POL-UA 9994, RELST-UA 9613, SOC-UA 9970
Religion, Politics and State in Comparative Perspective
Instruction Mode: In-Person
Spring 2022

Instructor Information

- Edan Raviv
- NYU Tel Aviv, 17 Brandeis Street, Tel Aviv
- Office hours: by appointment

Course Information

- POL-UA 9994, RELST-UA 9613, SOC-UA 9970
- Religion, Politics and State in Comparative Perspective
- The Enlightenment symbolized not only the advent of modern science, but, so we are told by some of history’s greatest intellectuals, the demise of religion. Similarly, social scientists since the end of the Cold War were sure that the 21st century would bring with it the “end of ideology.” But in reality, religion, and ideology more broadly, continues to shape individual values, social movements, state institutions and world politics – perhaps even more so than ever before. This seminar seeks to examine the complex nature of religion (and “non-religious” ideologies), both within itself and as part of society and the political system.
- Prerequisites: None
- Mondays, 3:45pm-5:00pm; Wednesdays, 1:45-3:00pm (Israel Standard Time)
- In-person meetings will take place in room 104, NYU Tel Aviv academic center. Zoom meetings will be available via Brightspace.
- COVID-related details: In the interest of protecting the NYU Tel Aviv community, we are closely following CDC guidance around COVID-19 and adjusting our recommendations and policies accordingly. Your health and well-being is our top priority.
  - You will be assigned a seat on the first day and are expected to use that seat for the entire semester due to NYU COVID-19 safety protocol. Please note that you
are expected to attend every class meeting in-person; however, this may change during the drop/add period if in-person student registration increases significantly or at any point during the semester if local COVID-19 regulations require additional physical distancing.

Course Overview and Goals

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

● Increase familiarity with social science research, theory, concepts, and methods in the study of religion and politics.
● Apply social science frameworks for intellectual, critical, and analytical discussions of historical and contemporary political events and trends.
● Understand the interplay between religion, politics and state in a comparative empirical context, with particular focus on Israel-Palestine.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

You are expected to attend class synchronously. Your active participation in class and attendance will be reflected in this part of the course requirements.

Weekly assignments

In addition to active participation in synchronous class meetings, the main asynchronous class work will take place through short essays (~ 500 words) submitted either individually to the instructor or through forum topics on Brightspace. Weekly assignments are meant to assess student understanding of the readings, course topics and applications to empirical events (historical and/or current). Students should expect approximately ten weekly assignments through the semester.

Final project

Each student will write a final paper, which will be presented to the class in the last week(s) of the semester, and submitted to the instructor shortly following the end of the semester. Specific guidelines will be provided by the instructor.
Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments/Activities</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly assignments</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final project</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.33</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.67</td>
<td>80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.33</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.33</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>65-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>.00</td>
<td>Below 65</td>
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Viewing Grades

Grades will be available on Brightspace.
Required Textbooks & Materials

- All readings will be available on Brightspace.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Resources on religion in Israel and around the world.</td>
<td></td>
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Weekly assignments
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks 9-10</th>
<th>Radicalism and Conflict</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israeli &amp; Palestinian Symbol Use. MSU Press, 2002. PP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weeks 11-12</th>
<th>Unit IV: Religion and conflict resolution</th>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 13</th>
<th>Unit V: Innovation Religion, State and Politics</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flack, Jessica C., Manfred D. Laubichler. &quot;Engineered Societies.&quot; <em>Words Hidden in</em></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Weekly assignments
### Plain Sight: The Evolving Idea of Complexity at the Santa Fe Institute

Santa Fe Institute, 2019. Ch. 25.


### Week 14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course conclusion</th>
<th>Student presentations</th>
<th>Final paper due</th>
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### About Your Instructor

Edan Raviv holds a PhD in political science from Tel Aviv University, and is the Assistant Director for Academic Programs at New York University’s Tel Aviv academic center. Edan completed his MA in International Relations at New York University. Edan’s dissertation explored the variation in electoral support for politically nativist parties in Western Europe, particularly as it is related to the institutional conflict between international integration and national citizenship regimes. His research and teaching interests revolve around political ideologies and radical politics in the United States, Western Europe, and the Middle East.
Academic Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

Class attendance is expected promptly when class begins. Unexcused absences will affect students' semester participation grade. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. This means they should initiate email and/or office hour discussions to address any missed lectures and assignments and arrange a timeline for submitting missed work. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

Classroom Etiquette/Expectations

Things to consider:

- Please be mindful of your microphone and video display during synchronous class meetings. Ambient noise and some visual images may disrupt class time for you and your peers.
- If you are not using your cell phone to follow the lesson, cell phones should be turned off or in silent mode during class time.
- Make sure to let your classmates finish speaking before you do.
- Please do not eat during class and minimize any other distracting noises (e.g. rustling of papers and leaving the classroom before the break, unless absolutely necessary)
- Students should be respectful and courteous at all times to all participants in class. Consider using the chat function or “raise hand” function in order to add your voice to class discussions especially if leaving the video on presents challenges.

Late Assignments

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.

Incomplete Grade Policy

An “incomplete” is a temporary grade that indicates that the student has, for good reason, not completed all of the course work. This grade is not awarded automatically nor is it guaranteed; rather, the student must ask the instructor for a grade of “incomplete,” present documented evidence of illness, an emergency, or other compelling circumstances, and clarify the remaining course requirements with the instructor.

In order for a grade of “incomplete” to be registered on the transcript, the student must fill out a form, in collaboration with the course instructor and the academic administration at the site; it should then be submitted to the site’s academic office. The submitted form must include a
deadline by which the missing work will be completed. This deadline may not be later than the end of the following semester.

**Academic Honesty/Plagiarism**

As the University's policy on "Academic Integrity for Students at NYU" states: "At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others." **Students at Global Academic Centers must follow the University and school policies.**

The presentation of another person's words, ideas, judgment, images, or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

NYU takes plagiarism very seriously; penalties follow and may exceed those set out by your home school. All your written work must be submitted as a hard copy AND in electronic form to the lecturer. Your lecturer may ask you to sign a declaration of authorship form.

It is also an offense to submit work for assignments from two different courses that is substantially the same (be it oral presentations or written work). If there is an overlap of the subject of your assignment with one that you produced for another course (either in the current or any previous semester), you MUST inform your professor.

For guidelines on academic honesty, clarification of the definition of plagiarism, examples of procedures and sanctions, and resources to support proper citation, please see:

- NYU Academic Integrity Policies and Guidelines
- NYU Library Guides

**Religious Observances**

Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday.

Students must notify their professor and the local Academics team in writing via email at least 7 days before being absent for this purpose.

**Inclusion, Diversity, Belonging and Equity**

NYU is committed to building a culture that respects and embraces diversity, inclusion, and
equity, believing that these values – in all their facets – are, as President Andrew Hamilton has said, “...not only important to cherish for their own sake, but because they are also vital for advancing knowledge, sparking innovation, and creating sustainable communities.” At NYU Tel Aviv, we are committed to creating a learning environment that:

• fosters intellectual inquiry, research, and artistic practices that respectfully and rigorously take account of a wide range of opinions, perspectives, and experiences; and

• promotes an inclusive community in which diversity is valued and every member feels they have a rightful place, is welcome and respected, and is supported in their endeavors.

**Moses Accommodations Statement**

Academic accommodations are available for students with documented and registered disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Student Accessibility (+1 212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance. Accommodations for this course are managed through the site sponsoring the class once you request it.