

# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *Issues in Public Economy - 59607*

*Last update 02-10-2021*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 2nd degree (Master)

*Responsible Department:* Public Policy

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* Hebrew

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Prof. Aviad Tur-Sinai

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*Coordinator Office Hours:* By appointment

*Teaching Staff:*

Course/Module description:

Recent decades have seen a range of public reforms in Israel and around the world, some accompanied by lengthy and protracted preliminary work by professional committees. Some of these reforms originated in lengthy social pressure from specific social groups. Others stemmed from policymakers' awareness of the need to promote and enhance existing economic and social processes, and yet others came about due to political and environmental pressure on policymakers. In retrospect, it appears that the work of some of these professional committees and some of the public reforms have been implemented while others have not moved ahead at all. The course described here presents case studies of public committees and reforms in Israel and attempts to examine the forces that influence the processes of policy formation and the extent of success in applying the various recommendations.

Course/Module aims:

- a. Study important public reforms in Israeli economic system.
- b. Understand market failures and government failures in implementing these public reforms.
- c. Understand the modes of comportment and economic interrelations among the players for the promotion of public goals.

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

- a. Interpret and draw applicable conclusions about the public system in Israel.
- b. Understand the array of economic considerations in the way public committees make decisions and understand the short- and long-term considerations behind the implementation of committee conclusions.
- c. Describe the market failures and government failures that lead to incomplete implementation of committee recommendations and public reforms.
- d. Hold a discussion of professional nature on the basis of the findings of policy papers and professional publications.

Attendance requirements(%):

80% full attendance and active participation in lessons.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Class lectures, discussions, and active reading; reading of background material; group work during the lecture; two final section activities (presentations); discussion regarding presentations.

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### Course/Module Content:

- a. Economic consolidation and growth, demographic trends, and facets of Israeli society.
- b. Reforms and public committees in the public system (in healthcare, social services, education, competitiveness, taxation, housing, the defense budget, etc.).
- c. The array of economic and public relations between state authorities and the public that promote or defeat the implementation of committee recommendations and public reforms.

### Required Reading:

1. Bank of Israel Annual Report, various years:  
<https://www.boi.org.il/he/Research/RegularReports/Pages/BOIAnnualReports.aspx>
2. National Insurance Institute Annual Survey, various years:  
[www.btl.gov.il/Publications/Skira\\_shnatit/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.btl.gov.il/Publications/Skira_shnatit/Pages/default.aspx)
3. OECD (2019), Society at a Glance 2019:  
<http://www.oecd.org/social/society-at-a-glance-19991290.htm>

### Additional Reading Material:

1. Advisory Committee on Strengthening the Public Health System (2014) (the "German Committee"), committee recommendations:  
<https://www.health.gov.il/PublicationsFiles/publichealth2014.pdf>
2. Vigoda-Gadot, E., Cohen, N., and Mizrahi, S. (2021), "Performance of the Public Sector in Israel: Analysis of Citizens' Positions and National Situation Assessment (2020)," Position Paper 18, Public Policy Management Center, University of Haifa (Hebrew).
3. The State Health Insurance Law, 5754-1994,  
[https://www.health.gov.il/LegislationLibrary/Bituah\\_01.pdf](https://www.health.gov.il/LegislationLibrary/Bituah_01.pdf)
4. OECD (2019), Pensions at a Glance 2019, [www.oecd.org/publications/oecd-pensions-at-a-glance-19991363.htm](http://www.oecd.org/publications/oecd-pensions-at-a-glance-19991363.htm)
5. OECD (2020), OECD Employment Outlook 2020.

### Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %  
Presentation 0 %  
Participation in Tutorials 0 %  
Project work 100 %  
Assignments 0 %  
Reports 0 %  
Research project 0 %  
Quizzes 0 %  
Other 0 %

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*Additional information:*