



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Popular Culture and World Politics - 58292

Last update 03-09-2022

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: International Relations

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Galia Press-Barnathan

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Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Prof Galia Press-Barnathan

Course/Module description:

Popular culture products like movies, music, computer games, sporting events, food and more, are an inherent part of our lives. Against the background of globalization processes in past decades, the production and consumption patterns of these products have also become global. At the heart of this course lies the assumption that pop culture is inherently political. The goal of the course is to expose the students to the various ways in which pop culture influences and is influenced by political processes. We will deal, for example, with questions such as how pop culture products can shape or challenge identity at different levels-national, sub-national, transnational and international; What role do they play in conflict management and resolution? How different types of actors try to use them? What is the impact of the huge economic market for some of these products, etc. We will also consider whether and how we can better understand political processes by tracing such cultural products and the dynamics around them. The course will examine different dimensions of these connections, bringing examples from different types of cultural products and different regions of the world. At the end of the course you will write a short essay in which you will trace a specific cultural product and the politics surrounding it, according to the themes studied during the course.

Course/Module aims:

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

1. Become familiar with literature from different academic fields that examines the political dimension of popular culture.
2. Critically examine the political role (or lack of) of cultural products in international relations.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and discussion, combined with online moodle assignments

Course/Module Content:

changes may take place

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1. What do we mean by "popular culture"?
 2. The domestic connections between popular culture and politics
 3. Pop culture and politics- implications for International Relations
 4. Popular culture, banal nationalism and identity
 5. Popular culture and Ontological Security
 6. Popular Culture and Power
 7. Popular culture and public diplomacy
 8. Popular culture and the International Political Economy
 9. Popular culture and globalization
 10. Popular culture and conflict management
 11. Cultural boycotts
 12. Popular culture and transitions to peace
 14. Sports and international/global politics
 15. Music and politics- national, international and global dimensions

Required Reading:

To be updated later and will appear in the course Moodle website

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 80 %
Assignments 20 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

1. 5 responses in moodle during the semester (details in class) 20%
2. Final paper- 5 pages +bibliography 80%

* presence in 80% of the lectures (10 classes at least) is mandatory in order to present the final assignment.