

Last update: March 24, 2024



Representation: A Research Dialog with Leading International Scholars
2 credit points, optional course for B.A (M.A., Ph.D., and Postdocs also welcome)
Course 0-138-1-0314 - Department of Politics and Government
Semester Bet, Wednesdays 16:15 – 17:45, online (via zoom)

Course description:

The main goal for this course, which is conducted online (via zoom) in English, is for students to create a dialog with leading international scholars on the topic of representation from a cross-national and historical perspective. The course includes several classes in which leading international scholars join the course as guest lecturers in an interactive zoom webinar format that will be open to the general public, and students in this course will take an active role in planning and facilitating those meetings. Students will select one of the guest lecturers to study in-depth as the focus of periodic exercises to build skills for writing literature reviews in English.

Innovative teaching components focused on student learning and skills-building:

Students will be supported to gain a number of academic and professional skills including: literature review skills in English; peer review skills for oral and written work; oral presentation skills informed by TED talk consultant advice; academic seminar facilitation skills; international online academic network-building skills; and academic use of ChatGPT. Students will also gain a close familiarity with the *Annual Review of Political Science* journal – one of the top international journals in the field – including its video interviews of leading scholars which we will view and discuss together in class (see for example video interviews with [Prof. Theda Skocpol](#) and Prof. [Robert A. Dahl](#)).

Lecturer: Prof. Jennifer Oser, oser@post.bgu.ac.il

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Eligibility: BGU Politics & Government BA students will be given first priority, and our MA and PhD students are also warmly welcome to register. PhD students must email Prof. Oser directly to finalize their PhD-level course registration form. Course size will be limited to 20 students overall. Space permitting, a limited number of students will be allowed to audit the course (שומעים חופשיים) from other departments at BGU, and from other universities throughout Israel.

Attendance: Live attendance and active participation in at least 80% of classes are expected. Students who are unable to participate live in at least 80% of the classes will have the option of submitting an original written assignment in English for each additional class missed in order to receive a grade in this course.

Assignments: In addition to completion of in-class interactive exercises, there are 2 main required assignments:

- (1) An in-class presentation in which each student presents a summary and critique of an academic article.
- (2) Literature review skills assignments, with a main focus on the scholar's work selected by the student.

A more detailed syllabus, course readings, and assignment descriptions will be reviewed in the first class.

****NOTE**:** Students must attend classes **before** the registration deadline and complete a short written exercise to evaluate English skills in order to be eligible to remain registered students in this course.