



Course program and reading list

Semester 1 Year 2024

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

Disproportionate Policy Response

Lecturer:

Prof. Moshe Maor moshe.maor@runi.ac.il

Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
6814	Lecture	1	1

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	241681400	English



Course Description

This course provides an overview of disproportionate response in politics and policy, with particular reference to strategies pursued by democratically elected leaders and the policy outcomes of such strategies. It consists of three central units. The first introduces students to core concepts (disproportionate policy response; policy over- and underreaction; disproportionate rhetoric and doctrines; over- and underreaction policy style), critical approaches (psychological, institutional, and strategic perspectives), and measurement strategies; essential policy tools employed by political executives who wish to deliberately over- or underreact; the benefits political executives gain from disproportionate response, and the conditions which are conducive to deliberate policy over- or underreaction. The second unit discusses the disproportionate use of policy tools at the rhetorical and doctrinal levels and 'on the ground.' The third unit discusses the implications of disproportionate policy response for democracy.



Course Goals

This course will enable students to understand disproportionate responses in politics and policy and the main theories and concepts employed in this emerging subfield; write short papers that critically evaluate the subfield's main arguments as applied in democratic contexts; translate academic knowledge into writing for broader audiences, and write an independently researched academic paper.

Grading

Requirements

- Attendance is critical for success in this course.
- Academic integrity is required of all students.
- Consistent and informed participation in class discussions, including familiarity with all of the required readings, and a final paper submitted via Moodle and email (moshe.maor@runi.ac.il) by 28.1.2024. Word limit: 4000.

Grading Criteria: Final Paper: 100%

Learning Outcomes

This course will enable students to understand disproportionate responses in politics and policy and the main theories and concepts employed in this emerging subfield; write short papers that critically evaluate the subfield's main arguments as applied in democratic contexts; translate academic knowledge into writing for broader audiences, and write an independently researched academic paper.

Lecturer Office Hours

By appointment (moshe.maor@runi.ac.il; WhatsApp 0546438096).

Teaching Assistant

No TA

Reading List

1. **Introduction** (21.11.2023)
2. **Core Concepts** (28.11.2023)

Maor, M. (2021). [Deliberate Disproportionate Policy Response: Towards a Conceptual Turn](#). *Journal of Public Policy* 41(1): 185–208.

Maor, M. (2019). Overreaction and Bubbles in Politics and Policy. In: Alex Mintz and Lesley Terris (Eds.) *Oxford Handbook on Behavioral Political Science*, Oxford: Oxford University Press [Online] <https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190634131.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780190634131-e-28>

Non-Compulsory Readings:

Maor, M. (2017) [Disproportionate Policy Response](#). In *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. DOI:10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.168.

Maor, M., Tosun, J. and Jordan, A. (2017) Proportionate and Disproportionate Policy Responses to Climate Change: Core Concepts and Empirical Applications. *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, 19, 599–611.

3. **Key Policy Tools** (5.12.2023)

Maor, M. (2017) Policy Overreaction Doctrine: From Ideal-Type to Context-Sensitive Solution in Times of Crisis. In Howlett M and Mukherjee I (eds.), *Handbook of Policy Formulation*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Maor, M. (2018) Rhetoric and Doctrines of Policy Over- and Underreactions in Times of Crisis. *Policy & Politics* 46, 47–63.

Maor, M., and Gross, J. (2015) Emotion Regulation by Emotional Entrepreneurs: Implications for Political Science and International Relations. Paper presented at the 73rd Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 16–19, 2015, Chicago. <http://www.moshemaor.net/publications/policy-anomalies>

Non-Compulsory Readings:

Lamont, M., Yun Park, B., and Ayala-Hurtado, E. (2017) Trump's electoral speeches and his appeal to the American white working class. *British Journal of Sociology* 68, S153–S180.

4. **Strategic Policy Overreaction and Policy Overreaction Style** (12.12.2023)

Maor, M. (2019) Strategic Policy Overreaction as Risky Policy Investment. *International Review of Public Policy*, 1(1), 46–64.

Maor, M. (2021). Policy Over- and Under-reaction as Policy Styles. In M. Howlett and J. Tosun (Eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Policy Styles*. London: Routledge, pp. 273–285.

Non-Compulsory Readings:

Ouyang, Y. and Morgan M.A. (2019). The Contemporary Presidency: How Presidents Utilize Their Emergency Powers. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 49(3), 718–732.

5. **Measurement** (19.12.2023)

Maor, M. (2021). Deliberate Disproportionate Policy Response: Towards a Conceptual Turn. *Journal of Public Policy* 41(1): 185–208.

De Francesco F and Maggetti M (2018) Assessing Disproportionality: Indexes of Policy Responses to the 2007–2008 Banking Crisis. *Policy Sciences* 51, 17–38.

6. **Implications for Democracy** (26.12.2024)

Lavitsky S, and Ziblatt D (2018) *How Democracies Die*. New York: Crown, pp. 11–52.

Inglehart R and Norris P (2017) [Trump and Populist–Authoritarian Parties: The Silent Revolution in Reverse](#). *Perspectives on Politics*. 15, 443–454.

Non-Compulsory Readings:

Oliver JE and Wood TJ (2018) *Enchanted America: How Intuition & Reason Divide Our Politics*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, pp. 107–147.

Mason L (2018) *Uncivil Agreement: How Politics Became Our Identity*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 1–16, 78–126. OR: Podcast: <https://www.vox.com/ezra-klein-show-podcast/2018/12/31/18161645/ezra-klein-show-podcast-2018-episodes-interviews>

Complementary Sources

Surveys

Pew Research Center: <http://www.pewresearch.org/>

Gallup: <https://www.gallup.com/search/default.aspx?q=Trump>