



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Historical Analysis in Social Sciences: The New Approaches - 27909*

*Last update 12-03-2025*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 2nd degree (Master)

*Responsible Department:* School of History - Honors Program

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 2nd Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Dr. Yitzhak M. Brudny

*Coordinator Email:* [yitzhak.brudny@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:yitzhak.brudny@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* Monday 17:15-18:15

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yitzhak Brudny

Course/Module description:

The course analyses both the main conceptual approaches to history writing in social sciences (historical institutionalist, rational choice, and cultural approaches) as well as such subjects of research such as state building, origins of modern welfare state, role of political and economic ideas).

Course/Module aims:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the recent trends of history writings in social sciences.

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

At the end of the course the student will be able to evaluate and critique historical writings in social sciences and compare them to conventional history writing.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecturing and class discussion.

Course/Module Content:

- 1) Structuralism
- 2) Historical Institutionalism
- 3) Rational Choice
- 4) Cultural Approach
- 5) State Building
- 6) Origins of Modern Regimes
- 7) Military Conscription
- 8) Role of Political and Economic Ideas

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9) *Origins of Modern Welfare State*

10) *Labor History*

11) *Modern Culture and Society*

Required Reading:

שבוע 1: מבוא כללי לקורס

גישות תיאורטיות

שבוע 2: גישה סטרוקטורליסטית (Structuralism)

ברינגטון מור "המסלול הדמוקרטי לחברה המודרנית," ב. נויברגר וא. קופמן (עורכים), דמוקרטיה ודמוקרטיזציה (תל-אביב: האוניברסיטה הפתוחה, 1998), ע"ע 31-49. מקור:  
*Barrington Moore, Jr., Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, ch. 7.*

שבוע 3: גישה מוסדית-היסטורית (Institutionalism Historical)

*Kathleen Thelen and Sven Steinmo, "Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Politics," in Sven Steinmo, Kathleen Thelen, and Frank Longstreth, ed., Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis, ch. 1.*  
*Theda Skocpol, "Why I am Historical Institutionalism," Polity, vol. 28, no. 1 (Fall 1995), pp. 103-106.*

שבוע 4: גישת הבחירה הרציונלית (Choice Rational)

*Kenneth Shepsle, "Studying Institutions: Some Lessons from the Rational Choice Approach," in James Farr, John Dryzek and Stephen Leonard, eds., Political Science in History: Research Programs and Political Traditions, pp. 276-295.*  
*Morris Fiorina, "Rational Choice and New (?) Institutionalism," Polity, vol. 28, no. 1 (Fall 1995), pp. 107-115.*

שבוע 5: גישה התרבותית (Approach Cultural)

*William Sewell, Jr., "The Concept of Culture," in Victoria Bonnell and Lynn Hunt, eds., Beyond the Cultural Turn: New Directions in the Study of Society and Culture, pp. 35-61.*

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שבוע 6: *בנית מדינה מודרנית (Building State)*

Thomas Ertman, *Birth of the Leviathan: Building States and Regimes in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*, ch 1, 7.

or

Karen Barkey, *Bandits and Bureaucrats: The Ottoman Route to State Centralization*, ch. 1, 6, 7

שבוע 7: *מקורם של משטרים מודרניים (Regimes Modern of Origins)*

Douglas C. North and Barry R. Weingast, "Constitutions and Commitment: The Institutions Governing Public Choice in Seventeenth Century England," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 44 (1989), pp. 803-832.

Brian M. Downing, *The Military Revolution and Political Change: Origins of Democracy and Autocracy in Early Modern Europe*, ch. 1, 10.

שבוע 8: *מקורם של משטרים מודרניים (Regimes Modern of Origins)*

Sheri Berman, "Civil Society and the Collapse of the Weimar Republic," *World Politics*, vol. 49 (1997), pp. 401-429.

Gregory M. Luebbert, *Liberalism, Fascism, or Social Democracy*, ch 1, 9.

שבוע 9: *גיוס צבאי (Conscription Military)*

Margaret Levy, "Conscription: The Price of Citizenship," Robert Bates, Avner Greif, Margaret Levi, Jean-Laurent Rosenthal and Barry R. Weingast, *Analytic Narratives*, ch. 3.

שבוע 10: *תפקידם של רעיונות פוליטיים וכלכליים (Ideas Economic and Political of Role)*

Sheri Berman, *The Social Democratic Moment: Ideas and Politics in Making of Interwar Europe*, ch. 1, 2, 9.

or

Margaret Weir, "Ideas and Politics: The Acceptance of Keynesianism in Britain and the United States," in Peter A. Hall, ed., *The Political Power of Economic Ideas: Keynesianism across Nations*, ch. 3.

Peter A. Gourevitch, "Keynesian Politics: The Political Sources of Economic Policy Choices," Peter A. Hall, ed., *The Political Power of Economic Ideas: Keynesianism across Nations*, ch. 4.

שבוע 11: *מקורה של מדינת רווחה מודרנית (State Welfare Modern of Origins)*

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*Theda Skocpol, Protecting Soldiers and Mothers: The Political Origins of the Welfare State, ch 1.*

שבוע 12: היסטוריה של מעמד הפועלים (History Labor)

*Richard Biernacki, The Fabrication of Labor: Germany and Britain, 1640-1914, ch. 1, 11.*

שבוע 13: תרבות וחברה מודרניים (Society and Culture Modern)

*James C. Scott, Seeing Like State: How Certain Schemes to Improve Human Conditions Have Failed, Introduction & ch. 3-4.*

Additional Reading Material:

See course website (Moodle)

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %  
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research proposal 30 %

Additional information: