



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

How (not) to Build a Constitution: Constitutional Law and PPE - 54136

Last update 04-04-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Philosophy, Economics & Political Science

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Naama Goldberg

Coordinator Email: naama.goldberg@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2pm-3pm

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Naama Goldberg

Course/Module description:

The changes proposed today in the legal system emphasize the need for a deep understanding of the theory underlying constitutional law in general, and Israeli constitutional law in particular. The course will deal with issues in constitutional law, with an emphasis on aspects related to ethics and political philosophy, political science and economics. Since the course touches on issues that are at the heart of the political order in Israel today, the contents of the course may change according to the changes unfolding in the constitutional situation in Israel.

Course/Module aims:

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

At the end of this seminar, students will be able to better understand what is happening in Israeli constitutional law. Inter alia, they will acquire tools to critically assess existing and proposed constitutional arrangements, based on constitutional theories from Israel and the world, which will enable a normative analysis of the existing constitutional situation and proposals for changes to it.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar

Course/Module Content:

Inherent to the nature of this course, which touches on issues that are at the heart of the political agenda in Israel, the proposed list of topics is tentative, and will change towards the beginning of the second semester, and possibly throughout the semester.

Given this, the list of topics is:

What is a constitution; comparative constitutional law; the relationship between the constitution and democracy; the history of the constitution in Israel; Judicial review of elected bodies and primary legislation before the "constitutional revolution"; Constitutional grounds before the "constitutional revolution"; "The Constitutional Revolution"; Basic law: human dignity and freedom; Basic law: freedom of

occupation; the basic laws of the state institutions; Relations between the authorities, the principle of initial arrangements and the residual authority of the government; Subsidiary rights of the Basic Law: human dignity (equality, freedom of expression); 1st generation, 2nd generation, 3rd generation rights (economic-social rights); judicial review of the judicial authority, the legislative authority, and basic laws; A critical analysis of the legal reform.

Required Reading:

As stated in the seminar syllabus

Additional Reading Material:

As stated in the seminar syllabus

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 100 %

Additional information: