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 2020. It examines among other subjects: the Arab-Israeli conflict; the 1948 War and its consequences; the ‘Jerusalem Question’; orientation of Israel’s foreign policy; Arab infiltrations and Israeli retaliation policy; wars and peace initiatives; the build-up of the nuclear option; the Jewish Diaspora as a factor in diplomacy and security policies.

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issues and will benefit from the unique opportunity to analyze primary documents and resource materials many hitherto unpublished, and encouraged to arrive at their own understanding and conclusions.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 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 the lecturer.

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 Exam = 50% = 100% Students will be notified of the specific subjects to study for the exam.

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

Please note that 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.

#### EXPLANATION AND EXPECTATIONS
**THE STRUGGLE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE FOR INDEPENDENCE**

- **Helpful background reading**

#### THE FUNCTIONS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE MINISTRIES
**ISRAEL AMONG THE NATIONS & FOREIGN POLICY ORIENTATION**

- **Helpful background reading**

#### ISRAEL’S BORDER WARS: ARAB TERRORIST ATTACKS, ISRAELI RETALIATIONS, & THE SECRET ANGLO-AMERICAN COERCIVE ‘ALPHA PLAN’

- **Helpful background reading**

#### THE ROAD TO THE SINAI WAR, ITS AFTERMATH & CONSEQUENCES

- **Helpful background reading**
  1. Document: ‘David Ben-Gurion (Jerusalem) to Golda Meir, September 27, 1956’.

#### DID THE US TURN A BLIND EYE TO ISRAEL’S NUCLEAR PROJECT IN DIMONA?

- **Helpful background reading**
THE SIX DAY WAR & ITS AFTERMATH

Helpful background reading

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

Helpful background reading

THE YOM KIPPUR WAR; THE ISRAEL-EGYPT PEACE AGREEMENT; THE FIRST LEBANON WAR; THE OSLO PEACE ACCORDS

Helpful background reading

THE QUESTION OF JERUSALEM; THE PEACE PROCESS BEYOND REPAIR?

Helpful background reading
5. ‘Secretary of State John Kerry's Final Speech on Middle East Peace’ (Excerpts) (December 28, 2016).
THE JEWISH FACTOR IN ISRAELI DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY

Helpful background reading


ISRAEL’S SECURITY & INTERNATIONAL LAW; PREPARATION FOR EXAM

Helpful background reading


EXAM