



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Fundamental Issues in Political Theory: Liberty - 56886

Last update 17-09-2022

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Political Science

Academic year: 2023

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yiftah Elazar

Coordinator Email: yiftah.elazar@mail.huji.ac.i

Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yiftah Elazar

Course/Module description:

"Being free is being entirely alone," according to the Israeli rock band "Benzin," but the question many political philosophers have asked is how to be free without being alone - while being the citizens of a state. This course investigates one of the central concepts of political thought: freedom. We will discuss three conceptions of freedom found in the contemporary scholarship: non-interference, non-domination, and self-government. We will look more deeply the concept of freedom by reading classical texts of political thought from Hobbes to our time.

The purpose of this class is double fold: to investigate the concept of freedom, and to serve as an advanced introduction to political thought, providing a foundation of knowledge and skills required for research in this field.

Course/Module aims:

To learn about the concept of liberty and its philosophical and ideological uses

To gain research skills in the history of political thought and in political philosophy

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

To have critical understanding of the concept of liberty and its philosophical and ideological uses

To understand how to do research in the history of political thought and in political philosophy.

Attendance requirements(%):

85

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Seminar class: we read texts and discuss them in meetings

Course/Module Content:

Provisional List of topics:

The Monster of Malmesbury

The Republican Revolution

The Glorious Revolution

Liberal Monarchy or Republic

The American Revolution
The French Revolution
Rights for Women
The Rise of Liberal Democracy

Required Reading:

See the detailed syllabus.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 85 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 15 %
Proposal for final paper

Additional information:

Details in online course system and in syllabus are subject to change.

Written assignments:

Final paper. For students taking this class as a regular course. 10-15 pages double-spaced. Deadline: 31 August 2023. Contribution to class grade (assuming satisfactory fulfillment of additional obligations detailed below): 85%

Proposal for final paper. One page. Deadline: June 12, 2023.

- or -

Research paper. For students taking this class as a research seminar. 20-30 pages, double-spaced. Deadline: 30 September 2022. Contribution to class grade (assuming satisfactory fulfillment of additional obligations detailed below): 50%. Contribution to separate research paper grade: %100.

Literature review. 1-2 pages. Deadline: April 17, 2023. Contribution to course grade:

20%.

Research proposal. 3-4 pages. Deadline: June 12, 2023. Contribution to course grade: 30%.

Additional obligations:

Attendance and participation. Up to four classes overall may be missed without documentation or penalty. Any additional absence without authorization will incur a penalty of one course grade point.

Participation. Students are expected to read the texts and contribute to the discussion. Substantive contribution to the discussion concretely addresses the relevant texts and demonstrated close familiarity with them as well as critical reflection. Up to two points may be taken off the course grade in the absence of substantive contribution along the year.

Presentations. Each student will present at least one secondary text. Failing to fulfill this obligation will incur a penalty of two points taken off the course grade. Bonus points will be given for excellent presentations.