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

**From the polis to globalization**

**Infrastructure Season - Global Season**

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Office Hours- By appointment

**Course Outline**

Since the advent of the polis in ancient Athens the world with which the study of politics has changed. 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 and globalization. This is to gain a better understanding of what politics is, how it should be explored and explored, and also to better understand the global and local political realities. At the same time, we seek to understand what influences the development of politics research and approaches and schools of politics - whether internal factors (damping theories), external factors (such as changes in world order), or whether prose factors (such as scientific funding for research) - and how advanced the approaches, And at the very least, rationality and letting us understand local and global reality.

**1. Concrete Goals**

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. Presenting and critically analyzing schools and approaches to the research of politics in modern times.
5. Developing primary skills to actively conduct a political scientific research.
6. Learn a variety of ways to think about the phenomenon of globalization in its various aspects.

**2. Grade Components**

1. Presence in class (10%).
2. Active participation in group discussions (10%).
3. Selection of mandatory reading assignment for the last class of the course (assignment must be submitted before the last lesson) (20%): up to one page.
4. Concluding assignment (60%): A critical discussion of the concept of globalization through an analysis of the critique and discussion of Yuval Noah Harari's book 21st Century or Criticism and the discussion in Nadav Eyal's book The Rebellion against Globalization.

**3. Requirements**

1. Read course materials in advance.
2. Turn off cellphones (unless it's an emergency).
3. Office hours by appointment.

**4. Group Discussion assignment**

In the second part of the lessons, we will discuss in groups of five students on current events that can illustrate the topic of the lesson. During the discussion, a representative from each group will write down answers. Thereafter, each group will present their answer to the class and have a discussion. Total activity an hour and a half.

**5. Course Structure**

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| **Lesson** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Team Processing Assignments** |
| **1** | **3.9.19** | **Introduction: Presenting the course, definitions of politics and fundamental concepts.** | None |
| **2** | **4.9.19** | **Disputes: in the philosophy of social science; Science of politics versus other approaches to the study of politics; Methodology and research - positivism versus other approaches** | None |
| **3** | **5.9.19** | **Ancient and Modern on the Changing World: We will clarify the differences between "ancient" and "modern" political thought, focusing on the issue that thinkers have always employed: virtue versus progress and change.** | Read about Boris Johnson's defeats in recent days and then:1. Analyze defeats with one or more of the following concepts: power, authority and legitimacy2. Check out Johnson's policy from an antiquated perspective as well as from a modern perspective. |
| **4** |  | **Theories of Progress and Withdrawal: From Adam Smith through Alexis De Tocqueville to Theories of Modernization and Post colonialism - Representations of Modern Theories on Modernization and Globalization** | Will be published |
| **5** |  | **American Political Science and the Case of Democracy:** **We will learn about different approaches to democracy and how they have changed from the beginning of political science to the present, with reference to the "crisis" paradigm and different approaches to democracy.** | Read Yoav Karni's article "Liberal Democracy in Deep Crisis"1. Criticize from the positivist point of view that there is a crisis.2. Does the article indicate that democracy is in crisis? |
| **6** |  | **Between Rationality and Failure: We will present the problem of collective action and the ability to work together to improve life at the company and global levels through rational choice theory, social choice, game theory and the public choice approach.** | A new UN report reveals that one million species of plants and animals are now endangered. This is a serious and direct threat to ecosystems where humans depend on their existence for the whole continent.1. Analyze why the problem exists and how it will be addressed through the prism of the collective action problem.2. What approach, if any, gives us a place to believe that improvement is possible? |
| **7** |  | **Theoretical approaches and Controversy: is there such thing a "State": structural pluralism, the Neo-Marxist, neo-pluralistic approach, the Fukuyan approach, and the New institutional approach again argue about the power of the state today** | Read the article "What they talk about when they talk about sovereignty" and answer the questions:1. What is the difference between the different proposals from a neo-Marxist perspective?2. How similar and different is the concept of sovereignty as understood in the neo-institutional approach to the concept of sovereignty in the article? |
| **8** |  | **Constructivism and the distinction between analytic and practical category: Should the researcher use the same analysis categories used by the general public? We will illustrate the theoretical question with reference to the categories "Muslim", "populism" and corruption.** | Read the article "When you say populism, do you mean left, right, or Donald Trump?" And present the perspective of the author of the article. How about the issue? Reasoned through one of the theoretical perspectives we learned. |
| **9** |  | **Globalization from different perspectives: We will learn how normative thought fits into empirical thought through the controversy between supporters of different approaches to globalization and focus on the discussion of Yuval Noah Harari's latest book** | Summarize the reviews - positive and negative - of Nadav Eyal's book The Rebellion Against Globalization and explain with examples how the reviews of Eyal's book are related to the theoretical perspectives learned in the course |
| **10** |  | **Politics in Political Science Today:****What does politics look like today from the different perspectives of political science?** | What is the main problem in the world today from different perspectives? What would you suggest to determine as a duty to read the last lesson - and why? |

**6. Reading materials according to lesson progress**

**Lesson 1: Introduction**

Mandatory reading: No

**Lesson 2: Disputes**

Mandatory reading:

Carl Popper. 1993. "Science: Hypotheses and Refutations," in: Baruch Zisser (ed.), Political Science in Its Variety: Thought and Approaches in the Study of Politics. Tel Aviv: The Open University, pp. 182 - 212.

**Lesson 3: Ancient and Modern on the Changing World:**

Mandatory reading: No

**Lesson 4: Theories of progress and withdrawal**

Mandatory reading:

 Heilbrunner Robert. 2012. The National Philosophers. Jerusalem: Shalem Center. Chapter 2.

**Lesson 5: American political science from the beginning to the end of the behavioral revolution**

Mandatory reading:

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 6: Between rationality and failure**

Mandatory reading:

Ward, Hugh. 2005. "The Rational Choice Approach," in: David Marsh and Jerry Stoker (eds.) Theories and Approaches in Political Science. Tel Aviv: The Open University, pp. 89 - 117.

 **Lesson 7: Theoretical and Controversial Approaches to the "State" Question**

Mandatory reading:

Theda Scotchpool. 1993. "The Return of the State to the Picture: Strategies of Analysis in Contemporary Research." Inside: Baruch Zisser (editor). Political Science in its Variety. Tel Aviv: The Open University, pp. 521-542.

**Lesson 8: Constructivism and the distinction between analytical category and practical category**

Mandatory reading:

Rogers Brubaker (2013) "Categories of analysis and categories of practice: a note on the study of Muslims in European countries of immigration." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 36 (1): 1-8.

**Lesson 9: Globalization from different perspectives**

Mandatory reading: Sagiv, Assaf. 2004. "A Defense on Globalization." Tkhelet pp. 35-69.

**Lesson 10: Politics today from different perspectives and course summary**

Mandatory reading:

Students choice first assignment - 20% of the course grade