Department of Politics and Government, 2017-2018
Course numbers: 138-2-0018-01 // 138-2-0028-02

Between Citizens and the State: A Seminar
Semester alef, Tues 16-18 // Semester bet periodic meetings
4 points, year-long elective seminar for M.A., & Ph.D. students
NOTE: a select number of BA students can participate following lecturer’s permission

Course goal: Can citizens in democratic countries have a meaningful impact on policy change? And how do different aspects of country context affect citizens' abilities to "make a difference" on a variety of social and political issues? The main goal of the course is to support students to examine these important questions from a cross-national and historical perspective, drawing on cutting edge research. The course is based on active class participation, and a supportive learning environment in English encourages all course participants to practice and develop their written and oral academic English skills.

Lecturer: Dr. Jennifer Oser, oser@post.bgu.ac.il
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http://in.bgu.ac.il/humsos/politics/Pages/staff/jennifer_oser_updated.aspx

Eligibility: For B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. students. Course size will be limited to 15 students overall, and a limited number of B.A. students can register following permission from the lecturer.

Language of instruction & class environment: Class will be conducted in English in a supportive atmosphere. Students are partners in developing the class syllabus, and class contents and reading will be adjusted to match the interests and academic levels of registered students. Students will receive extra credit for submitting their seminar paper in English, and a modest budget for language editing of final assignment may be available through the department for students who have completed all requirements.

Assignments: Two main assignments:
(1) Literature review and related assignments, including periodic reading summaries and in-class presentation in which students present a summary and critique of 1 academic article.
Length and timing: brief, 4-6 pages literature review due end of semester alef
(2) A seminar paper on a topic chosen by the student, in coordination with the instructor. The assignment can be used to assist students develop a draft of their thesis research proposals.
Length and timing: seminar paper up to 15 pages with 6,000 word limit, due end of semester bet

Attendance: Attendance and active participation are required in order to receive course credit.

Additional course information will be reviewed in the first class
Reading list – examples

NOTE: reading list will be finalized with student input; see below example reading items.

**Classic political science literature on the relationship "Between Citizens and the State"


**Empirical studies of the impact of citizens on policy change


**Israel-focused studies

