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**INDC Final Project**

**To the Academic Advisor**

**Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi**

**Dr. Doron Navot**

**Amb. Merav Zafary-Odiz**

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We thank you for agreeing to guide the participants of the 48th class of the Israel National Defense College (INDC) in writing the final research project. This document summarizes the essence of the final project, as well as some guidelines and emphases we passed on to the participants for writing the project.

The purpose of the document is to assist you in your guidance, so that it corresponds as much as possible to the guiding principles for the final project that we passed on to the participants.

Participants must decide with you what will be the writing and research method. We have made it clear that you will accompany the process from the beginning to the end, and will recommend a final grade for the project (your recommendation will constitute 80% of the final grade as detailed below). Therefore, your comments and recommendations should be considered as expected in the academic system.

**What is the Final Research Project?**

The final research project is a requirement for completing a Master’s degree at the School of Political Science at the University of Haifa, in a track without a final research thesis, as well as an INDC requirement for obtaining an INDC-graduate diploma.

The final project is performed by participants in multidisciplinary teams of up to 3 participants for each final project. The work’s weight is 20% of the final grade in the two diplomas mentioned above.

The project is designed to enable a synergistic study of a phenomenon with several aspects related to national security. We hope that in order to analyze these aspects, it will require a number of approaches – these the participants in the project will bring along with you. In the introductory and summary/discussion parts, the work is shared by the team, and in part, it is made up of individual writing that will make it possible to evaluate the differential contribution of each participant in the project. The scope of the work is as an extended seminar (50-80 pages).

**Purpose and method**

The purpose of the final research project is to train graduates to write original, personal, and independent work, according to the rules of academic research, adapted to the field of national security and the fields of occupation of the participants. The writers are required to formulate a research question or an issue that will serve as a starting point for the project, and guide the direction of the research and examination that will be conducted throughout.

The work will be based on academic material published in the field, on original materials collected by the authors, on the analysis of open source material or data generated by a statistical or other method, on interviews, field research and past experience in various roles.

The project is supervised by you, as an academic advisor, and by one of the INDC instructors. The role of the instructor is to ensure compliance with the schedule and to accompany the preparation of the final project in all its aspects.

Participants are instructed to hold a minimum of two sessions with the academic advisor (preferably face-to-face). In addition, there is a final project committee headed by the Commandant of the Israel Military Colleges, MG Itai Veruv, which includes the INDC’s academic advisors and the Chief Instructor. The role of the committee is to approve the composition of the teams, the project topics, the research questions, the research proposals, and the final grade (the committee’s share is 20% of the final grade). The committee will notify each group of the final grade, as well as provide written feedback that will include, among other things, your assessment submitted to the committee. Therefore, we ask that you refrain from passing on your recommendation for the grade and your assessment directly to the participants.

As part of the final project preparation process, participants must submit a five-page research proposal. Therefore, they should check with you out about your emphases, if any, and follow your guidelines. Although the academic advisor may present emphases, in general, the research proposal should include a theoretical background, the purpose of the final project, its importance, potential contribution, a basic conceptual framework, possible sources, and chapters of the final project.

After your approval, participants must submit the proposal to the accompanying INDC instructor, who will submit it for final approval by the final project committee.

**The structure of the final project**

The final project consists of several parts, and will be submitted in the accepted order in academic research.

* Title page
* Preface
* Abstract
* Table of Contents
* Introduction
* Review of literature and conceptual / theoretical framework
* Empirical background
* Findings
* Discussion and summary
* Bibliography
* Appendices

**Key milestones for the final project**

The submission of the research proposal to the final project committee after receiving your approval should be done by 5 January, 2021.

Submission of the first draft of the final project will be completed by 2 March, 2021. We would appreciate you providing your feedback to the group by 12 April, 2021.

Between April 28th and May 18th, 2021, the teams will present the draft of the project to the INDC plenum and the final project committee, and will receive comments and suggestions for improvement if necessary.

The final projects need to be submitted by 1 June, 2021. We would appreciate receiving your written assessment and recommendation for a grade by 15 June, 2021.

The feedback and final grade will be given to participants by 1 July, 2021.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact one of us:

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