



**Ginsburg Ingerman Overseas Students Program  
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev**

## **Security and Preparedness in Israel: Ordinary Lives in Extraordinary Situations**

**13-5-572  
Spring Semester 2017**

**Dr. Matan Shapiro**

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### **Course Description:**

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In this module we will explore how national preparedness increasingly becomes intrinsic to the flow of everyday life in contemporary Israel. What is 'routine life' in a region fraught by frequent military conflicts? How do people make sense of sudden explosions of organized violence? How do transitions between the ordinary pace of mundane life and the extraordinary intensity experienced during emergency situations affect the Israeli civil society? We will answer these questions through a rigorous analysis of Israeli securitization politics and the ethos of national preparedness in a historical perspective. The course includes three introductory lectures that will supply a solid theoretical background for the ethnographic themes that follow. The reading material covers: (1) the gradual policy-making shift in Israel from investment in public fortification in the 1950s to the increasing securitization of domestic spaces in the 1990s; (2) contemporary paradoxes and ethical dilemmas associated with national preparedness; and (3) how these dilemmas relate to the practice of citizenship both in the Israeli society and in other contexts.

### **Course Objectives:**

- To familiarize students with critical social scientific approaches to securitization
- To explore the Israeli ethos of national preparedness
- To encourage a critical and comparative reading of contemporary trends in Israeli politics of fortification and securitization

### **Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Reflect on the cultural dimensions of Israeli securitization and fortification policies
2. Summarize the ideological stances underlying Israeli domestic securitization politics since the 1950s
3. Compare these developments to processes taking place elsewhere in the world
4. Write a critical essay using basic qualitative methodology

**Field of Education and Discipline(s):** Social Theory, Anthropology, Sociology, Political Science

### **Course Structure:**

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**Lecture: 2 hours**

**Total # of Credits: 2 POINTS**

**ECTS (European Credit Transfer System—will be calculated by the OSP): 3**

**Teaching Method:**

Language of instruction is **English**. The module combines formal lectures and class discussions. The lectures will be based on weekly reading assignments. Every lesson will include a student presentation of the relevant weekly reading. Depending on the number of students in class, this will be done either individually or in pairs. Presentations will be handed in and marked.

**Course Requirements**

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**Compulsory attendance: YES (70% of the classes)**

**Pre-requisites:** No background required

**Other Requirements:**

- **Presentation:** Students are asked to present one article in front of the class. It will be written as a 1500 words paper, which will be handed in and marked.
- **Attendance:** Students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than 2 class meetings unexcused
- **Final Essay:** The students are asked to choose one topic/question from a list that will be handed out in the final lesson and write a 3,500-words essay.

**Structure of Final Course Grad**

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1. Active Participation	10%
2. Filed trip	15%
3. Student presentation	15%
4. Final Essay	60%
	<b><u>100%</u></b>

**Time required for individual work in addition to attendance in class:**

2 hours of reading each week

4 hours of work on the presentations (once during the semester)

6 hours of work preparing for the final essay

Those expectations are approximate and correlate with the module's ECTS.

**Course Layout:**

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**Week 1: Theoretical Background: Distinguishing Emergency from Routine (15.03)**

What is a state of exception? What is "rule-bound society"? To what extent are rules affected by states of exception? And by whom? We will discuss contemporary trends of securitization in a global perspective and supply a general analytic framework for the debates that will follow.

- Agamben, G. 2005, *State of Exception*, Tran: Kevin Attell, (Chicago, University of Chicago Press). Chapter One (will be distributed electronically before the class)

**Week 2: Making a Zionist Sense of Place (22.03)**

This unit considers the relations between Zionist ideology and a distinctively Jewish-Israeli. Sense of place. We will think how militarism and the ethos of preparedness produce clear distinctions between a securitized "inside" and a dangerous "outside" as these distinctions relate to material fortification and urban development plans in Israel since the 1950s.

- Efrat Z, 2004, "Mold", in *Constructing a Sense of Place: Architecture and the Zionist Discourse*, Ed. Yacobi H, (Ashgate, London), pp 76-88.

**Week 3: The Israeli Securitization Doctrine (29.03)**

What are the ideological and pragmatic roots of the Israeli securitization doctrine? How has it been naturalized over the years? We will survey the defining principles of the Israeli securitization doctrine and its connection to policy making in a historical perspective.

- Ben-Eliezer U, 1995, 'A Nation in Arms': State, Nation, and Militarism in Israel's First Years, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 37(2) 264-85

#### **Week 4: The Spatial Manifestations of the Israeli Securitization Doctrine I (05.04)**

In this lesson we will analyze the gradual transformation of private homes into functioning bomb-shelters in Israel. We will think how this process informs public discourses on the securitization of the national body and how these discourses constitute ethnonational vectors of citizenship.

- Shapiro, M and Bird-David N, Routinergency: Domestic Securitization in Contemporary Israel, *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, Forthcoming.

#### **Week 5: Pesach break, no lessons held (13.04)**

#### **Week 6: The Spatial Manifestations of the Israeli Securitization Doctrine II (19.04)**

In direct relation to the previous lesson we will focus on security-related post-trauma treatment in Israel and the governmentality of “national resilience” near its Northern and Southern borders.

- Friedman-Peleg K, Goodman Y, 2011, “From Post-trauma Intervention to Immunization of the Social Body: Pragmatics and Politics of a Resilience Program in Israel’s Periphery”, *Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry: An International Journal of Cross-Cultural Health Research* 34(3) 421-442.

**Week 7: This week Dr. Shapiro will be taking part in a workshop abroad. Hence, the lesson of April 26 is canceled. Instead, we will hold a tour the following week, on Friday 05.05. Attendance in the tour is compulsory and it is worth 15% of the final grade.**

#### **Week 8: The Spatial Manifestations of the Israeli Securitization Doctrine III (03.05)**

We will continue our debates from the previous two lessons, focusing on the ways in which the architecture of securitization and preparedness relate to the conflict between Jewish-Israelis and Arab-Palestinians in contemporary Israel.

- Weizman E, 2007, *Hollow land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation* (Verso, London and New York). Chapter two (pp. 57-86).

**Tour (05.05):** We will visit two kibbutzim near the Gaza Strip. The tour includes: (1) Meeting with local residents; (2) explanations on the tension between routine and emergency in the region in a historical perspective; (3) Meeting with a social worker at the local Resilience Centre; (4) survey of the spatial distribution of fortification hardware in the localities. **No reading is required.**

#### **Week 9: Securitization in the Practice of Everyday Life I (10.05)**

This unit explores the manifestations of the Israeli securitization ethos in the practice of everyday life. How do Israelis imagine the future if violent episodes of war are generally perceived as impending and unavoidable? Partaking from this question we will think critically what “normal life” under these circumstances may be.

- Ochs J, 2011, *Security and Suspicion: An Ethnography of Everyday Life in Israel*, (University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia), Chapter Three.

#### **Week 10: Securitization in the Practice of Everyday Life II (17.05)**

This lesson focuses on the impact of securitization on the Palestinian civilians who live “on the other side of the fence”. We will explore the problematic relations between preparedness and occupation, and discuss some of the ethical questions that this issue brings forth.

- Allen L, 2008, “Getting By the Occupation: How Violence Became Normal during the Second Palestinian Intifada”, *Cultural Anthropology* 23(3) 453-487.

#### **Week 11: Routine, Emergency and National Identity I (24.05)**

How do Israeli security apparatuses relate to a particular mode of thinking about the nation? How does this mode of thinking compartmentalize time and space in contemporary Israeli popular imagination? We will think about these questions using Don Handelman’s analysis of “monothetic logic” in Israeli regimes of bureaucratic knowledge and power.

- Handelman D, 2004, *Nationalism and the Israeli state: bureaucratic logic in public events*. (Berg, Oxford and New York). Chapter Seven, (pp. 119-144).

**Week 12: Shavuot break, no lessons held (31.05).**

**Week 13: Routine, Emergency and National Identity II (07.06)**

Continuing these debates we will ask how national preparedness in Israel constructs intimate feelings, such as love, memory and grief. We will discuss the relations between securitization and sacrifice, focusing on linkages between the personal and the national.

- Sivan, E. 1995. Private Pain and Public Remembrance in Israel, in J. Winter and E Sivan (Eds.), *War and Remembrance in the 20th Century*, (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press), Pp. 177-204.

**Week 14: Israeli Securitization Doctrine in a Comparative Scope I (14.06)**

This unit looks at the Israeli ethos of preparedness in a global perspective. We will think how global trends of securitization relate to neoliberal forms of government and policy making, focusing on the structural manifestations of urban development and national preparedness in face of such security-related issues as terrorism and proxy-wars.

- Deville J, Guggenheim M, Hrdlic'ková Z, 2014, "Concrete governmentality: shelters and the transformations of preparedness", *The Sociological Review* 62(S1) 183–210

**Week 15: Israeli Securitization Doctrine in a Comparative Scope II (21.06)**

Continuing our debates from the previous lesson, we will compare the Israeli securitization doctrine with that of the United States' 'War on Terror'. We will focus on the production of secrecy as a social process resulting from the public legitimization of national preparedness programs. The lesson will include the screening of selected scenes from the film "Citizenfour" (2014).

- Masco J, 2014, *The Theatre of Operations: National Security Affect from the Cold War to the War on Terror*. Chapter Three (pp. 113-144).

**Week 16: Conclusion (28.06)**

In the concluding session we will reflect on the politics of the Israeli built environment at large as it relates back to the different themes we covered throughout the module. In this lesson the questions/topic for the final essay will be handed out and explained.

- Yacobi H, 2008, "Architecture, Orientalism, and Identity: The Politics of the Israeli-Built Environment", *Israel Studies* 13(1): 94-118.

**Lecturer Biography**

Dr. Matan Shapiro (PhD, University College London, 2013) is a Kreitman Postdoctoral Fellow and Teaching Fellow in the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Ben-Gurion University. His ongoing research projects in both Israel and Brazil analyze the production of intimate relations across such diverse social domains as the bar, the family house, and the religious house of worship. He is the author of several publications on relatedness, play, domestic securitization and rituals in the Israeli and Brazilian societies.