



ביה"ס למדעי המדינה

School of Political Sciences

المدرسة للعلوم السياسية

## Introduction to American Government and Society

205.5317

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Office Hours: Tuesday 12:00-13:00

### Course Description and Expectations

This course is a concise overview of the American political system. During our meetings we will examine its constitutional framework (federalism, separation of powers, civil rights and liberties), the formal institutions which shape the public debate (the Presidency, Congress, and the Courts), the issues at the heart of this debate (both domestic and foreign policy), the other key players in the political arena (public opinion, parties, the media and interest groups) and the ways in which these issues are decided (legislation, campaigns and elections).

### Lecture Topics and Readings

Date	Topic	Readings
1	Conquest and independence	Ansolabehere, Stephen, Ginsberg, Benjamin, Lowi, Theodore & Shepsle, Kenneth. 2019. American Government: Power and Purpose, Brief 15th Edition, Chapter 2 (pages 22-51).
2	The constitution	The Constitution of the United States
3	Congress	
4	The presidency	
5	The supreme court	
6	Who are the American people?	
7	Political parties	
8	Interest groups	Ansolabehere, et al., Chapter 12 (pages 366-393)
9	The Media	
10	Elections	Ansolabehere, et al., Chapter 10 (pages 286-327)
11	Israel and the United States	
12	Global challenges facing the US	Guest Lecture – Prof. Benny Miller - chapter to be assigned by Prof. Miller from his recent book