



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

Conflict Studies: Israel before and after October 7th (48457)

Tentative syllabus

June 29 – July 22, 2026

45 Academic Hours, 3 Academic Credits

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Office hours: By appointment

Course requirements and grade:

Students are required to read the articles, attend classes and the field trips. The classes will be conducted in the format of frontal lectures, discussions and tours. The grade will be based on a final exam which will include multiple choice questions and short questions. The exam will take place on 21.7.26.

Course Description

This course will present current academic research as well as the practical aspects regarding the Israeli-Arab conflict, one of the most significant international conflicts of our time. Furthermore, it will provide a broad multidisciplinary perspective on Israeli society as a side to an intractable conflict. The course will additionally address the manner in which societies are influenced by their involvement in an intractable conflict, a long, unrelenting and violent conflict. Such conflicts become a major source of social identity and cohesion, a challenge to conflict resolution efforts, forcing peace makers to develop knowledge and expertise regarding the roots of the conflict. We will explore both the theory of conflict resolution and its practice in the Israeli-Palestinian case, discussing the current situation in Israel before and after October 7th 2023.

Earning graduate credits for this course

- o Graduate students are expected to inform the Rothberg International School at rissummer@savion.huji.ac.il of their interest in earning graduate credits for their summer course(s).
- o Graduate students must complete a 25-page, double-spaced, seminar paper with a bibliography, instead of the course's standard final assessment. The students will discuss this paper in class. The topic and bibliography for these papers must be chosen in agreement with each course instructor. Students must approach course instructors by the end of the first week of the course and arrange a time to meet and define their paper topic and bibliography.
- o The seminar paper must make use of at least five scholarly sources (books or academic articles), in addition to Internet resources.
- o The graduate seminar papers must be submitted within 2 months following the course completion.

Calendar, course topics and readings

1.7.25 – Introduction: conflict research and resolution

Stephan, W.G. & Stephan, C.W. (1996). *Intergroup Relations* (pp. 143-152). Colorado: Westview Press. **Main library HM 131 S8155; Ereserve**

Kriesberg, L. (2003). *Constructive Conflicts: From Escalation to Resolution* (Second Edition) (pp. 1-27). Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield. **Main library HM 136 K757; Ereserve**

2.7.25 – The Israeli-Arab conflict: Zionism, Israel's independence and the Palestinian Nakba

Bar-Tal, D. (2013). *Intractable Conflicts: Socio-Psychological Foundations and Dynamics* (pp. 174-212). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Main library HM 1126 B368 2013; Ebook**

7.7.25 – Conflict management, the role of third parties and the question of deterrence prior and during the the October 2023 War

Lund, M.S. (2009). Conflict prevention: theory in pursuit of policy and practice. In: J. Bercovitch, V. Kremenyuk, & W.I. Zartman (Eds.), *The Sage Handbook of Conflict Resolution* (pp. 287-321). London: Sage Publication. **Overseas library 341.52 B486; Ereserve**

Zartman, W. I., & Touval, S. (1996). International mediation in the post-Cold War era. In: C. Crocker, F., Hampson, & P. Aall (Eds.), *Managing Global Chaos* (pp. 445-461). Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press. **Main library JX 4473 M35; Ereserve**

8.7.25 – From Old Wars to New Wars, Israel's changing borders and security challenges before and after October 7th 2023

Ben Eliezer, U. (2012). *Old Conflict, New War*. Palgrave Macmillan: USA. Pp. 7-26.

Main Library DS 119.76 B454 2012; Ereserve

Benziman, Y. (2018). New Wars rational Old War expectations. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 23(4): 441-443. **Ejournal**

13.7.25 – Full day field trip (08:00-16:00): South Israel and the Gaza Envelope

14.7.25 – Ripeness, negotiations and barriers to conflict resolution

Kahneman, D., & Tversky, A. (1995). Conflict resolution: a cognitive perspective. In: K. Arrow, et al. (Eds.), *Barriers to Conflict Resolution* (pp. 44-60). New York: Norton.

Mnookin, R. H., & Ross, L. (1995). Introduction. In: K. Arrow, et.al. (Eds.), *Barriers to Conflict Resolution* (pp. 2-24). New York: Norton. **Main library HD 42 B295; Ereserve**

Pruitt, D. G. (2011). Negotiation and mediation in intergroup conflict. In: Bar-Tal, D. (Ed.) *Intergroup Conflicts and their Resolution* (pp. 267-289). New York and London: Psychology Press Taylor & Francis Group. **Overseas library 303.6 B223; Ereserve**

Bercovitch, J. (2009). Mediation and conflict resolution. In: J. Bercovitch, V.

Kremenjuk, & W. I. Zartman, (Eds.), *The Sage Handbook of Conflict Resolution* (pp. 340-357), London: Sage Publication. **Overseas library 341.52 B486; Ereserve**

15.7.25 – Peace agreements, failed negotiations and unilateralism: the core issues of the conflict

Bar-Siman-Tov, Y., & Michael, K. (2007). The Israeli Disengagement Plan as a Conflict Management Strategy. In: Bar-Siman-Tov, Y. (Ed.), *The Israeli-Palestinian conflict: From conflict resolution to conflict management* (pp.261-282). New York: Palgrave Macmillan. **Overseas library E327.56(08) B223; Ebook**

Benziman, Y. (2021). Negotiating with a So-Called 'Non-Partner': Lessons from Palestinian-Israeli Negotiation Practices (2000-2020), *International Negotiation: A Journal of Theory and Practice* 26(3): 479-498. **Ejournal**

20.7.25 – Field trip (07:30-12:00): Old City of Jerusalem

21.7.25 – Cold peace, warm peace, reconciliation and the potential solutions the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

Smith N. (2014) Political apologies and categorical apologies. In: M. Mihai & M. Thaler (Eds.), *On the Uses and Abuses of Political Apologies* (pp. 32-51). London: Rhetoric, Politics and Society Series. Palgrave Macmillan. **E-Book**

Maoz, I. (2011). Contact in protracted asymmetrical conflict: Twenty years of planned encounters between Israeli Jews and Palestinians. *Journal of Peace Research*, 48(1), 115-125. **Ejournal**

Levy Paluck, E., Porat, R., Clark, C.S., Green, D.P. (2021). Prejudice reduction: progress and challenges. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 72, 533-560. **Ejournal**

22.7.25 – Final exam

Mapendere, J. (2006). Track one and a half diplomacy and the complementarity of tracks, *Culture of Peace Online Journal*, 2(1), 66-81. **Online access**

Volkan, D.V. (1991). Official and unofficial diplomacy: an overview. In: V. D. Volkan, J. V. Montville, & D. A. Julius (Eds.), *The Psychodynamics of International Relations: Vol. II Unofficial diplomacy at work* (pp.1-16). Massachusetts: Lexington Books. **Main library JX 1391 P78; Ereserve**