

## **Issues in Israeli National Security**

Hist.593 L03 Mon Fall 2009

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The course will deal with various issues relating to Israel's national security. It will touch upon general strategic topics as well as military events, and issues relating to the Israeli- Arab conflict.

The meetings will be based essentially on discussions over articles relevant to the meeting. Each article will be presented by student, and a discussion will follow the presentations. All the material under "discussion in class" will be on the course blackboard's site.

In addition to the presentations, each student will write a book review on a book relevant to our course- the book report will not exceed 5 pages.

By the end of the semester each student will submit a paper of no more than 15 pages. The topic of the paper will be decided by the student, in consultation with me.

### **Deadlines:**

Book report: October 19.  
Final assignment: December 10.

The grade for the course will be based on:

1. Participation in class- 30%.
2. Assignments & presentation- 30%
3. Final assignment- 40%.

We will use the following book as a general introductory to the various issues we'll deal with:

Howard M. Sachar, *History of Israel from Rise of Zionism to Our Time* (third edition), Alfred A. Knopf: New York, 2007.

### **September 14. Orientation and introduction**

### **September 21. The Foundations of Israel's National Security Thinking**

#### Discussion in Class:

David Ben Gurion, *Israel: A Personal History* (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, Inc. 1971) pp. 367-376.

Ariel Levite, *Offense and Defense in Israeli Military Doctrine* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1989), pp. 25-62.

Avner Yaniv, *Deterrence Without the Bomb* (Lexington: Lexington Books, 1987), pp. 12-19.

Reading: Sachar, *History of Israel*, pp. 429-472.

**September 28. No Class- Yom Kippur (Atonement Day)**

### **October 5. Israel's Foreign Relations**

Discussion in Class:

Uri Bialer, *Between East and West: Israel's Foreign Policy Orientation, 1948-1956*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990), pp. 9-34, 276-281.

Elie Podeh, "The Desire to Belong Syndrome: Israel and Middle-Eastern Defense, 1948-1954," *Israel Studies*, Vol. 4, no. 2, pp. 121-149.

Reading: Sachar, *History of Israel*, pp. 429-472.

### **October 19. Israel - US Relations**

Discussion in Class:

Yaakov Bar Siman- Tov, "The United States and Israel since 1948: "Special Relationship"?", *Diplomatic History*, Vol. 22, No. 2 (Spring 1998), pp. 231-262.

Douglass Little, "Making of Special Relations: The United States and Israel, 1957-1968," *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 4 (November 1993), pp. 563-585.

### **October 26. Israel and the Nuclear**

Discussion in Class:

Ariel Levite and Emily Landau, "Arab Perceptions of Israel's Nuclear Posture, 1960-1967," *Israel Studies*.

Binyamin Pinkus, "Atomic Power to Israel's Rescue: French-Israeli Nuclear Cooperation, 1949-1957," *Israel Studies*, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 104-138.

Zaki Shalom, "Israel's Nuclear Option Revisited," *Journal of Israeli History*, Vol. 24, No. 2 (September 2005), pp. 267 - 277.

### **November 2. Israel's War of Independence**

Discussion in Class:

Martin Van Creveld, *The Sword And The Olive* (New York: Public Affairs, 1998), pp. 93-102.

Moshe Naor, "Israel's 1948 War of Independence as a Total War," *Journal of Contemporary History* Vol 43 No 2, 241-257.

Reading: Sachar, *History of Israel*, pp. 315-353.

**November 9. The Road to the 1956 War**

Discussion in Class:

Motti Golani, "Shall We Go to War? And if We Do, When?" in Efraim Karsh, *From War to Peace* (London; Frank Cass, 1996), pp. 22-42.

Benny Morris, *Israel's Border Wars, 1949-1956: Arab Infiltration, Israeli Retaliation, And The Countdown To The Suez War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), pp.

Reading: Sachar, *History of Israel*, 472-514.

**November 16. The War that Changed Everything: the June 1967 War**

Discussion in Class:

Menachem Klein, "The 'Tranquil Decade' Re-examined: Arab-Israeli Relations During the Years 1957-1967," Karsh (edt.), *From War to Peace?* Pp. 68-82.

Ami Gluska, "Israel's Decision to Go To War, June 2, 1967," *MERIA*, Volume 11, Issue 3 (May 2007).

Arye Naor, "The Security Argument in the Territorial Debate in Israel: Rhetoric and Policy," *Israel Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 2, pp. 150-177.

Reading: Sachar, *History of Israel*, 615-713.

**November 23. The 1973 War**

Discussion in Class:

Simcha Dinitz, "The Yom Kippur War: Diplomacy of War and Peace," P. Kumaraswamy, *Revisiting the Yom Kippur War* (London: Frank Cass, 2000), pp. 104-126.

Uri Bar-Joseph, "Main Trends in the Historiography of the Yom Kippur War: A Thirty-Year Perspective," *The Journal of Israeli History* Vol. 24, No. 2 (September 2005), pp. 251-266.

Reading: Sachar, *History of Israel*, 740-830.

**November 30. Israel and the Challenge of Counter-Insurgency: the Palestinian Front**

Discussion in Class:

Steven R. David, "Fatal Choices: Israel's Policy of Targeted Killing," *Mideast Security And Policy Studies* No. 51, September 2002, The Begin-Sadat Center For Strategic Studies, Bar-Ilan University.

Hafez, Mohammed M. and Hatfield, Joseph M, "Do Targeted Assassinations Work? A Multivariate Analysis Of Israel's Controversial Tactic During Al-Aqsa Uprising," *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (2006), pp. 359-382.

Reading: Sachar, *History of Israel*, 995-1045.

**December 7. Military- Civic Relations in Israel**

Discussion in Class:

Oren Barak and Gabriel (Gabi) Sheffer, "The Study of Civil-Military Relations in Israel: A New Perspective," *Israel Studies*, vol. 12 , no. 1, pp. 1-27.

Zalman F. Shiffer, "The Debate Over the Defense Budget in Israel," *Israel Studies*, vol. 12 , no. 1, pp. 193-214.

**Emergency Evacuation**

Assembly Points have been identified across campus in case of an emergency evacuation. Should an emergency occur, our class would assemble at the Social Sciences Food Court. See the following link for a complete list of assembly points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>