Course description

This research seminar offers advanced BA students with a unique opportunity to explore the modern international system and to develop and write an individual research paper on the history, nature, or trajectory of international politics. The seminar begins with a series of discussions about the building blocks of modern international politics. We will explore the concept of political order and the human quest for a stable and durable international system. It then traces the evolution of the international system and invites students to derive lessons from those historical experiences for our own time. In addition, the seminar challenges students to think about the defining features, advantages and disadvantages of the contemporary international system, and to imagine alternative orders suitable for 21st century realities. These discussions (which take place in the first 6-7 weeks of the semester) provide the basis for each individual student to develop her or his own research paper. During weeks 8 and 9 of the semester, the instructor will conduct individual conversations with each student in the seminar and help them define their research question. Students will then present and receive feedback on their paper projects in the last two or three weeks of the semester. This process will allow students to complete an individual research project.
Course Goals

The goal of the research seminar is to stimulate academic inquiry, active group learning, and future research among advanced BA students. Accordingly, the instructor does not intend to "police" student reading, but rather to provide opportunities for learning. Please note that as we progress with the seminar changes to the syllabus may be made at the discretion of the lecturer in response to new developments.

Grading

Attendance and quality of participation: 25%
Seminar Presentation – 25% (in English!)
Seminar Research Paper – 50% (the paper may be written in English or Hebrew)

NOTE: Regular attendance and quality of participation correlate very strongly with success in the seminar.

Learning Outcomes

Familiarity with the building blocks, evolution, and major emerging challenges of the modern international system. Reading, analysis, research and writing skills. Presentation and critical deliberations skills.

Lecturer Office Hours

The lecturer will conduct an individual meeting with each student in the seminar in order to define a research question with each student. Any other meetings will be by appointment.

Tutor Office Hours

By appointment

Teaching Assistant
Reading List

Since this is a research seminar there are no required readings per se. The reading materials posted in each seminar session are recommendations for further reading on particular themes of the seminar.