Course program and reading list
Semester 1 Year 2020

School: Launder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

Introduction to Government

Lecturer:
Dr. Niva Golan-Nadir  niva.golan@post.idc.ac.il

Tutors:
Mr. Etai Handman  etai.handman@post.idc.ac.il

Teaching Assistant:
Mr. Etai Handman  etai.handman@post.idc.ac.il

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Course Requirements:
Final Exam

Group Code: 201013201

Language:
English

Prerequisites

Students who took one of the courses listed below will not be allowed to register to the course Introduction to Government (132):

848 - Introduction To Comparative Politics
8055 - Introduction to Government for Psychologists
Course Description

The course will examine main topics and research methods in Government and Comparative Politics. The topics include theories of democracy, development, historical evaluation of the state, nationality and ethnicity, the dynamics of regime change, study of institutions, bottom-up (civil society) and top-down (elites) processes, and the new challenges of globalization faced by the nation-state. Examples brought from different regions of the world and different periods in history will give the students a basis for comparative analysis.

Course Goals

To provide an overview of the field of study of Government and comparative politics, as well as the comparative method. And consequently, to provide students with the tools to analyze case studies using different theoretical frameworks.

Grading

Midterm paper - 30% (Assigned 4 December 2019)

Final exam - 70%

Mandatory participation - at least 85% of classes

Lecturer Office Hours

Wednesdays, 14:30-15:30 (on demand - schedule via e-mail)

niva.golan@post.idc.ac.il

Tutor Office Hours

Mr. Etai Handman

Thursdays, 13:15-14:15 (on demand - schedule via e-mail)

etai.handman@post.idc.ac.il
Recitation: Thursdays 11:30-13:00, Biweekly

Group 201013211 begins at week 1
Group 201013212 begins at week 2
*Mandatory participation*

Reading List

Week 1 – Political Science, Government and Comparative Politics - Introduction to the Field of Study


Recommended reading:


Week 2 – The Modern State


Recommended reading:


**Week 3 – Legitimacy, Sovereignty and Power**


**Recommended reading:**


**Week 4 – Political Ideologies**


**Week 5 – Democratic Theory**


**Recommended reading:**


**Week 6 – Regime Transformations and Democratic Transitions**


**Recommended reading:**


**Week 7 – State Institutions in Modern Regimes**


**Week 8 – Bottom-up Processes (Civil Society) vs. Top-down Processes (Elite)**


**Recommended reading:**


**Week 9 – Modernization and Development Theories**


**Recommended reading:**


**Week 10 – Nationalism**


**Recommended reading:**

Connor, Walker. (1978). “A nation is a nation, is a state, is an ethnic group is a….” *Ethnic and racial studies* 1(4), pp. 377-400.

Week 11 – Divided Societies and Consociational Democracy


Week 12 – Religion and Politics


*Recommended reading:*


https://s3.amazonaws.com/berkley-center/CasanovaCatholicMuslimPoliticsComparativePerspective.pdf

Week 13 – Summery and Conclusion