



The Gershon H. Gordon
Faculty of Social Sciences
Tel Aviv University

הפקולטה למדעי החברה
ע"ש גרשון גורדון
אוניברסיטת תל אביב

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Dear students,

A new academic year is usually characterized by a lot of excitement and joy. For new students this a new phase in their lives, and for continuing students – another step of the journey, presenting interesting challenges and the realization of big hopes.

Unfortunately, the academic year which begins today is launched, like the previous one, under the shadow of the October 7th events and the Iron Swords war. The excitement of beginning a new academic year is intertwined with sadness, pain and uncertainty. Many of you are recruited for the war effort and cannot share the festive experience of the beginning of the new year with peers and colleagues. We all hope that this situation will end soon, enabling us to meet all of you in the lecture halls and around the TAU campus.

Facing this complex reality, TAU as a whole and the Faculty of Social Sciences in particular, made significant efforts to create the best learning conditions for all of you, under the circumstances. The faculty's staff – both academic and administrative - have worked hard to enable you a fruitful, interesting and successful academic year.

At the Faculty of Social Sciences, we research and study the different facets of society and are very sensitive to emergency situations like pandemic and war. During the academic year we will learn and explore the new reality we are all living in, as well as the effect of the war on various fields of Social Sciences: the economy, the emotional sphere in psychology and social work, the employment market in labor studies and sociology, communication and new media, and naturally policy and decision making, in the department of public policy and the school of political science, government and international relations.

The wide array of disciplines in our faculty reflects the multitude of perspectives for observing and studying the human reality, and particularly the human society. To this multitude of perspectives, we should add the difference and variety in our community of faculty and students. The result of these two aspects of variety is the presence of different viewpoints and experiences which enrich the academic experience. Consequently, the openness to new and different ideas is an integral part of the learning process and an important ingredient of the personal development of the whole campus community, and particularly our faculty.

Therefore, we would like to encourage you to open your hearts and minds to new opinions and ideas – not to give up your own, but to re-examine them, deepen, learn, explore, develop and acquire new tools and knowledge for your personal and professional future. For this to happen, patience, tolerance and willingness to engage in a discussion with people who hold different opinions than your own are necessary, and an integral part of our faculty's identity.

The academic and administrative staff are here for you regarding any question you may have or problem you may encounter. You can find us all [here](#). We wish you a fruitful and fascinating academic year and hope to return soon to the blessed normality of life and studies, in the presence of the whole campus community and in good health.

Wishing for good news and better days,

Prof. Amal Jamal
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences

Gila Gavish
Head of the Faculty's Administration