

Geopolitics of the New Middle East - Syllabus

Course Supervisor:

[Prof. Boaz Ganor](#) - Dean, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya & Founder and Executive Director, International Institute for Counter Terrorism (ICT)

Course Director:

[Ambassador Ron Prosor](#) - Abba Eban Chair of International Diplomacy, Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya & Former Israel Ambassador to the United Nations and the United Kingdom

Course Coordinators:

Ariella Azoulay – Project Manager, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy

Galit Berdugo – Head of Dean's Office, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy

Course Objectives:

The international arena has changed dramatically in the past century. Relations between states are no longer based on official diplomatic ties alone, while a multitude of new actors have emerged in the international arena such as civil society movements, multinational agencies, media outlets, private entities, etc. This shift in paradigm is especially preeminent in the Middle East, where constant political and social changes affect the balance of power and the entire geopolitics of the region.

Students participating in the *Geopolitics of the New Middle East* course will learn about multi-faced diplomacy by a combination of theory and practice. Students will get insights from the Israeli perspective of the changing Middle East, learn about the political and diplomatic challenges it faces and will gain hands-on experience in international mediation both in class and by touring Israel's formal institutions and some of its friction points.

All lecturers and guest speakers are either academic experts or professional practitioners with specific expertise in their field. All sessions will be held in English, lectures will take place at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya.

*The course, its content, lectures and tours are subject to change.

Course Outline & Reading List:

Day I – July 18, 2019

Middle East Geopolitics 101

- **Introduction to Israel's Borders and History** – [Dr. Shaul Arieli](#), expert on Israel's geopolitics and the Israel-Palestinian Conflict.
 - Soffer, A. (1989). [Demography and the Shaping of Israel's Borders](#). *Contemporary Jewry*, 10(2), 91-105.
 - Guzansky, Y. & Striem, E. (2013), [New Old Borders in the Middle East](#), the Institute for National Security Studies, INSS Insight, 486.

- **Israel's Regional and Geopolitical Challenges** – [Col. \(res.\) Miri Eisin](#), Former Israeli Government Spokeswoman and expert on Israel's Geopolitics.
 - Hasson, S. (2013). [Israel's Geopolitical Dilemma And the Upheaval in the Middle East](#). *Maryland: The Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn*.
 - Council on Foreign Relations, (2018). [Israeli Palestinian Conflict](#).

- **Israel's Foreign Policy** – [Dr. Ronen Hoffman](#), Former Member of Knesset and expert on Foreign Affairs.
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [Israel's Foreign Policy- Historical Documents](#)
 - Haivry, O. (2014). [Israel in the Eye of the Hurricane](#). Mosaic
 - Reich, A. (2016). [The EU, UK, and Israel: What to "Brexpect"](#). *Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs*, 10(2), 203-212.

- **Media in Conflict Zones** – a panel of foreign journalists placed in Israel regarding their experience reporting from the region
 - Wolfsfeld, G. (2017). [The role of the media in violent conflicts in the digital age: Israeli and Palestinian leaders' perceptions](#). *Media, War & Conflict*.
 - Gilboa, E., Jumbert, M. G., Miklian, J., & Robinson, P. (2016). [Moving media and conflict studies beyond the CNN effect](#). *Review of International Studies*, 42(4), 654-672.

Day II – July 29, 2019

Multifaceted Regional Diplomacy

- **"Hot spot" Hands-on Negotiation Simulation** – led by [Dr. Dana Wolf](#) – Lecturer at the Lauder School of Government and expert on International Law & Regional Negotiations in the Middle East. Participants will learn about a topic, which is currently in the headlines and its diplomatic implications, following which they would take part in a hands-on negotiation simulation between the various actors involved.
- **Public Diplomacy** – [Dr. Moran Yarchi](#), Lecturer at the Ofer School of Communication and expert in Political Communication and Media coverage of conflicts.
 - Gilboa, E. (2008). [Searching for a theory of public diplomacy](#). *The annals of the American academy of political and social science*, 616(1), 55-77.
 - Nye Jr, J. S. (2008). [Public diplomacy and soft power](#). *The annals of the American academy of political and social science*, 616(1), 94-109.
- **Diplomats in Action**-An open discussion with Foreign Diplomats stationed in Israel about the professional challenges and opportunities they encounter as well as their personal experience as diplomats in Israel. Moderated by Mr. Shay Zavdi – Alumni of the Lauder School of Government and an Argov Fellow (more about the Argov Fellowship program: <https://www.idc.ac.il/en/specialprograms/argov/pages/home.aspx>).
- **Farewell Cocktail**: meeting with the Lauder School Faculty and lectures in the program, along with foreign diplomats stationed in Israel for an informal farewell cocktail at the Lauder School of Government.

Study tours & extracurricular activities

- **Visit to Kawaled – July 21, 2019**

Visiting the Bedouin village of Kawaled in the Glilee and learning about the Bedouin culture and the challenges it faces in assimilating to the Israeli society. Meeting [Amb. Ishmael Khaldi](#), The first Bedouin diplomat in the Israeli Foreign Service and learning about his route from the Bedouin village to fighting the BDS. Amb. Khaldi served as Former deputy Consul in San Francisco and as Policy advisor to the Minister of foreign Affairs.

- Ishmael Khaldi: a Bedouin, a Muslim and an Unlikely Israeli Diplomat

<https://forward.com/news/133327/ishmael-khaldi-a-bedouin-a-muslim-and-an-unlikely/>

- **Between the Political and the Diplomatic- Tour of the Knesset & Ministry of Foreign Affairs July 22, 2019**

Visit to the Knesset including meeting a leading MK, followed by a visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and meeting one of Israel's diplomats for a discussion on foreign affairs.

- [The Knesset- Israel's Legislative Authority](#)
- [Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

- **Geopolitical tour of Jerusalem – July 25, 2019**

This tour, led by [Col. \(res.\) Miri Eisin](#), Former Israeli Government Spokeswoman and expert in Israel's Geopolitics, will take the participants through some of the most interesting and politically controversial areas of Jerusalem- the holy city for all three monotheistic religions. It will also include a lookout over the Judea and Samaria and the West Bank, discussing the tensed relations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

- Yale Review of International Studies- [Jerusalem: Political Significance of a Holy Site](#)
- The Jerusalem Institute for Strategic Studies- [The Strategic Importance of Jerusalem](#)

- **Diplomat at the bar- Informal session with [Amb. Ron Prosor](#) – July 28, 2019, 19:00 in TLV**

Ambassador Ron Prosor is the Abba Eban Chair of International Diplomacy, the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC), Herzliya and Former Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations and the United Kingdom. In this session Amb. Prosor will discuss Israel's current diplomatic challenges and opportunities, regional strategy, the UN, dealing with BDS and promoting Israel's interests in the global arena.

- Ron Prosor: [Israel must not let Arab states hijack UNESCO](#)

- Ron Prosor: [Democracies must stand up to end U.N. farce](#)

****Program Dress Code:**

- Students are asked to be appropriately dressed in lectures while staying on campus.
- When joining the tour to the southern frontier, casual clothing would be suitable.
- [Knesset Dress Code](#): Visitors should note that in accordance with the Knesset dress code, entrance to the Knesset is permitted only in dignified and appropriate attire (no tank/spaghetti tops, crop tops, clothing with political slogans, shorts or ¾ length trousers, ripped trousers, short skirts and dresses, tracksuits or sweatpants, flip-flops, or clogs).

Final assignment

Following the program students will be required to submit an **academic analysis of a case study relating to one of the topics discussed during the program**. The case study should be a specific event, relations between two specific actors, analysis of one actor and its course of action, a specific political/diplomatic activity or dilemma, which relates to one of the following topics:

- The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict
- Geopolitics of the Middle East
- Political changes in the Middle East from an International perspective
- The role of the media in foreign relations
- Current political and security challenges in the Middle East
- The role of the media in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict
- Public Diplomacy vs. Traditional Diplomacy

The paper should be of 10-15 pages maximum (no less than 10 excluding bibliography) and includes:

- 1) Abstract
- 2) Introduction – presenting the general topic, the case study and the research question
- 3) Literature Review – based on academic sources as well as class discussions and/or study tours
- 4) Case Study - analysis & discussion
- 5) Personal opinion / recommendations & conclusion
- 6) Bibliography
- 7) Annexes (if necessary)

Style: Times New Roman or Calibri, 12pt. Double spaced, no more than 2.5cm margins.

This is an academic paper and therefore should be written in accordance with academic writing standards (APA or Chicago style).

Deadline – August 30, 2019

Papers should be sent to Etai Handman etai@ict.org.il

Papers will be graded in a scale of 0-100 (pass = 60)

Additional Recommended Reading – Israel's History, Institutions & Society:

- [Israel's Proclamation of Independence](#)
- Rubinstein, A. (2009). [Israel's Partial Constitution: The Basic Laws](#). *Jewish Virtual Library Publications*
- Barak, A. (2009). [The values of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state](#). *Jewish Virtual Library Publications*.
- Nachmias, D. (2009). [National Government Institutions](#). *Jewish Virtual Library Publications*
- Goln, G. (2009). [The Peace Process](#). *Jewish Virtual Library Publications*
- Arian, A., Hermann, T., Lebel, Y., Philippov, M., Zaban, H., & Knafelman, A. (2010). [Auditing Israeli Democracy–2010](#). *Jerusalem: The Israel Democracy Institute, The Guttman Center.*[Hebrew].
- Lapidoth, R. (2011). [Jerusalem: Some legal issues](#). *The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies*
- Council on Foreign Relations - <https://www.cfr.org/>