**Politics, Diplomacy and Foreign Policy: Israel as a Case Study**

Dr. Emanuel Navon

Draft syllabus for course at the National Defense College (first semester, 2020)

Subject and goals of the course:

The course will explain basic concepts in diplomacy and foreign policy and will examine them in the context of Israel's conduct in the international arena. The course will review and explain Israel's foreign policy as a case study for the concepts learned. These briefs and explanations will include Israel's foreign relations with the Middle East, Europe, the United States, Russia, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the United Nations and also the subject of the global struggle for energy sources. The course will combine historical knowledge with current issues and will analyze Israel's current international challenges in a broad historical perspective, with the invitation of guest lectures. The goal of the course is to provide an understanding of the dilemmas of diplomacy in general and of Israeli diplomacy specifically, and to analyze Israel's international challenges in the past, present, and future.

Course Assignment:

Submission of a 10-page paper on one of the course subjects (explanation of the paper in the first lesson).

Course structure:

**Session 1: (9/11/2020 8:30-10:00): Basic concepts in diplomacy, foreign policy, and the characteristics of world order**

Subjects: Political Realism, Democratic Peace Theory, Balance of Forces, Deterrence, International Law.

Reading material: Henry Kissinger, *Diplomacy* (Simon & Schuster, 1994), pp. 56-77.

**Session 2: (9/11/2020 10:30-12:00): Israel and the Middle East at the Beginning of the Cold War**

Subjects: The question of Israel's international identy at the beginning of the Cold War. The mobilization efforts of international support vis-à-vis powers with varying interests.

Reading material: Uri Bialer, *Between East and West: Israel’s Foreign Policy Orientation, 1948-1956* (Cambridge University Press, 1990), pp. 1-34.

**Session 3: (16/11/2020 8:30-12:00): The strategy of the periphery over generations with an emphasis on relations with Iran and Turkey**

Subjects: Attempts to "bypass" the Middle East with unconventional alliances. Comparison between the "periphery" of the 1960s and the current one: While in the past there was a periphery with Iran and Turkey against the Arab world, today the periphery has been turned upside down and it includes Arab countries (United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia) against Iran and Turkey.

Reading material: Avi Shlaim, *The Iron Wall: Israel and the Arab World* (Norton & Company, 2000), pp. 186-217.

**Session 4: (16/11/2020 10:30-12:00): Political efforts to halt Iran's nuclear program.**

Guest Lecture: Ambassador Merav Zafary-Odiz.

**Session 5: (23/11/2020 8:30-10:00): Israel and Europe: Paradoxical Relations**

Subjects: Determining foreign policy vis-à-vis countries with different and changing interests over the years: UK, France, Germany, and the EU + guest lecture.

Reading material: Emmanuel Navon, *The Star and the Scepter: A Diplomatic History of Israel* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2020), pp. 247-277.

Guest Lecturer (09:15-10:00): Ambassador Anna Azari, former Ambassador to Russia, Ukraine and Poland, who will speak on "The Challenges and Opportunities in Israel-Europe Relations"

**Session 6: (11/23/202 10:30-12:00): Israel and the United States: Alliance in the Test of Changing Interests**

Subjects: The long road to building an alliance with a superpower, and the test of the alliance in changing circumstances.

Reading material: Yaacov Bar Siman-Tov, “The United States and Israel Since 1998: A Special Relationship?” *Diplomatic History* 22/2 (Spring 1998).

**Tuesday 24.11**

Guest Lecture (MABAL Plenum): MG (Res.) Amos Gilad on "Maintaining Israel's Security and Qualitative Edge."

**Session 7: (30/11/2020 8: 30-10: 00): Israel and Russia: Conflicting interests alongside security coordination**

Subjects: Historical hostility and conflicting interests alongside security coordination in recent years.

Reading material: Emmanuel Navon, *The Star and the Scepter: A Diplomatic History of Israel* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2020), pp. 300-313.

Guest Lecture (09:15 -10:00): Ambassador Gary Koren, Head of the Euro-Asia Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former Israeli Ambassador to Russia, who will talk about challenges and opportunities in Israeli-Russian relations in general and specifically in this period.

**Session 8: (30/11/2020 10: 30-12: 00): Israel and Asia: Changing Challenges vis-à-vis China and India**

Subjects: China: Military and security cooperation provoked US opposition. India: How does a formerly pro-Arab country become a strategic partner to Israel?

Reading material: Surjit Singh, “Indo-Israel Relations: A Study of Some Aspects of India’s Foreign Policy.” *Journal of Indian History* 57/2-3 (1979), pp. 387-399.

Yiyzhak Shichor, “Hide and Seek: Sino-Israeli Relations in Perspective.” *Israel Affairs* 1/2 (1994), pp. 188-209.

Guest Lecture: Gilad Cohen, VP of the Asia and Pacific Division

**Session 9: (7/12/2020 8:30-10: 00): Israel and Africa: Indirect struggles with Hezbollah and Iran**

Subjects: How the African continent became the scene of an indirect struggle between Israel and Libya in the 1970s, and between Israel and Iran today, with an emphasis on security service activity as a political tool.

Reading material: Emmanuel Navon, *The Star and the Scepter: A Diplomatic History of Israel* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2020), pp. 340-357.

**Session 10: (7/12/2020 10:30-12:00): Israel and Latin America: Economic Interests and the Fight against Terrorism**

Subjects: The presence of Iran and Hezbollah in Latin America as a security challenge, with an emphasis on positioning Israel (challenges and opportunities).

Reading materials: Emmanuel Navon, *The Star and the Scepter: A Diplomatic History of Israel* (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 2020), pp. 357-368.

Guest Lecture (MABAL Plenum): Ido Aharoni on the issue of branding Israel

**Session 11: (14/12/2020 8:30-10:00): Israel and the UN: How to deal with a hostile diplomatic environment?**

Subjects: Israel's efforts to overcome the changes in the balance of power in the organization, and its political exploitation.

Reading material: Emmanuel Mréjen (Navon), “Israel and the Reform of the UN.” *Israel Affairs* 5/1 (1998), pp. 63-86.

Guest Lecture: Dr. Tal Becker, Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the decision of the United Nations Security Council 1701 (via Zoom).

**Session 12: (14/12/2020 10:30-12 00) Israel and the Geopolitics of Energy**

Subjects: The energy sources were the Achilles heel of Israel's foreign relations in the past but have become an advantage in recent years, although with quite a few challenges that the lesson will explain.

Reading material: Emmanuel Navon, *Fueling Conflicts: Oil and Geopolitical Tensions,* Yuval Neeman Workshop for Science, Technology and Security, Tel-Aviv University, Paper 19 (October 2010).

Guest Lecture (Plenum) - Minister of Energy