



Syllabus

APPROACHES & THEORIES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE - 56865

Last update 06-10-2013

HU Credits: 4

Responsible Department: Political Science

Academic year: 1

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Professor Mario Sznajder

Coordinator Email: msmarios@huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 16.00-17.00 hours
Room 4319 Social Sciences

Teaching Staff:
Prof Mario Sznajder

Course/Module description:

Prof. Mario Sznajder, Mr. Chanan Cohen

Chanan Cohen Office Hour: by appointment, coordinated in advance by e-mail

chanan.cohen@mail.huji.ac.il

Chanan Cohens phone:

02-9996640

This course offers an introduction to approaches and theories in Political Science. By this, the course tries to create a basic infrastructure for research at the MA level in the discipline. In our view, a good researcher in Political Science and in the Social Sciences in general has to have a good knowledge of the discipline, of the central debates between various approaches and theories, of different ideologies and methodologies that characterized and still characterize it, and of the researchers and thinkers that have worked in its framework. Still, the knowledge cannot acquire the form of a dry memorization of the researchers arguments. It should be accompanied by independent and critical thought about research in Political Sciences and the Social Sciences in general. We expect you to think critically and autonomously about the text that are read in this class and at the same time, to confront important and unorthodox issues about political research: can social sciences research be objective? In which sense can we see social and political research as "science"? What is the difference between right and mistaken conjectures in Political Science? What is the relation between political theory and philosophy and empirical research in Political Science? What exactly do we compare in "comparative research"? What is the relation between methodology and theory? These are some of the questions we will try to deal with in the course.

We think that the combination between serious studying and acquisition of new knowledge, and original critical thinking is the winning formula for the young researcher in Political Science. There are no doubts that the size of the course is far from satisfying all the needs in this area but we hope that the "tastings" that you will experience during the course will generate in you the desire to widen and enrich your world of knowledge in the future.

Course/Module aims:

The course is composed by four sections:

First part: Introduction and basic issues in the social sciences.

Second part: Some central theoretical approaches in Political Science.

Third part: Critical debates on central theories and issues in Political Science.

Fourth part: (all along the year) Carrying out a research project, divided in various groups, and its presentation at the end of the course.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

As a result of the first part, students should acquire a good knowledge of the basic questions in the philosophy of the social sciences.

The second part will introduce the students to the main theories in the various sub-disciplines of Political Science: behavioral theory, rational choice, Marxism and neo-Marxism, new-institutionalism, culture approaches, feminism, post-modernism, and political philosophy.

The third part is dedicated to the main debates in contemporary Political Science and the students will immerse in the main controversies of the discipline thorough the methodological and theoretical debates on modernization, dependency theory, elites, democracy and communications and totalitarianism. A good knowledge of the main controversies is expected of the students. At the end of this part, the relation between teaching Political Science and political practice will be dissected in class, in order to create awareness about this issue.

In parallel and all along the year, the students will acquire practical knowledge and experience on research in Political Science by developing autonomous researches on political subjects of their interests. This they will do in small groups, by formulating research questions on subjects of their interest.

They will carry out a "mini-research", will formulate and write it, and present it as a final paper in the form of a short scientific article. Finally, all the papers will be presented in a final one day conference similar to any scientific conference in this area.

Attendance requirements(%):

All the students are required to attend all the classes. A maximum of justified non-attendance to three classes per semester will be tolerated. Students missing more than three classes per semester will not be able to complete the course. Non-attendance to class because reserve army service or illness is accepted as justification but the students will have to attend all the rest of the classes and complete the readings and papers.

Students are required to bring with them to class the corresponding readings in the form of printed articles or electronic files. The second option is highly recommended.

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100% of the classes

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: All the students are required to attend all the classes. A maximum of justified non-attendance to three classes per semester will be tolerated. Students missing more than three classes per semester will not be able to complete the course. Non-attendance to class because reserve army service or illness is accepted as justification but the students will have to attend all the rest of the classes and complete the readings and papers.

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Important dates

Presentation of articles and criticism in class □ according to the schedule established at the beginning of the year.

Presentation of two position papers on items of the reading list □ before the relevant class (one in the first semester and one in the second semester).

Approval of the subject of the final presentation-until December 3, 2013.

Presentation of the research project-December 24 2013.

First research group meetings-January 14, 2014.

Approval of the research on Israel-February 16, 2014.

Mid-year bibliographical examination-February 18, 2014.

Second research groups meetings-March 11, 2014.

Written presentation of the final project-April 29, 2014.

Third research groups meetings-May 13, 2014.

Presentation of the abstract about the presentation on Israel-May 27, 2014.

Presentation of the corrected version of the final paper-June 10, 2014.

Presentation in class of the chosen research on Israel-June 17, 2014.

Written comments on the final papers after the public-presentation will be sent to the researchers on June 25, 2014.

Presentation in public of the final papers-June 26, 2014.

Course/Module Content:

Description of the classes

*This is a list of the discussions to be held in class, without precise dates due to the possibility of changes. All the bibliographical items are listed in the Internet site of the class □ Moodle. Together with the title-subject of each class you will find (inter-parenthesis) the number of the class in which we will treat the subject. Some of the readings are marked with asterisks (**). Those are the readings about subjects on which written papers cannot be presented.*

First part: Introduction to the course and some basic items on the philosophy of the Social Sciences.

Introductory Class (1)

Presentation of the class. A short history of the different approaches to Political Science in general and at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Eclectic pluralism?

Ontology, epistemology and social research (2)

*Ruben, D. H. (2001), "Social Properties (Facts and Entities): Philosophical Aspects," in: International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, pp. 14391-14397.***

*Bunge, M. (2001), "Sociology, Epistemology of," in: International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, pp. 14569-14574.***

Explanation: When does and explanation predict? When are we mistaken? What are the differences between explanations in the natural sciences and in the humanities and social sciences? (3)

C. G. Hempel.

המפל, קרל , "הסבר במדע ובהסטוריה", בתוך: אלעזר וינריב (עורך), חשיבה היסטורית, כרך ב 41-61.

*Wolters, G. (2004), "Carl Gustav Hempel (1905□97)" in International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences, pp. 6658-6660.***

Conjecture, Proof, Refutation and Theory (4)

K. Popper.

פופר, ק. (תשנ"ג), "מדע: השערות והפרכות", מתוך זיסר ב. (עורך) מדע המדינה לגונוני, האוניברסיטה הפתוחה, 182-213.

Th. Kuhn

קון, ת. (תשנ"ג), "תפקידה של הדוגמה במחקר המדעי", אצל זיסר, ברוך (עורך) מדע המדינה לגונוני, 213-233. JA 71 M34

Hancke, B. (2009), *Intelligent Research Design*, Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapter 1: "Research in the Social Sciences".**

Social Sciences: Basic Ideas and Concepts (5)

Weber, M. (1961), *Basic Concepts in Sociology*, New York: Philosophical Library, chapters 1-7, pp. 25-83.

http://www.ne.jp/asahi/moriyuki/abukuma/weber/method/basic/basic_concept_frame.html

<http://www.questia.com/PM.qst?actionopenPageViewer&docId11309421>

E. Durkheim.

דורקהיים, א. (2006), הכללים של המתודה הסוציולוגית, תל אביב: רסלינג. עמ 15-31, 55-92.

2nd part: Central Approaches and Theories in Political Science.

The behavioural approach (6)

Dahl, R. A. (1961), "The Behavioral Approach in Political Science: Epitaph for a Monument to a Successful Protest," *The American Political Science Review* 55(4): 763-772.**

Falter, J. W. (2001), "Political Behavioralism," in: *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*, pp. 1125-1128.**

Plutzer, Eric (2002), "Becoming a Habitual Voter: Inertia, Resources, and Growth in Young Adulthood," *American Political Science Review* 96(1): 41-56.

Rational choice (7)

Tsebelis, G. (1990), *Nested Games: Rational Choice in Comparative Politics* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990). Chapter 2: "In Defense of the Rational Choice Approach". pp. 18-47.

Schelling, T. (2010), "Game Theory: A Practitioners Approach," *Economics and Philosophy* 26: 27-46.

Friedman, J. (1995), "Introduction: Economic approaches to politics" in his (ed.) *The Rational Choice Controversy*. Yale University Press, 1-25.

Neo-Marxism (8)

Therborn, G. (1986), "Karl Marx returning: The Welfare State and neo-Marxist, Corporatist and Statist Theories," *International Political Science Review* 7(2): 131-164.

M. Horkheimer

הורקהיימר, מ. (1993), "תיאוריה מסורתית ותיאוריה ביקורתית (1937)", מתוך ת. ו. אדורנו ומ. הורקהיימר אסכולת פרנקפורט (מבחר), ספרית פועלים, הוצאת הקיבוץ הארצי והשומר הצעיר,

57-99.

Th. Adorno

אדורנו, ת. ו. (1993), "התורה הפרוידיאנית ודפוסי התעמולה הפאשיסטית", מתוך ת. ו. אדורנו ומ. הורקהיימר אסכולת פרנקפורט (מבחר), ספרית פועלים, הוצאת הקיבוץ הארצי והשומר הצעיר, 57-99.

Neo-Institutionalism (9)

Hall, P. A., and R. C. R. Taylor (1996), "Political Science and The Three New Institutionalism," *Political Studies* (XLIV): 936-957.

Culture approaches (10)

Sewell, W. H. Jr. (1999), "The Concept(s) of Culture," in: V. E. Bonnell and L. Hunt (eds.) *Beyond the Culture Turn: New Directions in the Study of Society and Culture*, Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 35-61.

Scott, J. C. (1985), *Weapons of the Weak: Everyday forms of Peasant Resistance*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985. Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 1-47.

Feminism (11)

MacKinnon, C. A. (1989), *Toward A Feminist Theory of the State*, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, Chapter 8 "The Liberal State" pp. 157-170, and Chapter 13 "Toward Feminist Jurisprudence" pp. 237-249.

Post-Modernism (12)

Foucault, M. (2000), "Truth and Power," in: James D Faubion (ed.), *Power: The Essential Works of Michel Foucault 1954-1984 Vol.3*, New York: New Press, p. 111-133.

Political philosophy: A definition (13)

L. Strauss

שטראוס, ל. (2001), "מהי פילוסופיה פוליטית?" בתוך: ל. שטראוס, ירושלים ואתונה: מבחר כתבים, ירושלים: מוסד ביאליק ומכון ליאו בק, עמ' 89-122.

Political philosophy: Distributive justice (14)

Rawls, J. (1971), *A Theory of Justice*, Oxford University Press, Chapter 1: "Justice as Fairness", pp. 2-46.

Nozick, R. (1992), "Distributive Justice," in: S. Avineri and A. de-Shalit (eds.) *Communitarianism and Individualism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 137-150.

Political philosophy: Economy and politics (15)

Hayek, F. (1978), "The Constitution of a Liberal State" and "Economic Freedom and Representative Government," in: *New Studies in Philosophy, Politics, Economics and the History of Ideas*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, p. 98-118.

האייק, פ. (1998), הדרך לשעבוד, ירושלים: הוצאת שלם, מבוא ופרקים א-ה, עמ' 3-51.

Third part: Critical debates on theory and central issues in Political Science

Theories of modernization and dependency theory (16)

Rostow W. (1962), *The Stages of Economic Growth*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-15.

Almond, G. (1960), "A Functional Approach to Comparative Politics," in Almond G. and J. Coleman, *The Politics of Developing Areas*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-25

Gunder Frank, A. (1984), "The Development of Underdevelopment" in: C. Wilber (ed.) *The Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment*, New York: Random House, pp. 99-108.

(5)

Weber, M. (1961), *Basic Concepts in Sociology*, New York: Philosophical Library, chapters 1-7, pp. 25-83.

http://www.ne.jp/asahi/moriyuki/abukuma/weber/method/basic/basic_concept_frame.html

<http://www.questia.com/PM.qst?action=openPageViewer&docId11309421>

דורקהיים, א. (2006), הכללים של המתודה הסוציולוגית, תל אביב: רסלינג. עמ' 15-31, 55-92.

חלק שני: גישות ותיאוריות מרכזיות במדע המדינה

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אדורנו, ת. ו. (1993), "התורה הפרוידיאנית ודפוסי התעמולה הפאשיסטית", מתוך ת. ו. אדורנו ומ. הורקהיימר *אסכולת פרנקפורט (מבחר)*, ספרית פועלים, הוצאת הקיבוץ הארצי והשומר הצעיר, 57-99.

המוסדיות החדשה (9)

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חלק שלישי: דיון ביקורתי בתיאוריות וסוגיות מרכזיות במדע המדינה

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http://www.ne.jp/asahi/moriyuki/abukuma/weber/method/basic/basic_concept_frame.html

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New-institutionalism (9)

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Political philosophy: distributive justice (14)

Rawls, J. (1971), *A Theory of Justice*, Oxford University Press, Chapter 1: "Justice as Fairness", pp. 2-46.

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Hayek, F. (1978), "The Constitution of a Liberal State" and "Economic Freedom and Representative Government", in: *New Studies in Philosophy, Politics, Economics and the History of Ideas*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, p. 98-118.

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Third part: Critical debate on central issues and theories in Political Science.

Theories of modernization and dependency (16)

Rostow W. (1962), *The Stages of Economic Growth*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-15.

Almond, G. (1960), "A Functional Approach to Comparative Politics", in Almond G. and J. Coleman, *The Politics of Developing Areas*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 3-25

Gunder Frank, A. (1984), "The Development of Underdevelopment" in: C. Wilber (ed.) *The Political Economy of Development and Underdevelopment*, New York: Random House, pp. 99-108.

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Elite theories (18)

Pareto, V. (1968), *The Rise and Fall of the Elites: An Application of Theoretical Sociology*, New Jersey: The Bedminster Press, pp. 5-14, 59-89. HM 141 P283

Albertoni, E. A. (1987), *Mosca and the theory of elitism*, Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 107-130 (□The Italian School of Elitists □ between myth and reality□, and □The development of elitism in the English-speaking intellectual political tradition□).

Totalitarianism (19)

Arendt, H. (1966), □Total Domination□ in: *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, pp. 437-479.

The role of the teacher of Political Science and the relation between the teaching of Political Science and political praxis (20)

De-Shalit, A. (2005), □Teaching Political Philosophy and Academic Neutrality,□ *Theory and Research in Education* Vol. 3, 97-129, <http://tre.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/3/1/97>

Concluding class: The research of Israeli politics (21)

Presentations of contemporary research on Israeli politics by the students.

Required Reading:

As detailed above, in the course/module content.

Additional Reading Material:

Further reading materials maybe added during the year in accordance with the needs of the class.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 24 %

Participation in Tutorials 5 %

Project work 6 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 20 %
Research project 35 %
Quizzes 10 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: