

Emergencies and Crises in Israel

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The coronavirus pandemic thrust to the top of the public agenda the question of how countries and societies, in Israel and around the world, confront crises and emergencies. The course will discuss this issue through an analysis of the various crises and emergencies that Israel has faced throughout its history: terrorism, security threats, economic crises, political violence and most recently – the coronavirus pandemic.

Studying the different crises will enable a discussion of the fundamental issues in this field, including, among others: the tension between the necessity to protect national and public security and safeguarding democracy and human rights; the risk of governments abusing emergencies for political ends; how leaders handle emergencies; and the causes and contexts of political violence.

Course Requirements

- Attendance and contribution to discussion (10%)
- Summary Analysis (30%)

Each student will write a two-page summary critical analysis for one class session and present it in class. You may choose an item from the course reading list, or any academic article or book related to the class topic.

Below are some suggested questions to guide your responses and presentations: What do you see as the most valuable contribution, thesis, or idea(s)?; What aspects of the author's argument(s) do you find especially useful, well argued, or unconvincing? ; How do the argument/topic connect to the other assigned readings for that day or the course?

The goal of the assignment is to summarize your chosen article for your classmates and to demonstrate that you have carefully read and considered the readings with a critical eye. The class presentations are an opportunity to share candid impressions, questions, and thoughts that you find interesting, puzzling or contradictory, as well as an opportunity to engage with the class, provide your perspective, present additional information through research, reframing the discussion in some new way and push your own thinking further.

- Take-home exam (60%)

Reading list

Introduction: what is an Emergency?

Oren Gross & Aolin Ni Fionnuala, *Emergency Powers in Theory and Practice*, p. 17 – 65.

Arjen Boin, *Lessons from Crisis Research*, 6 INT'L STUD. REV. 165
(2004)

Democracy under emergency

Clement Fatovic, *Emergencies and the Rule of Law*, Oxford Research Encyclopedias, Politics (2019)

Arjen Boin, Paul 't Hart & Allan McConnell (2009) *Crisis exploitation: political and policy impacts of framing contests*, *Journal of European Public Policy* 16 (2004), p. 81-106

Lon L. Fuller *The Morality of Law* (1964) p.33-41

Economic crises

Orit Rozin, *The Rise of the Individual in 1950s Israel: A Challenge to Collectivism* (Brandeis University Press, 2011), p. 3-62

Maya Mark, *Just ring twice: Law and society under the rent control regime in Israel, 1948-1954*, *Journal of Israeli History: Politics, Society, Culture* (2013) 32(1) 29-50

Political Violence

Ehud Sprinzak, *The Emergence of the Israeli Radical Right*, *Comparative Politics* (1989) Vol. 21 (2), pp. 171-192

Samuel Peleg, *They shoot prime ministers too, don't they? Religious violence in Israel: Premises, dynamics, and prospects*, *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 20,3 (1997) 227-247

Maya Mark, *Political Violence, Political Ends: The Story of the Zealots' Underground* (to be published)

Health crises (Covid-19)

Tom Ginsburg & Mila Versteeg *The bound executive: Emergency powers during the pandemic*, *International journal of constitutional law*, 2021, Vol.19 (5), p.1498-1535.

Ittai Bar-Siman-Tov, *Covid-19 Meets Politics: The Novel Coronavirus as a Novel Challenge for Legislatures*, 8 THEORY & PRAC. LEG. 11, 25 (2020)