

**The American University of Beirut**  
**Department of Political Studies and Public Administration**

**PSPA 288 (D): Israeli Politics**

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The course provides a critical analytical survey of ideological roots and trends in Zionism and post-1948 Israel. The first part of the course examines the rise of Zionism as a modern nationalist ideology in the mid-to-late 19th century, and explores the political philosophy of its two principal currents (Socialist and Revisionist Zionism) in the first half of the 20th century. The second part situates ideological shifts and developments in the context of the construction of state and society in Israel, with special emphasis on the transformative

impact of the 1967 war. This sets the stage for the third part of the course, which focuses on the emergence of Jewish fundamentalism and the rise of the radical Right as a political and ideological force in Israeli politics after 1967. The fourth and final part uses the theme of citizenship as a means of reflecting the various ideological trends and struggles in contemporary Israel, exploring the particular cases of Mizrahi and Orthodox Jews, new immigrants, and Israeli-Palestinians.