The title of the seminar is "Is Israeli Democracy in Decline?" Dr. Gal Arayeli, galariel@bgu.ac.il

In recent years, it is commonly said that Israel’s democratic model is declining.

The seminar aims to engage with this claim using tools and methodological approaches from the field of political science. The seminar will lay the theoretical foundation for discussing democracy in general and the Israeli case in particular, focusing on different ways to examine whether democracy is indeed declining and what factors explain this process.

Additionally, time will be set aside during the course to work on writing assignments, developing writing and academic presentation skills.

The seminar is part of a network of courses taught in different places, mainly in the United States, which deal with the issue of democracy decline. More information on this network can be found on this link.

Requirements of the seminar:

- Mandatory attendance according to university regulations. Absence without正当理由 does not allow submission of seminar assignments.
- Reading of reading materials for meetings according to guidelines that will be given from meeting to meeting.
- Posting short reactions on the course website on reading materials according to guidelines.
- Submitting three short reading reports on articles related to the seminar topics (10%).
- Submitting six reading reports on articles related to the seminar topics (10%).
- Presentations and participation in discussions (5%).
- Thirteen-minute presentation of seminar work (100%).
- Submissions to other courses are prohibited.
- Students are prohibited from publishing articles or presenting seminar results outside of the course framework.

Student performance:

- Participation in class activities and discussions (5%).
- Presentation of seminar work (100%).
- Thirteen-minute presentation of seminar work (10%).
- Mandatory attendance according to university regulations. Absence without正当理由 does not allow submission of seminar assignments.

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The seminar is based on a shared and hierarchical process including a selection and approval process for a topic and research question, the submission of a research rationale, and the presentation of a framework of work during the second semester. Without full participation in this process, it is not possible to submit a seminar paper.

Note: Continuing participation in the second semester will not be possible for students who do not meet the requirements of the first semester.

Reading materials for ongoing discussions and seminar work*

*Temporary list. Reading materials will be updated in line with seminar topics and the publication of new research in the subject.


The struggle over the nature of the Israeli-Palestinian status


Ghanem, A. a., & Khatib, I. 2017. The nationalisation of the Israeli ethnocratic regime and the Palestinian minority’s shrinking citizenship. *Citizenship Studies, 1-14.* (Online first)


Harel-Shalev, A. & Peleg, I. 2014. Hybridity and Israel's democratic order the end of an imperfect balance? *Contemporary Review of the Middle East, 1*(1), 75-94.

Merkel, W. 2012. Embedded and defective democracies: Where does Israel stand? In T. Hermann (Ed.), *By the people, for the people, without the people? the emergence of (anti)political sentiment in Western democracies and in Israel.* Jerusalem: The Israeli Democracy Institute. 185-205.


Varieties of Democracy codes


