Course Description

The course examines core 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) versus top-down (elites) processes, and the challenges globalization imposes upon 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, as well as current affairs, using different theoretical frameworks.

Grading

Midterm paper 30% (Assigned week 5 for two weeks)

Final exam 70%

Mandatory participation at least 85% of classes (contact TA for justified absences)

A passing grade (60) [in both midterm paper and final exam] is mandatory in order to pass the course!

Lecturer Office Hours

By request - schedule via e-mail

Niva.Golan@post.idc.ac.il

Tutor Office Hours

By request - schedule via e-mail

yuvalbartovidc@gmail.com

Teaching Assistant

Mr. Yuval Bartov

yuvalbartovidc@gmail.com

Additional Notes

For administrative inquiries - contact Mr. Yuval Bartov at: yuvalbartovidc@gmail.com

Reading List

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


**Recommended reading:**


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**Week 2 – The Modern State**


**Recommended reading:**


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


**Recommended reading:**


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**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**