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## JINDAL CENTRE FOR ISRAEL STUDIES (JCIS)

### AJC-API Visiting Faculty Seminar

## M.A. (DLB): ISRAELI POLITICAL PARTIES AND THE PARTY SYSTEM

by



### Professor Csaba Nikolenyi

Professor of Political Science and  
Director, Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies  
Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

#### Bio of Course Instructor

Csaba Nikolenyi is Professor of Political Science and Director of the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies at Concordia University, Montreal. He received his PhD from the University of British Columbia in 2000. He is a former English Co-Editor of the *Canadian Journal of Political Science* (2006-11) and Chair of the Department of Political Science (2011-14). His research focuses on the comparative study of political parties, electoral systems and legislatures in post-communist democracies as well as on the political systems of Israel and India. Dr. Nikolenyi has published extensively in comparative politics journals and has authored two books: *Minority Governments in India: The Puzzle of Elusive Majorities*: (Routledge, 2012), and *Party Government and Institutional Design in Post-Communist Europe* (Oxford University Press, 2014). He was a Lady Davis Visiting Professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2007-8 and 2016-7), the Centre for European Studies at the Australian National University (2012), the Research School of the Social Sciences at the Australian National University (2015-6) and Science PO, Grenoble (2015). He is currently researching the politics of party switching and the history of "kalanterism" in the Knesset.

#### Course Details

**Credits: Two**  
**Teaching: Fifteen Hours total**

**Duration: 23 October 2017 – 10 November 2017**  
**Monday: 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**  
**Wednesday: 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
**Venue: Class room No. 10, O.P. Jindal Global University**



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## Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of party politics in Israel since the inception of the State to the present. We will examine the sociological and institutional conditions that have structured the pattern of party politics in a historical perspective. Following a brief overview of the evolution of political parties in the pre-State Yishuv, we examine the reasons for the emergence of a dominant party system (1949-1977), followed by balanced bipolarity (1981-92), leading to the current state of fragmented multi-partyism. Throughout the course we will draw on parallels with the development of the party system in India, which has followed a similar trajectory since Independence. In addition to the party system, the course also examines the development of democratization in intra-party politics, the evolution of participatory candidate and leadership selection practices, within the broader context of the personalization of politics in Israel. Students will be required to write a 2500 word research essay on a topic decided in consultation with the professors.

### Schedule of readings

#### 1. Political Parties and the Party System

- Doron, Gideon 2005. "Right as Opposed to Wrong as Opposed Left: The Spatial Location of "Right Parties" on the Israeli Political Map," 10 (3): 29-53.
- Gutmann, Emanuel 1963. "Israel," *Journal of Politics* 25 (4): 703-17.
- Hazan, Reuven. 2007. "Kadima and the Centre: Convergence in the Israeli Party System", *Israel Affairs* 13: 2, 266-88.
- Nikolenyi, Csaba. 2013. "The Israeli Party System in Comparative Perspective: A 'Unique Case' or Part of the West European Tradition?" in David Tal, ed., *Israeli Identity: Between Orient and Occident*. Routledge.
- Sasley, Brent and Harold Waller. 2017. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society* (Oxford University Press). Chapters 9 and 10, pp. 126-70

#### 2. Political Parties and the State

- Avnon, Dan. 1995. "Parties Laws in Democratic Systems of Government," *Journal of Legislative Studies* 1(2): 283-300.
- Hazan, Reuven. 1997a. "Executive-Legislative Relations in an Era of Accelerated Reform: Reshaping Government in Israel", *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 22 (3): 329-50.
- Nikolenyi, Csaba and Shaul Shenhav. 2015. "The Constitutionalization of Party Unity: The Origins of the Anti-Defection Laws in India and Israel", *Journal of Legislative Studies* 21 (3): 390-407.
- Rahat, Gideon. 2007. "Determinants of Party Cohesion: Evidence from the Israeli Parliament", *Parliamentary Affairs* 60 (2): 279-96.
- Sasley, Brent and Harold Waller. 2017. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society* (Oxford University Press). Chapters 12 and 13, pp. 187-218.

#### 3. Political Parties and the Electoral System

- Brichta, Avraham. 1988. "Forty Years of Struggle for Electoral Reform in Israel, 1948-88," *Middle East Review* 21 (1): 18-26.
- Diskin, Hannah and Abraham Diskin. 1995. "The Politics of Electoral Reform in Israel". *International Political Science Review* 16 (1): 31-45.
- Hazan, Reuven. 1996. "Presidential Parliamentarism: Direct Popular Election of the Prime Minister, Israel's New Electoral and Political System." *Electoral Studies* 15: 1 pp. 21-37.
- Rahat, Gideon and Reuven Hazan. 2005. "Israel: The Politics of an Extreme Electoral System," in Gallagher, Michael and Paul Mitchell. Eds. *The Politics of Electoral Systems*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 333-52.
- Sasley, Brent and Harold Waller. 2017. *Politics in Israel: Governing a Complex Society* (Oxford University Press). Chapter 8, 114-125.

#### 4. Political Parties and Institutional Change

- Diskin, A., "The New Political System of Israel", *Government and Opposition*, 34(4), (Autumn 1999), pp. 498-515
- Hazan, Reuven. 1996. "Presidential-Parliamentarism: Direct Popular Election of the Prime Minister, Israel's New Electoral and Political System," *Electoral Studies* 15 (1): 21-37.
- Hazan, Reuven, 2001. "The Israeli Mixed Electoral System: Unexpected Cumulative and Reciprocal Consequences." In Matthew S. Shugart and Martin P. Wattenberg, eds. *Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: The Best of Both Worlds?* New York: Oxford University Press. pp. 351-379.
- Kenig, Ofer, Gideon Rahat and Reuven Hazan. 2005. "The Political Consequences the Introduction and the Repeal of the Direct Elections for the Prime Minister," in Asher Arian and Michal Shamir, eds., *The Elections in Israel 2003*. Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, pp. 290-308.

#### 5. Intra-party Politics

- Balmas, Meital, Gideon Rahat, Tamir Sheafer and Shaul Shenhav. 2014. "Two Routes to Personalized Politics: Centralized and Decentralized Personalization", *Party Politics* 20 (1): 37-51.
- Hazan, Reuven. 1997b. "The 1996 Intra-Party Elections in Israel: Adopting Party Primaries", *Electoral Studies* 16 (1): 95-103.
- Hazan, Reuven. 1999. "Constituency Interests Without Constituency: The Geographical Impact of Candidate Selection on Party Organization and Legislative Behavior in the 14<sup>th</sup> Israeli Knesset, 1996-99", *Political Geography* 18: 791-811.
- Hofnung, Menachem. 2008. Unaccounted Competition: The Finance of Intra-Party Elections. *Party Politics* 14 (6): pp. 726-44.

To enrol for this seminar course please write email to  
rdgupta@jgu.edu.in, (Dr. Rohee Dasgupta, Jindal Centre for Israel Studies (JCIS), JSIA)  
swarnima@jgu.edu.in (Swarnima Singh, JSIA Office)