Dr. Natan Aridan
M.A. Course:

TENSIONS BETWEEN DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY IN THE STATE OF ISRAEL: FROM BEN-GURION TO NETANYAHU

Fall Semester 2021
Credits: 2

Thursday 12:30-14:00 Sede Boker Campus
aridan@bgu.ac.il Phone: 08-6596949 – Office hours by arrangement at the Institute

Course Description: The course explores and traces the dilemmas and tensions relating to Israel’s diplomatic efforts to find a solution to enhance its security and to seek coexistence with its Arab neighbors from its inception through to 2021. While the course cannot hope to cover all the subjects it does, however, examine examples of a number of ongoing dilemmas that have faced Israel’s decision makers from 1948 to today. We journey through an exciting, complex winding path that will take us into the minds and actions of Israeli and international leaders.

Course Objectives: The basic assumption underlying the course is that an understanding of the present and future events in the Middle East can only be achieved through a detailed knowledge of past events. The aim of this course is to provide the student with a wide knowledge of the development of Israeli diplomacy and security policy since its establishment. The course will present students with a broad perspective on critical issues and will benefit from the unique opportunity to analyze primary documents and resource materials many hitherto unpublished and encouraged to arrive at their own understanding and conclusions. It will also enrich students’ perspectives on one own country’s developments. By the end of the course students will also gain skills on writing papers and presenting arguments on different and contrasting multifaceted aspects of the subjects. It is also envisaged that students will learn how to write midterm papers.

Course Structure: Each class includes a lecture, and a discussion based on the readings.

Teaching Method: The course is conducted through a combination of formal lectures and class discussion. The lectures are based on weekly reading assignments and course texts. Students are required to write a research paper on a subject agreed upon between with me.

Course Requirements: Compulsory attendance. Students will have their final grade lowered an entire grade level if they miss more than two class meetings unexcused.

Structure of Final Course Grades: Active Participation = 20%, Midterm research paper = 30%, Final Paper = 50% = 100%

Work handed in late, will not be graded.

Israel is a hotly discussed subject –while I encourage debate and discussions in class, these must be grounded in an academic discourse and respect of the opinions of all classmates, even if one disagrees with them.
### CLASSES & SUGGESTED READINGS

The following materials (all on the class website on Moodle) are not compulsory but suggested readings designed to provide deeper background reading on issues taught in class.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Helpful background reading</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EXPLANATION AND EXPECTATIONS</strong>&lt;br&gt;THE STRUGGLE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE FOR INDEPENDENCE</td>
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<td><strong>ISRAEL AMONG THE NATIONS &amp; FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION</strong>&lt;br&gt;Helpful background reading</td>
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<td><strong>ISRAEL’S BORDER WARS: ARAB TERRORIST ATTACKS, ISRAELI RETALIATIONS, &amp; THE SECRET ANGLO-AMERICAN COERCIVE ‘ALPHA PLAN’</strong>&lt;br&gt;Helpful background reading</td>
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<td><strong>THE ROAD TO THE SINAI WAR, ITS AFTERMATH &amp; CONSEQUENCES</strong>&lt;br&gt;Helpful background reading</td>
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<td><strong>DID THE US TURN A BLIND EYE TO ISRAEL’s NUCLEAR PROJECT IN DIMONA?</strong>&lt;br&gt;Helpful background reading</td>
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Midterm assignment handed out
### THE SIX DAY WAR & ITS AFTERMATH

**Helpful background reading**


### INITIATIVES IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT, 1967-1973

**Helpful background reading**


### FROM THE YOM KIPPUR WAR TO THE ISRAEL-EGYPT PEACE AGREEMENT

**Helpful background reading**


### FROM THE LEBANON WARS, THE OSLO ACCORDS, AND BEYOND

**Helpful background reading**

### THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM – A GUIDE TO THE PERPLEXED

**Helpful background reading**


### THE JEWISH FACTOR IN ISRAELI DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY

**Helpful background reading**


### CHALLENGES TO THE PEACE PROCESS

- **ISRAEL’S SECURITY & INTERNATIONAL LAW**

**Helpful background reading**


### SIMMULATION