

# Women and Politics in Israel

POS 4931 (149F) / JST 3930 (1B32)

- ▶ Women in Israel have acted as bottom-up social actors directing their attentions and agendas, as individuals or as groups, to the society and to the state. They have acted as grassroots actors. And they have acted as state actors themselves, as politicians, judges, and the like. In addition, women have been the object of state politics, as in state policies on women's appropriate role in national movements, reproduction, religion, and the like.

In this course, we will analyze women's roles both as political agents and as objects of political policies and movements. The course will be organized into the following themes:

- ▶ Women, Fertility, and the State: The Politics of Reproduction
- ▶ Women and Political Mobilization: The Arab-Israeli Conflict among Orthodox and secular Israeli feminists
- ▶ Women and Politics: Gendering politics
- ▶ Religion, Gender, and Courts

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## Grade Distribution

<b>Term Paper (10 pages)</b>	
Final Draft	30%
Second Draft	10%
First Draft	5%
<b>Peer Review Comments (written and spoken)</b>	
Second Draft	5%
First Draft	5%
<b>Abstracts (Six total)</b>	25%
<b>Presentations: term paper ideas, &amp; drafts</b>	10%
<b>Participation</b>	10%

## Texts:

1. Ayala Emmett, *Our Sisters' Promised Land: Women, Politics, and Israeli-Palestinian Coexistence*. University of Michigan Press, 2003.
2. Susan Martha Kahn, *Reproducing Jews: A Cultural Account of Assisted Conception in Israel*. Duke University Press, 2000.
3. Esther Fuchs, ed. *Israel Women's Studies: A Reader*. Rutgers's University Press, 2005.
4. Patricia Woods, *Judicial Power and National Politics: Courts and Gender in the Religious-Secular Conflict in Israel*. First Edition. SUNY Press, 2008.

# University & course policies

- ▶ Attendance & makeup policy: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>. All assignments fall under this policy as well as the student honor code.
  - ▶ Late Policy: Late policy follows standard university policies. Try not to be late. If you are late, try not to disrupt class.
  - ▶ Cell phone and texting policy: Please do not text during class. You are allowed to have your cell phone on without sound in case of emergency.
  - ▶ Grade Disputes: Should a student wish to dispute any grade received in this class (other than simple addition errors, for which you should contact the instructor), the dispute must be in writing and be submitted to the instructor within a week of receiving the grade. The dispute should set out very clearly, the grade that the student believes the assignment should have received as well as why he or she believes that he or she should have received such a grade.
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# University & course policies

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- ▶ **Academic Honesty:** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honorcode/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.
- ▶ **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.
- ▶ **Counseling and Mental Health Resources:** Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352-392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).
- ▶ **Online Course Evaluation Process:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

# Student evaluations

- ▶ When it comes time to do student evaluations of this course, please evaluate the course based upon *what you learned*.
- ▶ Student evaluations will be conducted at the end of the course at: [www.evaluations.ufl.edu](http://www.evaluations.ufl.edu). Please remember to submit one for this course!
- ▶ If you liked the course, it also helps to let students know about the course on [www.ratemyprofessors.com](http://www.ratemyprofessors.com).

# Reading Schedule

## Religion, Gender, and Courts

- ▶ Week I (Aug. 25–29)
  - Woods, Preface and Chapter 1
- ▶ Week II (Sept. 1–5)
  - No classes Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – Labor Day
  - Woods, Chapters 2 and 3
- ▶ Week III (Sept. 8–12)
  - Woods, Chapters 4 and 5
- ▶ Week IV (Sept. 15–19)
  - Woods, Chapter 6
  - Presentations on initial research project idea

# Women and Politics: Gendering politics

All readings for this section of class are from Esther Fuchs, ed. *Israel Women's Studies: A Reader*

## ▶ Week V (Sept. 22 – 26)

- Dafna Izraeli, “The Zionist Women’s Movement in Palestine, 1911–1927”
- Deborah Bernstein, “Between the Public and Private Spheres in Pre–State Israel”
- Tamar Mayer, “From Zero to Hero: Masculinity in Jewish Nationalism”
- **First Draft of Paper Due – 3 – 5 pages**

## ▶ Week VI (Sept. 29 – Oct. 3)

- Nira Yuval–Davis, “Bearers of the Collective: Women and Religious legislation in Israel”
- Susan Sered, “The Ritualized Body: Brides, Purity, and the Mikveh”
- Yael Yishai, “Dilemmas in the Political Life of Israeli Women”
- **Written and spoken peer comments on first drafts of papers due – 2 pages**

## ▶ Week VII (Oct. 6 – 10)

- Ayala Emmett, “Citizens of the State and Political Women”
- No class Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> – Guest Speaker, Mu’taz al–Khatib, 12:50 – 2:00 p.m. 216 Anderson, extra credit for attendance. “Muslim Jurists, Legal Decrees, and Modern Nation States During Times of Uprising”

## ▶ Week VIII (Oct. 13 – 17)

- Orna Sasson–Levy, “Gender Performance in a Changing Military: Women Soldiers in ‘Masculine’ Roles”
- Orly Lubin, “The Woman as Other in Israeli Cinema”  
October 17 and 18<sup>th</sup>, Homecoming!

# Reading Schedule

## **Women, Fertility, and the State: The Politics of Reproduction**

- ▶ **Week IX (Oct. 20 – 24)**
  - Kahn, Introduction and Chapter 1
- ▶ **Week X (Oct. 27 – 31)**
  - Kahn, Chapters 2 and 3
- ▶ **Week XI (Nov. 3 – 7)**
  - Kahn, Chapters 4 and 5
  - **Presentations on progress on second drafts of papers**
- ▶ **Week XII (Nov. 10 – 14)**
  - No class Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veteran's Day
  - Kahn, Chapter 6 and Conclusion
  - **Second Draft of paper due – 6–8 pages**

# Reading Schedule

## **Women and Political Mobilization: The Arab-Israeli Conflict among Orthodox and secular Israeli feminists**

- ▶ **Week XIII (Nov. 17 – 21)**
  - Emmett, Introduction and “Citizens of the State and Political Women”
  - **Written and spoken peer comments on second round of papers due – 2 pages**
  
- ▶ **Week XIV (Nov. 24–28)**
  - Emmett, “On the Borders of Nations” and “A Socialist God of Justice”
  - November 26–28, Thanksgiving, No classes
  
- ▶ **Week XV (Dec. 1 – 5)**
  - Emmett, “East Confronts West” and “A Political Upheaval”
  - **Presentations on final drafts of papers**
  
- ▶ **Week XIV (Dec. 8 – 10)**
  - “When Local Meets Global” and “Conclusion”
  - **Presentations on final drafts of papers, if needed**
  - Conclusions
  
  - **Final Papers due Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> by 4:00 p.m. in 222 Anderson Hall – 10 pgs**