political power centers and will examine various interpretations for this phenomenon. Historical processes and changes in women's political rights and status since the beginning of the 19th century will be explored through critical lenses. The students will also be exposed to the ongoing struggles, led by women's organizations, for women's equality and political rights.



Registration is open!!

For more information contact your
department secretary.

The department of Social Sciences

Academic Year: 2021

Name of course	Women in Israeli Politics	Code of course	
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Name and title of the course lecturer	Prof. Esther Hertzog
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Email address	Bental4@gmail.com
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Course duration and credit	One semester 2 credit points
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Teaching methods
Online lectures
Supervising assignments
Hosting guest lecturers
Watching videos

Description of the course

The course will focus on gender power relations in Israeli local and national politics and their connection to gender issues in Israel in general. It will discuss the background, processes and mechanisms of women's marginalization in political power centers and will examine various interpretations for this phenomenon. Historical processes and changes in women's political rights and status since the beginning of the 20th century will be explored through critical lenses. The students will also be exposed to the ongoing struggles, led by women's organizations, for women's equality and political rights.

Aims of the course

1	Introducing the students with concepts, theories and analyses related to women's organizations, feminist political ideology, women's political leadership and leaders, women's struggles for equal representation.
2	Encouraging thinking about women in politics in comparative terms relating to historical events, political standpoints, socio-economic backgrounds etc.

3	Developing analytical skills with regard to organizational behavior of women in politics and of women's organizations.
4	Experiencing reading and comprehension of academic literature and opinion columns related to the subject of the course.

Requirements (students' duties)

1	Attending at least 60% of the classes.
2	Becoming acquainted with the relevant literature discussed in class.
3	Preparing an academic article for presentation in class, supported by a media piece.
4	Submitting an essay about a chosen female politician, relating to various perspectives and processes of women's roles, positions, struggles and achievements in Israeli politics.

Topics and contents of the course

Topic	No. of meetings	No. of item
Background: The Israeli political scene and Women in Israel	2 meetings	1-3
Women's struggle for representation and political rights before Statehood	3 meetings	4-6
Israeli women's participation and representation - characteristics and trends	4 meetings	7-10
Women's representation in local government	3 meetings	11-13
Women's organizations and politics	2 meetings	14-16

Evaluation means

Title of assignment	Percentage of mark	Passing mark
Reading an article, presenting it in class and submitting it in writing	20% of the final mark	60
Submitting an essay on a female political figure, and reporting about it in class	80% of final mark	60

List of topics and academic sources

Background: The Israeli political scene and Women in Israel

1. Arian, Asher. 2005. *Politics in Israel: The Second Republic*. Congressional Quarterly, chapter 12: 413-447.
2. Chazan, [Naomi](#). 2011. "Gender, Power and Politics in Israel: Translating Political Representation into Meaningful Empowerment for Women", *Palestine-Israel Journal of Politics, Economics and Culture*, 17 (3&4)/ Women and Power <http://www.pij.org/details.php?id=1368>
3. Herzog, Hannah. 2004, 'Women in Israeli society', in U Rebhun, CI Waxman (eds.) *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns*, Hanover: Brandeis University Press, 195-220.

Women's struggle for representation and political rights before Statehood

4. Hertzog, Esther. 2009. "Political Parties in the Yishuv and Israel." *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*. 2009. Jewish Women's Archive. <https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/political-parties-in-yishuv-and-israel>
5. Herzog, Hannah. 2007. "Politics in the Yishuv and Israel". *Jewish Women: a Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*.
6. Shilo, Margalit. 2009. "Sara Azaryahu." *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*, Jewish Women's Archive. <http://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/azaryahu-sara>

Israeli women's participation and representation - characteristics and trends

7. Daoud, Suheir Abu Oksa. 2009. *Palestinian Women and Politics in Israel*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press.
8. Rahat, Gideon, and Reut Itzkovitch-Malka. 2012. "Political Representation in Israel: Minority Sectors vs. Women." *Journal of Representative Democracy*, 48 (3): 307–319.
9. Shapira, Assaf., Ofer Kenig., Chen Friedberg and Reut Itzkovitch-Malka. 2016. The representation of women in Israeli politics: A comparative perspective. *Policy Paper*. Jerusalem: The Israel Democracy Center.
10. Yishai, Yael. 2005. Between the Flag and the Banner: Dilemmas in the Political Life of Israeli Women", in E. Fuchs (ed.) *Israeli Women's Studies*. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 190-207.

Women's representation in local government

11. Benita, Rinat, and Shelly Mizrahi Simon. 2018. Equal representation for women in local government, *The Knesset Research and Information Center*, March, 5, 2018. <https://main.knesset.gov.il/EN/activity/mmm/MMMEngDoc050318.pdf>
12. Kenig, Ofer. 2018. Women in politics: The 2018 municipal elections are a golden opportunity. *The Israel Democracy Institute*, March 6, 2018. <https://en.idi.org.il/articles/20988>
13. **Kraft, Dina. 2018. Wave of Arab women running in local elections in Israel. *Abraham Initiatives*, October, 16, 2018.** <https://abrahaminitiatives.org/a-seat-at-the-table-wave-of-arab-women-running-in-local-elections-in-israel/>

Women's organizations and politics

14. Abramovitch, Dorit. 2008. *Jewish and Jewish-Palestinian Feminist Organizations in Israel: Characteristics and Trends*. Tel Aviv: Heinrich Boell Stiftung, 7-105.
15. Hertzog, Esther. 2013. "Women's Parliament – The Israeli Experience", *Advancing Women in Leadership*, 33, 166-176.
16. Herzog, Hanna. 2008. "Re/visioning the Women's Movement in Israel", *Citizenship Studies*, 12(3): 265-282.

List of media reports and articles

- Avivi Tamuz. 2019. Female representation in Israeli politics. *Fikra Forum*.
<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/fikraforum/view/female-representation-in-israeli-politics>
- Balf Noa. 2019. Parties and voters – Why women politicians in Israel cannot catch a break. *Enheduanna*, A blog of the *Middle East Women's Initiative*.
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/parties-and-voters-why-women-politicians-israel-cannot-catch-break>
- Bernard, Joy. 2020. Ready for action and hopeful for change: Meet blue and white's 4 new female MKs. *The Times of Israel*, December, 9, 2020.
<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ready-for-action-and-hopeful-for-change-meet-blue-and-whites-4-new-female-mks/>
- Eglash, Ruth. 2020. Four Israeli women who've broken new political ground. *The Washington Post*, August, 7, 2020
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/08/07/four-israeli-women-who-have-broken-new-political-ground/?arc404=true>
- Gedalya-Lavy, Einat. 2019. Israel elections: Who women vote for and how it's shifting. *The Conversation*, September, 17, 2019
<https://theconversation.com/israel-elections-who-women-vote-for-and-how-its-shifting-123109>
- Kavaler, Tara. 2020. Israel's new gov't: More female ministers, Quality of posts stagnant. *The Media Line*, May, 20, 2020.
<https://themedialine.org/people/israels-new-govt-more-female-ministers-quality-of-posts-stagnant/>
- Lanski naama. 2020. Are women being pushed out of Israeli politics? *Israel Hayom*. February, 2, 2020.
<https://www.israelhayom.com/2020/02/12/are-women-being-pushed-out-of-israeli-politics/>
- Kenig, Ofer. 2017. Status of women in Israeli politics: The good, the bad and the road to full equality. *The Jerusalem Post*, March 8, 2017.
<https://www.jpost.com/opinion/status-of-women-in-israeli-politics-the-good-the-bad-and-the-road-to-full-equality-483566>
- Margit, Maya. 2018, Record Number of Women Elected In Israeli Municipal Elections. *The Media Line*, January, 11, 2018.
<https://themedialine.org/news/featured/record-number-of-women-elected-in-israeli-municipal-elections/>
- Saragusti, Anat. 2019. Women, security and Israeli politics – Going backwards. Heinrich Boll Stiftung. April, 3, 2019
<https://il.boell.org/en/2019/04/03/women-security-and-israeli-politics-going-backwards>

Yaron, Lee. 2020. On international women's day: A look at female representation in Israel's parliament. *Haaretz*, March, 8, 2020.

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/elections/.premium-on-international-women-s-day-a-look-at-female-representation-in-israel-s-parliament-1.8639931>