

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Introduction to Political Psychology - 56338*

*Last update 08-10-2024*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 1st degree (Bachelor)

*Responsible Department:* Political Science

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Pazit Ben-Nun Bloom

*Coordinator Email:* [pazit.bennun@mail.huji.ac.i](mailto:pazit.bennun@mail.huji.ac.i)

*Coordinator Office Hours:* By appointment

*Teaching Staff:*

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Prof. Pazit Ben-Nun bloom

Course/Module description:

Political behavior can be studied from a variety of perspectives, for example, in terms of cost-benefit calculations, in which people are motivated by their self interest. This course suggests an approach utilizing psychological processes and findings about the human psyche to understand political behavior. Since the individual is the building block of every political behavior, we should start our investigation of politics by studying who those individuals are—what are their proclivities, motives, and personality traits, and how are they influenced by institutions and situations. Consequently, we can examine how these affect the course of politics. Due to its dual roots in political science and psychology, this approach is called political psychology.

Course/Module aims:

The main objective of this course is to give you a set of conceptual tools that will allow you to understand current events and the behavior of politicians and political groups.

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

Define commonly used terms in political psychology.

Identify the main approaches in political psychology.

Explain how different psychological theories advance the study of political behavior.

Demonstrate the use of experimental methodology in the study of political behavior.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures

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Course/Module Content:

1. Organizational meeting and review of syllabus
2. Introduction: what is political psychology?
3. Group conformity and obedience
4. De-individuation and roles
5. Frameworks for studying personality; Leader trait analysis: psycho-biographic approach
6. Followers analysis: the authoritarian personality
7. Political sophistication
8. Bounded rationality and heuristics
9. Mass media effects
10. Motivated reasoning
11. Groups and origins of prejudice: SIT and RCT

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*12. Group heterogeneity*

*13. Group dynamics: suicide terrorism*

*14. Current approaches in political psychology, bio-psycho-politics*

*Required Reading:*  
*see syllabus*

*Additional Reading Material:*  
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*Grading Scheme:*  
*Written / Oral / Practical Exam 100 %*

*Additional information:*  
*See moodle for most current version of the syllabus.*