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

**From the polis to globalization**

**Infrastructure Season - Global Season**

**Dr. Doron Navot**

Instructor's Email: doronnavot@013.net

Office Hours- By appointment

**Course Outline**

Scientific methodological research of the political realm is characterized by dispute on various questions- from asking if a research is scientific, to questioning the nature of politics and discussing opposing opinions regarding the purpose of research. Specifically, does the political science field must include recommendations for policies?

The disagreements are manifested even in the names used for the field- political science, science of politics, political research – and this may affect courses studied in the academy and teaching methods.

This course wishes to address these questions through an analysis of various approaches to political research today through different perspectives. The aim of the course is to better understand what politics is and how it should be researched. As such, we'll explore influences and approaches to research of politics: Internal factors (diminish of theory) external factors (such as the rise of populism) or prosaic factors (such as scientific funding or the death of a researcher).

**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 topical issues that can illustrate the topic of the lesson. During the discussion, a representative from each group will write down answers. Then, each group will present their answer to the class and have a discussion. Total activity an hour and a half.

**5. Course Structure**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lesson** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Team Processing Assignments** |
| **1** | **September** **2019** | **Introduction: Presenting the course, definitions of politics and fundamental concepts.** | Write an example of a global political issue and present what makes it political in your opinion? |
| **2** |  | **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** | Write an example of a controversy that engaged you in your last position, and write how Carl Popper would suggest tackling the issue, and what Thomas Coon would say about it. |
| **3** |  | **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 Assaf Sagiv's article "Globalization: A Defense Writing" and write in what sense his writing raises arguments that fit the ancient man and in what sense a modern man. What might the existence of "ancient" arguments in contemporary text teach us? |
| **4** |  | **Theories of Progress and Withdrawal: From Adam Smith through Alexis De Tocqueville to Theories of Modernization and Post colonialism - Representative of Modern Theories on Modernization and Globalization** | Read Arie Krampf's article "The Barracks: England Not Only Abandon the Union But Global Vision," and write what is Krampf's main explanation for the barracks? Given Sagiv's article that we dealt with in the previous lesson: What is the main difference between Krampf's claim and Sagiv's claim? |
| **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 can improve? |
| **7** |  | **Theoretical and Controversial Approaches: Is There Such thing a "State": Structural Pluralism, the Neo-Marxist, Neo-Pluralistic Approach, the Fukuyan Approach, and the New Institutional Approach Again Discuss 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

Devin Stauffer. 2016. “Of Darkness from Vain Philosophy”: Hobbes's Critique of the Classical Tradition." *American Political Science Review* 110 (3): 481-494.

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

Mandatory reading:

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

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

Mandatory reading:

Required 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. "Globalization wrote a defense." Azure pp. 35-69.

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

Mandatory reading:

Students choice first assignment - 20% of the course grade