



Rothberg International School  
בית הספר לתלמידים מחו"ל ע"ש רוטברג  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים



Department of Summer Courses  
and Special Programs

המחלקה לקורסי קיץ  
ותוכניות מיוחדות

## Israel's Security in Perspective – Non-Credit Online Lecture Series

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May 2 -30, 2024

Thursdays from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST

### Tentative lecture series overview

This course follows some of the main themes and developments in the history of the State of Israel and its relations with its neighbors, namely its national security. After a brief introduction to the term national security, we will talk about its subjective elements and its deep ties to political, social and economic factors (to name just a few). From the Zionist pre-state years to the War of Independence and the early decades of the state, we will survey the main pillars of national security. In the next meetings we will question the viability of those to the changing middle east, the decline of old threats and the rise of new ones, and the repercussions of that on the change of perception of the national security. In between, we will have a guest lecturer who will combine theory with first-hand experience from a former high-ranking official on the day to day dilemmas that their work entailed.

**2<sup>nd</sup> May, Session 1:** national security, Zionism and the national security question.

- Zeev Jabotinsky, The Iron Wall, <https://en.jabotinsky.org/media/9747/the-iron-wall.pdf> Theodore Herzl, Altneuland, excerpts

**9<sup>th</sup> May, Session 2:** From Independence to Suez and beyond: the principles of Israel's security.

- Eliot Cohen, Supreme command: soldiers, statesmen, and leadership in wartime, New York : Anchor Books, 2003, ch. 3, pp. 139-163

**16<sup>th</sup> May, Session 3:** 1967 and 1973 - and their aftermath; The nuclear dimension and its implications.

- Michael B. Oren, Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East, New York: Ballantine books, 2003. Pp. 133-146

**23<sup>rd</sup> May, Session 4:** Israel's Defense Doctrine – obsolete since 10/7? guest lecturer: Amir Oren, senior analyst on security affairs, Haaretz newspaper.

**30<sup>th</sup> May, Session 5:** from wars to WBWs (Lebanon, the Intifadas), characteristics of WBW, Israeli society and its transformation, the home-front and Overview.