**Approaches and Schools of Thought in Political Science**

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Office Hours- By appointment

**General**

Since the advent of the polis in ancient Athens, the world, and with which the study of politics, has changed beyond recognition. Like today's world and the period of turmoil we live in, scientific and systematic research in politics today is characterized by disagreements on all issues - from the question whether research is scientific, through the question of what politics is, to controversies about the purpose of research, and to various ways of analyzing global phenomena such as immigration, the climate crisis and the growth of populism. The current course seeks to address the various perspectives that characterize political science, focusing on how the field addresses contemporary issues. This is to gain a better understanding of what politics is, how it should be explored, and also to better understand the global and local political realities.

1. **Concrete Goals of the course**
	1. Understanding what politics is.
	2. Discussing the fundamental-professional and disciplinary-methodological characteristics of the research of politics.
	3. Getting acquainted with the development of political scientific research in the west.
	4. Present and critically analyze schools and approaches to the research of politics in the modern era.
	5. Learn a variety of ways to think about national security in its various aspects from a political-research perspective.
2. **Grade Components**

Final assignment (100%) - Critical discussion of the concept of populism through the analysis of the US presidential election (see Appendix A). Will be submitted through the Teams system until **22.2.2021**.

1. **Requirements and Rights**
2. Read course materials in advance.
3. Office hours by appointment
4. **Group Processing**

In the last lesson we will discuss the issue of populism through group processing. Participation in the group processing is part of completing the course.

1. **Course Structure**

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| **Lesson** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Team Processing Assignments** |
| 1 | 21.12.20 | The study of antiquity vs. modern politics and what lies between them: We will learn about the similarities and differences between the study of politics in the past and of modern politics, we will discuss innovation and the importance of Machiavelli, Hobbes, Adam Smith, Carl Marx and Alexis de Tocqueville. | - |
| 2 | 04.01.21 | The birth of American Political Science, Behavioral Revolution, and the debate on methodology and power. | - |
| 3 | 11.01.21 | The theoretical approaches and the controversy as to whether there is such a thing as “the state”; Institutions and Agents: The Neo-Marxist, the Fukuyan and the new institutional approaches are once again arguing over the power and strength of the state today. | - |
| 4 | 18.01.21 | Realism vs. Liberalism: Realism, Real Politics, Neo-Realism, Normative Realism and Liberalism | - |
| 5 | 25.01.21 | A brief history of Israeli politics from three perspectives | - |
| 6 | 01.02.21 | Part One: PopulismPart Two: A Case Study: Is populism a danger to democracy in Israel? | Questions will be divided at the beginning of the lesson |

**Reading materials according to lesson progress**

**Lesson 1: Introduction**

Susser, Baruch. 1988. "Leo Strauss: the Ancient as Modern." Political Studies xxxvi 497-511.

**Lesson 2: American political science from the beginning to the end of the behavioral revolution**

Robert A. Dahl. 1993. "The Behavioral Approach in Political Science: An Address on a Monument to a Successful Protest." In: Baruch Zisser (editor) Political Science in Its Varieties: Thought and Approaches in the Study of Politics, pp. 42-23

**Lesson 3: Theoretical approaches and the controversy on “the state" question**

Theda Skocpol. 1985. "Bringing the State Back In."In: Peter Evans et. Al (eds.) Bringing the State Back In. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 3-37.

**Lesson 4: Realism vs. Liberalism**

Sleat M. Realism, Liberalism and Non-ideal Theory Or, Are there Two Ways to do Realistic Political Theory? Political Studies. 2016;64 (1):27-41.

**Lesson 5: A Brief history of Israeli politics from three perspectives**

Gershon Shafir & Yoav Peled (1998) "Citizenship and stratification in an ethnic democracy." Ethnic and Racial Studies, 21:3, 408-427

**Lesson 6: Populism**

Jan-Werner Mueller, 2018. "Can Liberalism Save Itself?" https://www.projectyndicate.org/onpoint/can-liberalism-save-itself-by-jan-werner-mueller-2018- 04?barrier=accesspaylog

**Appendix A: Course Summary Assignment (Weight from the grade: 100%)**

The purpose of the exercise: to use the different approaches learned in the course to examine the phenomenon of populism and to discuss the phenomenon.

The means: critical examination of an event (US Presidential election in November 2020 or three Prime Ministerial elections which took place in Israel between April 2019 and March 2020) and how it is presented in the media by at least two different authors.

Please note: You must touch on both the event and at least two analyses of the event. The analyses must be based on a theoretical approach according to your choice.

Up to ten pages in length.

Individual submission.

Please answer the following five questions in order:

* 1. Briefly discuss the differences between the term populism, the concept of populism and the "populist wave" as a phenomenon.
	2. Briefly present the presidential election campaign based on any theoretical approach.
	3. Present the analysis of the event by another author.
		1. What is the main argument in the text?
		2. What is the author's theoretical approach?
		3. How is the theoretical approach expressed?
		4. What is the strength of his analysis? What do you think is the weakness?
	4. Answer the same questions based on the second text you selected.
	5. Adopt a different research approach and propose an analysis of the presidential elections held in November 2020.