

October 7: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives on the Israel-Hamas War
Lowy International School
December 2023

Academic team: Dr. Nimrod Rosler, Prof. Ronen Avraham, Prof. Milette Shamir

Teaching Assistant: [TBD]

Contact Information: [TA email TBD]

Office Hours: By appointment (set up on email)

Dates: Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from November 30th to December 22, 2023

Time: 7:15-8:45 pm (Israel time)

Format: Zoom

Weight: 2 credits

Course Number: 2120-2001-02

Course Description

October 7th, 2023 marks the starting day of the Israel-Hamas war (“Swords of Iron”), following the massacre of over 1200 people in Israel and the kidnapping of over 230 by the Hamas. The current course will provide a unique opportunity to explore wide academic perspectives on issues directly related to the current war. It will include two main parts. The first one aims to provide the background to the war, by relating to the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the socio-political developments in each side on the eve of the war. The second part will provide interdisciplinary perspectives on war in general with application to the present Israel-Hamas war: the dynamics of war in the present era around the world and in the Middle East, international law relating to warfare, war’s economic costs, social and individual consequences of war and coping mechanisms. The course will be given by guest lecturers who are researchers and experts from various relevant different disciplines and will be conducted via Zoom.

Course Objectives

1. Develop a complex, nuanced and fact-based understanding of the current conflict.
2. Explore multi-disciplinary approaches to war.
3. Enhance analytical and teamwork skills by producing a final project in groups.

Evaluation

35% - Quizzes on reading and lecture material, given at the end of each session (last five minutes of the class). Each quiz will include four information-based questions, and

correct answers to at least three questions will add 5 points to the final grade. Successfully completing 7 out of 9 quizzes (Classes 2-10) will allow receiving the full 35 points.

65% - Final project (in groups) due January 20. The projects will be recorded by each group as short TED talks of up to 10 minutes. The project should relate to an aspect of the war that will be chosen by the students, and should provide a concise analysis of the topic according to one of the perspectives studied in the course. The talk has to start and end with a slide presenting the materials that were used for its preparation. The talks will be graded based on the following criteria: accurate content, clarity, appropriate use of theoretical concepts, comprehension and integration of academic materials.

Date	Topic	Lecturer
Thursday, November 30	Introduction: Analyzing Violent Conflicts	Dr. Nimrod Rosler (International Program in Conflict Resolution)
Sunday, December 3	The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Dr. Brandon Friedman (The Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies)
Tuesday, December 5	Are Wars Declining? Why and Where?	Prof. Azar Gat (International Program in Security and Diplomacy)
Thursday, December 7	Palestinian Society on the Eve of the War	Dr. Khalil Shikaki (Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research & Brandeis University)
Sunday, December 10	Israeli Society on the Eve of the War	Prof. Udi Sommer (School of Political Science, Government and International Relations)
Tuesday, December 12	Legal perspectives on war	Adv. Daniel Reisner (International Law Expert)
Thursday, December 14	The Economics of War	Prof. Leo Leiderman (School of Economics and Faculty of Management)

Sunday, December 17	Unyielding Spirit: Resilience in the Shadows of War	Prof. Bruria Adini (International Program in Disaster Management)
Tuesday, December 19	Trauma and Coping	Prof. Tammie Ronen (International Program in Sustainable Development)
Thursday, December 22	Conclusion: Ending Violent Conflicts and Peacebuilding	Dr. Nimrod Rosler (International Program in Conflict Resolution)

