



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Fundamental Issues in Political Theory: Freedom - 56886

Last update 04-10-2024

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Political Science

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yiftah Elazar

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

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.

A prevalent answer today is that freedom means enjoying free choice, without state intervention. Along the history of political thought, other ideas of liberty came into play, particularly freedom from domination and freedom as self-government.

In this seminar, we will trace the history of freedom as a philosophical concept and as an ideological weapon. We will examine the complicated relationship between the concept of freedom and the democratic idea.

Methodologically, this seminar combines a philosophical analysis of concepts and arguments with a contextual approach, which examines texts in the historical, philosophical, and ideological contexts in which they were written. It aims to provide students with basic tools for research in the history of political thought, both through the practical analysis of texts and through discussion of contemporary research and debates in this field.

Course/Module aims:

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(%):

100

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

Course/Module Content:

Provisional list of topics:
The Theoretical Framework
Classical and Modern Liberty
The Idea of Liberty in the Age of Revolutions
Liberalism and Socialism
Back to the Future

Required Reading:

See the detailed syllabus.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 50 %
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture/ Seminar / Pro-seminar / Research proposal 50 %

Additional information:

In the Fall semester, the first two sessions will be held in class, and the rest of the sessions will be held on Zoom.

In the Spring semester, all of our meetings will be held in class.