

"The Military in Israeli Society" (0-016-2-2033)

Fall Semester, 2024

Thursdays, 12:30 - 14:00

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The objective of this course is to examine the cultural, political and social status of the IDF on Israeli society. Is Israeli society militaristic? First, we will present the various theoretical standpoints regarding this relationship, with emphasis on the implications of globalization. The second part of the course will specifically discuss the different groups influencing military-social relations in Israel as well as particular issues that concern the IDF (media and protest, civil society, reserve service, gender relations, religion, conscience objection and professionalism of the military).

Course evaluation:

Grades are based on daily participation, response papers, a book review, and a final seminar paper. The composition of final grades and grading scale are as follows:

Class Participation (15%): Class attendance will not be taken. However, class participation is part of the final grade and you will be expected to include issues discussed during class in the final essay.

Response papers (15%): Five times, the students will prepare (in advance to class) a short response to the assigned reading (2-3 paragraphs). The response paper should show that the student is able to critically analyze and/or personally relate the work instead of just composing a restatement or summary.

Book Review (10%): Students will be required to write a critical review of literature related to the topic of the course. The literature review has to comment on one book which is NOT from the required reading list. The review should be 800 words long. The review should take a form similar to that found in academic journals. For a good example, browse an issue of *Contemporary Sociology* or the *American Journal of Sociology* (review sections are at the end). Reviews include both a summary of a book's central argument and approach, and a discussion of the book's contributions and shortcomings.

Final essay (60%): One 15-20 page long essay. The essay should focus on a subject discussed in the course and that is of particular interest to the student. The essay could be theoretical or practical; that is, it could highlight a theoretical debate or a specific historical event. The student should introduce new literature on the subject, and combine at least two sub-topics discussed during the course.

Students can take this course as a seminar. Those students would need to write a seminar paper instead of the final essay. The rest of the assignments are identical.

Quoting and use of former knowledge

The university as an academic institution deals with generating knowledge (research), preserving knowledge, and the imparting of knowledge (teaching). The university encourages the use of accumulative knowledge for the purpose of creating new knowledge, while strictly maintaining the moral and legal rights of the creator of the original knowledge.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a false presentation in which a work of art or part of a work of art of a creator is presented as a work of art or part of a work of art belonging to another; that is, even if the legal rights of the creator are not violated. Plagiarism is considered an act of theft, fraud, lack of decency and deception. Plagiarism is unethical conduct; that is, in comparison to an action that harms copyrights, which is an illegal action by definition.

Examples of plagiarism:

- The presentation of a work of art or a segment of a work of art of a creator as a work of art or a segment of a work of art of a different person.
- The use or copying of segments, words, illustrations, graphs or pictures of another without a special sign (for instance, inverted commas) or an indication of the name of the original.
- Imprecise indication of the name of the original.
- Copying a sentence while changing the words without indication of the name of the original.

Punishment

As stated, plagiarism is an act of theft, fraud, lack of decency and deception. The Academic world considers plagiarism to be severe academic dishonesty that does not meet the expectations from an academic degree holder. Therefore, the university considers plagiarism a very severe offense that requires severe punishment. According to the regulations of Ben-Gurion University, there are serious punishments for students who are convicted of this offense. Examples of punishments formerly handed out are cancellation of a degree or certificate, expulsion from the university for a long period, and permanent expulsion.

Course Schedule & Assigned Readings:

This class is designed as a seminar. Therefore, class time is devoted to discussion between and among students and the instructor, as well as lectures. It is essential that seminar participants come to class prepared to discuss the reading material for that day's class.

* Additional articles and topics may be added during the course.

Class 1 / Introduction: Israel's Wars

Ben-Eliezer, Uri, and Shaul Vardi. *War over Peace: One Hundred Years of Israel's Militaristic Nationalism*. Oakland, California: University of California Press, 2019.

Class 2 / Militarism in Israel?

Lissak, Moshe. "Israel: A Militaristic Society?" in Ben-Rafael, Eliezer, Julius H. Schoeps, Yitzhak Sternberg, Olaf Glöckner, and Anne Weberling, eds. *Handbook of Israel: Major Debates*. Vol. 2. Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG, 2016. Pp. 561- 572.

Kimmerling, Baruch. "Patterns of Militarism in Israel." in Ben-Rafael, Eliezer, Julius H. Schoeps, Yitzhak Sternberg, Olaf Glöckner, and Anne Weberling, eds. *Handbook of Israel: Major Debates*. Vol. 2. Walter de Gruyter GmbH & Co KG, 2016. Pp. 609-635.

Class 3 / The Military and the cycle of life

Levy, Yagil, Edna Lomsky-Feder, and Noa Harel. "From "Obligatory Militarism" to "Contractual Militarism" \-\- Competing Models of Citizenship." *Israel Studies* 12, no. 1 (2007): 127-148.

Class 4/ The IDF as the people's Army

Cohen, Stuart A. 1995. "The Israel Defense Forces (IDF): From a " People's Army" to a "Professional Military" - Causes and Implications." *Armed Forces & Society*, 21(2), pp.237-254.

Ben-Ari, E., Rosman, E., & Shamir, E. 2023. "Neither a Conscript Army nor an All-Volunteer Force: Emerging Recruiting Models." *Armed Forces & Society*, 49(1), 138–159.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0095327X211048216>

Class 5 / The Military and Political System

Sheffer, Gabriel (Gabi). "The Security Network and its Impact on Israeli Politics." *Israel Studies* 23, no. 3 (2018): 253-259.

Weinblum, Sharon. "Beyond the security vs. liberty paradigm: an analysis of "security" politics in Israel." In *Democratic Citizenship and War*, pp. 64-84. Routledge, 2014.

Class 6 / The Military and the Economy

Levy, Yagil. "From Republican to Market Control over the Armed Forces: A Conceptual Framework." *Polity* 41, no. 1 (2009): 1-29.

Levy, Yagil. "The Military as a Split Labor Market: The Case of Women and Religious Soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces." *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society* 26, no. 4 (2013): 393-414.

Class 7 / The Military and the Civil Society

Ben-Eliezer, Uri. "The civil society, the uncivil society, and the difficulty Israel has making Peace with the Palestinians." *Journal of Civil Society* 11, no. 2 (2015): 170-186.

Shultziner, Doron. 2023. "The Movement Against Democratic Backsliding in Israel." *Social Forum*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/socf.12921>

Class 8 / Religion and the Military – Ultra Orthodox Jews

Cohen, Stuart. "Tensions Between Military Service and Jewish Orthodoxy In Israel: Implications Imagined and Real." *Israel Studies* 12, no. 1 (2007): 103-126.

Bick, Etta. 2016. "Lip-service to service: the Knesset debates over civic national service in Israel, 1977–2007." *Israel Affairs* 22(1): 126-149.

Class 9 / Religion and Military – Religious Zionism

Levy, Yagil. "The Theocratization of the Israeli Military." *Armed Forces & Society* 40, no. 2 (April 2014): 269–94.

Peri, Yoram. 2006. "Land versus State: Israel and its Army after the Disengagement." *Dissent* 53(1): 15-18.

Class 10 / The Military and Gender

Lomsky-Feder, Edna, and Orna Sasson-Levy. *Women soldiers and citizenship in Israel: Gendered encounters with the state*. Routledge, 2017.

Class 11 / The Military and Minorities

Zeedan, Rami 2019. "The role of military service in the integration/segregation of Muslims, Christians and Druze within Israel." *Societies*, 9(1), 1.

Class 12 / The Military and the Occupation

Pedatzur, Reuven. "The Occupation and Its Effect on the Israel Defense Forces." In *The Impacts of Lasting Occupation: Lessons from Israeli Society*, by Bar-Tal, Daniel, and Izhak Schnell, eds., edited by Daniel Bar-Tal, and Izhak Schnell. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Schnell, Izhak, and Daniel Bar-Tal. "Conclusion: The Occupied Territories as a Cornerstone in the Reconstruction of Israeli Society." In *The Impacts of Lasting Occupation: Lessons from Israeli Society*, by Bar-Tal, Daniel, and Izhak Schnell, eds., edited by Daniel Bar-Tal, and Izhak Schnell. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.