**Introduction to Geopolitics and Geo-Strategy from a National Security Perspective**
Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi , Amb. Merav Zafary-Odiz

**Purpose and Essence of the Course**: The purpose of the course is to shed some light on the fields of geopolitics and geo-strategy as significant components in understanding the texture of national security. The course will reveal to participants the traditional and contemporary role of geography (physical and human) in the formation of national security perceptions, in the consolidation of the whole of international relations, and in shaping the strategy of states and other forces in the global arena.

**Sub-Goals:**

* Familiarity with the different definitions of geopolitics and geo-strategy, and their implications for national security.
* Knowledge of the changes that have taken place in the study and research of these areas, and in issues that are affected by geographical considerations in national security.
* Understanding the relationship between international relations, political science, national security policy, history, political and economic geography, geopolitics and geo-strategy.
* Raising awareness of the consequences of the geo-strategic implications on contemporary international issues in geographical spaces such as space, energy, and the sea.

**Method**: A seasonal course of 14 sessions guided by the course instructors, and with the participation of guest lecturers from various fields of specialization in geopolitics and geo-strategy.

**Course Program**

* Session 1 (22.9): Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi: Basic Concepts: Geography, Geopolitics, Geo-Strategy
* Session 2 (22.9): Ambassador Dennis Ross 1: The Rise of the US as a Global Power
* Session 3 (23.9): Prof. Uzi Arad: Changes in Geopolitics
* Session 4 (23.9): Ambassador Dennis Ross 2: Geo-Strategic Interests in the Middle East
* Sessions 5-6 (30.9): Dr. Deganit Paikowsky: Geo-strategy in space: on Earth and in general
* Session 7 (30.9): Ambassador Dennis Ross 3: Geo-Strategy in the Gulf
* Session 8 (11.10 as part of the Iran Day): Amb. Merav Zafary-Odiz: Iran's Nuclear Program from a Geo-Strategic Perspective
* Session 9 (13.10): Amb. Zvi Magen: Putin's Doctrine in Geo-Strategic Contexts
* Session 10 (13.10): Dr. Asi David: The Middle East as a Geo-Strategic Area
* Session 11 (14.10): Captain Yigal Maor: China's Geo- Marine Economic Strategy
* Session 12 (14.10): Team preparation for a summary discussion, and preparation for the final assignment
* Session 13 (20.10): Dr. Elai Rettig: Global and Regional Energy and Geo-Strategy
* Session 14 (20.10): Summary and plenum discussion: How do we see the world now? Team presentations on a geo-strategic issue.