

Representation: A Research Dialog with Leading International Scholars

2 credit points, optional course for B.A (M.A., Ph.D., and Postdocs also welcome)

Course 0-138-1-0314 - Department of Politics and Government

Semester Bet, Wednesdays 16:15 – 17:45, online (via zoom)

Course description:

The main goal for this course, which is conducted online (via zoom) in English, is for students to create a dialog with leading international scholars on the topic of representation from a cross-national and historical perspective. The course includes several classes in which leading international scholars join the course as guest lecturers in an interactive zoom webinar format in which they give a 30-minute talk about their recent research, followed by 30 minutes of questions and answers (“Q&A”). The webinars are open to the public, and students in this course take an active role in planning and facilitating the meetings. The webinar component of this course is integrated with a European Research Council (ERC) grant project on [“Participation and Representation in the Digital Age.”](#)

Save The Date

Participation & Representation A Research Dialog with Leading International Scholars

As part of a course at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev taught by Prof. Jennifer Oser in the second semester of the academic year 2023-2024 for BA and graduate students, online seminars open to the public will feature research talks by leading international scholars.

Seminars will be held on Wednesdays 16:30 in Israel (9:30 am ET time zone, 15:30 in CET time zone) via zoom.



22 May 2024

●

Prof. André Blais | University of Montreal &
Chair in Electoral Studies

“Participation and Representation”



19 June 2024

●

Prof. Rachel Gibson | University of Manchester &
PI of ERC Advanced Grant

“Online Political Influencers”



10 July 2024

●

Prof. Hahrie Han | Johns Hopkins University &
Director of the SNF Agora Institute

“Organizing and Democracy”

Page 1 of 2 – Last update: May 1, 2024

Lecturer: Prof. Jennifer Oser, <https://www.jenniferoser.com/>

Office: Building 72, Room 669, oser@post.bgu.ac.il

Innovative teaching components focused on student learning and skills-building:

Students will be supported to gain a number of academic and professional skills including: literature review skills in English; peer review skills for oral and written work; oral presentation skills informed by TED talk consultant advice; academic facilitation skills; international online academic network-building skills; and academic use of ChatGPT. Students will also gain a close familiarity with the *Annual Review of Political Science* journal – one of the top international journals in the field – including its video interviews of leading scholars which we will view and discuss together in class (see for example video interviews with [Prof. Theda Skocpol](#) and Prof. [Robert A. Dahl](#)).

Eligibility: BGU Politics & Government BA students will be given first priority, and our MA and PhD students are also warmly welcome to register. PhD students must email Prof. Oser directly to finalize their PhD-level course registration form. Course size will be limited to 20 students overall. Space permitting, a limited number of students will be allowed to audit the course (שומעים חופשיים) from other departments at BGU, and from other universities, with priority given to students who are interested in potential future work as research assistants and researchers in the [ERC research project](#).

Attendance: Live attendance and active participation in at least 80% of classes are expected. Students who are unable to participate live in at least 80% of the classes will have the option of submitting an original written assignment in English for each additional class missed in order to receive a grade in this course.

Assignments & Grade components (% of final grade):

- (1) Attendance and participation, including in-class exercises and active participation in our public webinars – 50%
- (2) Literature review skills: two article summary & critiques of research by our guest lecturers (2 pages each) – 30%
- (3) In-class presentation summary and critique of an academic article written by one of our guest lecturers – 20%

Guest lecturers, additional information:

Name with website link & position	Areas of expertise
André Blais is a Professor in the department of political science at the University of Montreal in Canada.	André is one of the leading experts in the world on voting and electoral democracy, and he is also active in public initiatives to improve voting processes. His google scholar page documents the dozens of studies he has published that have changed the way we understand voting and representation.
Rachel Gibson is a Professor of Politics in the Institute for Social Change in the University of Manchester, in the United Kingdom.	Rachel Gibson is a leading international researcher on the topic of how digital technologies change the way that election campaigns are fought and won. Rachel leads a prestigious Advanced ERC project on the topic of Digital Campaigning and Electoral Democracy (DiCED).
Hahrie Han is a Professor and Director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University in the U.S.	Hahrie is a renowned expert on civic organizations, mobilizing, and organizing. The Agora Institute which she directs focuses on strengthening global democracy through civic engagement. She also directs the P3 lab which advances research on making people's participation in public life "possible, probable, and powerful."

A more detailed syllabus, course readings, and assignment descriptions will be reviewed in the first class.

****NOTE**:** Students must attend classes **before** the registration deadline and complete a short in-class written exercise to evaluate English skills in order to be eligible to remain registered students in this course.