When one thinks of radical politics today, the most intuitive association is usually of the "new radical right" parties of Western Europe and their anti-immigrant, if not outright xenophobic, ideology. In fact, radicalism, according to the Oxford Dictionary, means any "beliefs or actions of people who advocate thorough or complete political or social reform." In this sense, radicalism as a political phenomenon is not unique to the twenty-first century, nor is it limited to the right end of the political spectrum. On the contrary, the first historical wave of political radicalism can be traced at least as far back as the radical liberal movements of the nineteenth century, who opposed (sometimes violently) the monarchies of old and advocated for a new democratic system of government. Radicalism understood thusly leads to a discourse in political science that is richer in theory and more useful in empirical explanation. From the anti-monarchists to the imperial nationalists; from the total wars between fascism, socialism, and democracy to the postwar protest politics of the conservative right, the progressive left, the environmentalist Greens, and the religious fundamentalists – this course seeks to unpack the often used yet seldom studied concept of "radical politics." This course pays particular attention to applying theoretical concepts of radicalism to the historic and ongoing situations within the Middle East region, capitalizing on the location of the class and supporting this by a number of field visits.

This course has the following learning goals:

1. To introduce students to a variety of theoretical concepts – such as democratic theory, institutionalism, electoral politics, ideology, social movements, and political culture – that position radicalism more centrally in the study of politics.

2. To apply these analytical tools to study the variation, in both time and space, of the manifestations and causes of radical politics – drawn from a diverse set of case studies in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East.

3. To support the development of students' abilities to discuss, analyze, and write about political and social issues from a critical and analytical perspective, and to learn how to evaluate and apply social science methods to real-world issues.

Students are expected to attend class regularly and arrive on time. Students must complete all assigned readings before the class meeting and be prepared to participate actively in discussions of the readings and current events. Students are required to turn in all written assignments on the dates scheduled. Late work will be penalized.

Students will be evaluated on the following basis:

1. One in-class presentation on Final Paper (10%)
2. Three short response papers following each thematic unit (25%)
3. Research Proposal (25%)
4. Research Paper (40%)

Failure to submit or fulfill any one of the required course component results in failure of the class.

**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** Full attendance, thoughtful participation, assignments turned in on time and meet assigned grading criteria

**Grade B:** Full attendance, thoughtful participation, assignments turned in on time but partially meet assigned grading criteria

**Grade C:** Partial attendance, little participation, assignments turned in late and/or partially meet assigned grading criteria

**Grade D:** Partial attendance, no participation, assignments turned in late and/or do not meet assigned grading criteria

**Grade F:** Poor attendance, no participation, assignments turned in late and/or do not meet assigned grading criteria

**Grade conversion**

A=94-100
A-=90-93
B+=87-89
B=84-86
B-=80-83
C+=77-79
C=74-76
C-=70-73
D+=67-69
D=65-66
F=below 65

**Grading Policy**

No-shows for in-class presentations and assignments submitted after the deadline without requesting an extension will receive zero grades.

If a student believes an inadvertent error was made in the grading of an individual assignment or in assessing an overall course grade, a request to have the grade re-evaluated may be submitted. To appeal an assigned final grade, the student should first email the course instructor requesting clarification about how the grade was determined. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of the discussion and wishes to appeal the grade further, a formal written appeal should be submitted to the site director. **This appeal must be submitted within 30 days after the grade has been posted; appeals that are submitted after this deadline will not be considered.**
Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and **unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade.** Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

All medical-based absence requests MUST be presented to the Manager of Student Life and Housing (MSLH). In the case of illness, contact the MSLH within seven (7) days of the absence or as soon as practicable and provide medical documentation. Non-medical requests should be made to the Assistant Director for Academics (AD/Academics) and in advance of the intended absence. Your instructors will be informed of any excused absence; they are not authorized to approve your absence, and they are required to report any absences to the AD/Academics.

**NYU Policy on Religious Holidays**

1. Students who anticipate being absent because of any religious observance should, whenever possible, notify faculty and the AD/Academics in advance of such anticipated absence.

2. Whenever feasible, examinations and assignment deadlines should not be scheduled on religious holidays. Any student absent from class because of his/her religious beliefs shall not be penalized for any class, examination, or assignment deadline missed on that day or days. In the event that examinations or assignment deadlines are scheduled on a religious holiday, any student who is unable to attend class shall be permitted the opportunity to make up any examination or to extend any assignment deadline missed on that day or days.

3. That no adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to any student who avails him/herself of the provisions of the resolution.

4. A violation of these policies and principles shall permit any aggrieved student to bring forward a grievance, provided under the University Grievance Procedure.

**Late Submission of Work**

All works must be submitted on time, unless you have received an explicit extension. Any late submission may result in grade deduction at the sole discretion of the instructor.

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities at 212-998-4980 or see their website (http://www.nyu.edu/life/safety-health-andwellness/students-with-disabilities.html) for further information.

**Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism is the presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally. Plagiarism constitutes an academic offence for which you can be disciplined. Punishment may include a failing grade, suspension or expulsion. In all confirmed cases, a report will be sent to the student’s Dean at NYU or, in the case of a non-NYU student, to the home institution.

**Required Text(s)**

All readings are available on NYU Classes.
Supplemental Texts(s)
None

Internet Research Guidelines
It is hard to overestimate the importance of the internet to the build up of contemporary knowledge of the world around us. But it needs to be used wisely. This means that one must be selective and careful when relating to internet-based sources, identifying and distinguishing opinions from facts, and journalism from academics. One should make clear reference to internet sources, allowing the reader the opportunity to consult these resources as and if required. As with all sources of information, use the internet critically.

Please also note that the ‘world-wide web’ exists in many languages. Many sources about Israel in English, for instance, will be aimed at tourists or readers living primarily in English-speaking regions of the world. Sources might differ when reading them in other languages.

NYUTA’s Writing Center
Established in coordination with NYU’s Expository Writing Center, NYUTA’s Writing Center is available to help you with all genres of writing, from senior theses to smaller response papers; from personal statements to cover letters; from PowerPoint presentations to creative assignments. The Center can help you at any stage of the writing process, from figuring out the demands of an assignment, to working with or researching sources, to brainstorming a thesis and outline, to finalizing a project or reviewing a draft. However, please note that writing sessions are held as a joint session, an active exercise between the student and writing advisor – this is not a proofreading service!

Please view the Writing Center as an opportunity, not a punishment. It is meant equally for student-writers who are not confident in their skills as well as students who are quite talented and strong, but recognize the value of a second look. Moreover, rest assured that your instructors will value and appreciate your initiative to visit the writing center.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact NYUTA's AD/Academics, Edan Raviv (room 201; edanr@nyu.edu).

Additional Equipment
None Required

Session 1
Course Introduction
Overview of the course, its requirements and my expectations within the classroom and beyond. An opportunity to ask questions before the formal material begins, and a seminar style discussion to help determine the extent of class knowledge and areas of interest in order to effectively tailor the course to student wants and needs.

Students should familiarize themselves with the reading sent out during the Summer for discussion during the first class:


Session 2
Ground Rules: What is ‘Comparative’?
This seminar will equip and inform students of different approaches to the field of comparative politics, inviting them to test their own perceptions and worldviews under this lens, focusing strongly on the relative approaches of each reading and what they tell us about transition, conceptualization and methodologies of analysis, and in turn their limitations.

Ground Rules: What is Radicalism?
This seminar will question students on their standard definition of ‘radicalism’ and question how hijacked this has become by mass media and stereotype within society by presenting a historical case of radicalism and its evolving definition. The class will dedicate time to exploring ideas of rationality and radicalism, socialism, conservatism and neoliberalism as well as testing proposed frameworks empirically. The second half of the class will be dedicated to applying the theoretical approaches to recent current affairs.


Response Paper One Due: Determining the Radicalism of the Arab Spring

Institutional Radicalism: Concepts
This seminar will highlight, analyze and evaluate theories of institutional radicalism through a discussion of the seminal works of the field, and their application to case studies. This class will equip students with key frameworks for use in their research papers, and will also highlight the diversity of approaches. Students will form definitions of institutional radicalism, develop their understanding of key arguments between rationalism and constructivism and then evaluate the role of radicalism within institutions in the Middle East.


Institutional Radicalism: Modern Nation State and Regime Change
This seminar outlines the history of institutional radicalism in terms of the shifting status quo across a series of nations and situations, from the glorious revolution in seventeenth century England, to modern corporatist systems. Students will develop their understanding of rebellion, revolution and regime in the institutional context, and consider how radicalism
can change aspects of institutions or the institutions themselves, as well as evaluating such approaches for success over the short, medium and long term.


Response Paper Two Due: Defining Institutional Radicalism in the Iranian Revolution

**Political Radicalism: Concepts in Western Democracies**

Taking the standard of Rechtsstaat principles in order to cleanly evaluate the principles and concepts of political radicalism, students will analyze changes in ideological belief, issue voting and the variables that affect how the electorate operates. Students will define and develop their ideas of cleavage politics, systemic incentives, the Middle Class and their base values. The cases used in this seminar will be the growing presence of the extreme right wing in Israel, the political viability of India’s Middle Class and electoral system changes across the European Union.


**Political Radicalism: Europe**

Taking the case of increasingly radical Europe, students will examine the sensitivity of citizen regimes to international integration and how such perceived threats create a base for the radical right to emerge successfully across a number of nations. Students will examine demand and supply centered explanations for successful development, types of opposition to the European Union and other supranational organizations, and evaluating the importance of leadership within such parties. Case studies for application include the case of Front National in France and their ongoing trajectory given the context of the French election cycle, and coding specific Eurosceptic parties by their approach and participation methodologies.


**One to One Meetings about Research Paper**

### Political Radicalism: United States

This seminar is focused on the radical development of American politics since the emergence of conservatism as an engaged political force in the late 20th century. Using the case studies of the most recent electoral successes in the US, we discuss how radical shifts in the methodology of parties to engage the grassroots movement have benefitted the Democratic party, as well as exploring the role of ‘Middle America’ and the contemporary forms of support for the transforming American Conservative Movement. There will then be a discussion on the potential impact this carries for American foreign policy, considering interest groups, populism and the shifting role of the lobbying movements, most specifically for the Middle East.


**Research Proposal Due**

### Political Radicalism: Israel

Situating Israel in the Middle East, this seminar is focused on the role of radical forces within the Israeli political system. Using the evolving system as a case study, students will examine how politically distinct groups act to exclude other political groups deemed ‘radical.’ This seminar will consider the subject of identity and issue voting in Israel, how demographics impact and threaten to evolve the political ecosystem of ‘ethnic democracy’. The seminar will consider how Israel’s regional interactions are impacted by the political radicalism experienced by the domestic system using analysis of current affairs.


### Panel: Radicalism in the Middle East

Students will participate in a panel discussion with several leading experts of radical groups within the Middle East, to gain a greater understanding of how radical groups develop their own institutions, how radicalism has developed throughout the MENAP region and the future of radical politics in the area. Cases discussed will include the Taliban in Northern Pakistan, ISIS in Iraq and Syria, the Arab Spring/Islamist Winter and the role of Hamas.
To be decided upon finalizing speakers.

**Session 11**

**Institutions of Radicalism**

Class scheduled prior to departure to a settlement, largely considered a radical institution of Israel deep within the West Bank. The class will focus on the settlement movement and its engagement with political forces in Israel, and its relation to other Middle Eastern institutions and polities.

*NY Times: Netanyahu and the Settlements*

*Jacobin: The Settlement Industry*

*Huffington Post: American Money, Israeli Settlements*

*Vice: The Soldier, The Settler and the Journalist*

*Forward: Revisiting the Gaza Withdrawal*

*Ariel Primer to be sent to students week prior to visit (American Friends of Ariel)*

**Session 12**

**Political Radicalism: The Islamic World**

This seminar begins with questioning what the ‘Islamic World’ is: how we analytically approach the Middle East and Islam as domestic, regional and global forces. The class will explore the argument of Arab exceptionalism through the lens of the Arab Spring, returning to question just how politically radical this event was (or is), and how we view democratization as a concept through our ideologically biased lens. The seminar explores the concept and ‘hope’ for moderation of radical groups by examining the case of Hamas, and comparing its position to other radical groups within the region.


**Response Paper Three Due: Politically Radical Groups in the MENAP Region**

**Session 13**

**Social Radicalism**

This final seminar focused on the forces of radicalism on people: discussing how radical movements affect and are effected by the population. What factors determine the likelihood of participation in social radical change? Why does political change emerge? What are the consequences of the radical change social movements can inspire? What are the impacts of failure?


**Session 14**

**Final Presentations**

This final class will orient itself around presentations of final papers, including time for Q&A.

**Final Paper Due**

Please raise your hand before speaking in class.

Computers are acceptable in class, but please do not abuse this privilege by using them for non-class related activities.

Place all mobile devices on silent.

**Classroom Etiquette**

**Required Co-curricular Activities**

Mandatory Research Proposal Writing Seminar

Ariel Trip with required pre-departure briefing

Visit to Arab List MK with required pre-departure briefing

Mandatory Research Paper Writing Seminar

**Your Instructor**

Dr. Edan Raviv holds a PhD from Tel Aviv University in the field of Political Science, as well as degrees in International Relations and Security Studies. He currently serves as the Assistant Director for Academic Programs at New York University’s Tel Aviv academic center. Edan’s doctoral dissertation explored the variation in the electoral support of political nativism in Western Europe, particularly as it is related to the institutional conflict between international integration and national citizenship regimes.