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**INDC Final Project**

**To the Academic Advisor**

**Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi**

**Dr. Doron Navot**

**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 rules 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 you adhere 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 acceptable 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 (“thesis” for MA), as well as a requirement for the INDC to complete the requirements for obtaining an INDC 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 parts / joint team discussion, 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 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 scientific material published in the field, on original materials collected by the authors, on the analysis of visible data 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 opinion submitted to the committee. Therefore, we ask that you refrain from passing on your recommendation for the grade and your opinion 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 includes 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 January 5, 2021.

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

Between April 28 and May 18, 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 June 1, 2021. We would ask to receive your written opinion and recommendation for a grade by June 15, 2021.

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

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

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