



Department of Politics and Government  
Spring 2017 (Semester Bet)

Course 138-2-0057

### **Can We Make a Difference? Citizens and Policy Change**

2 credit points, elective course for M.A. and Ph.D. (A limited number of B.A. can register)

Course goal: Can citizens in democratic countries have a meaningful impact on policy change? Although this question is central to the study of politics, there is a vibrant debate among experts in the field who attempt to research this topic. The main goal of the course is to support students to examine this important question 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.

Hours of instruction: Tuesdays 14:00-16:00. In addition, students will be highly encouraged to attend the Annual Conference of the Israeli Political Science Association on Thursday, May 18, an all-day conference in Tel Aviv Yaffo in which Israeli scholars all over the country will present on these and related topics. Students who attend and write a brief summary of their experience will receive a 5 point bonus on their final grade.

Lecturer: Dr. Jennifer Oser, [oser@post.bgu.ac.il](mailto:oser@post.bgu.ac.il)

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[http://in.bgu.ac.il/humsos/politics/Pages/staff/jennifer\\_oser\\_updated.aspx](http://in.bgu.ac.il/humsos/politics/Pages/staff/jennifer_oser_updated.aspx)

Eligibility: For M.A. and Ph.D. students. Course size will be limited to 25 students overall, and a limited number of B.A. students can register.

Language of instruction: English; recognized English course. NOTE: students will not be expected to have perfect English, but will be expected to do the oral and written assignments in English only. A modest budget will be available to students who have completed all requirements for language editing of final assignment.

Assignments: There are two main required assignments: (1) An in-class presentation in which students present a summary and critique of an academic article (2) A literature review of a topic chosen by the student, in coordination with the instructor (6 pages in length). Additional class requirements will be described in a detailed syllabus presented and discussed the first week of class.

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

A detailed syllabus, course readings, and assignment descriptions will be reviewed in the first class. Reading and assignments are posted to the course Moodle, and students will be partners in developing the syllabus content throughout the course.