The course will deal with various issues relating to Israel’s national security. It will touch upon general strategic topics as well as military events, and issues relating to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

The meetings will be based essentially on discussions over articles relevant to the meeting. Each article will be presented by student, and a discussion will follow the presentations.

In addition to the presentations, each student will write a book review on a book relevant to our course- the book report will not exceed 5 pages.

By the end of the semester each student will submit a paper of no more than 15 pages. The topic of the paper will be decided by the student, in consultation with me.

Deadlines:
- Final assignment: December 10.

The grade for the course will be based on:
1. Participation in class- 30%.
2. The grades on assignments & presentation- 30%
3. The final assignment- 40%.

**August 28- Orientation and introduction:**

**September 11. The Foundations of Israel’s National Security Thinking**

**Discussion in Class:**

**September 18. In Pursuit of Arms**

**Discussion in Class:**

**September 25. Israel and the Nuclear**

**Discussion in Class:**


October 2. Israel’s Foreign Relations
Discussion in Class:

October 9. Israel - US Relations- the Diplomatic Dimension
Discussion in Class:

October 16. Israel’s War of Independence
Discussion in Class:

October 23, The Road to the 1956 War
Discussion in Class:
Motti Golani, “Shall We Go to War? And if We Do, When?” in Efraim Karsh, From War to Peace (London; Frank Cass, 1996), pp. 22-42.
*Discussion in Class:*

**November 6. The War that Changed Everything: the June 1967 War**
*Discussion in Class:*

**November 13. The 1973 War**
*Discussion in Class:*

**November 20. Israel and the Challenge of Counter-Insurgency: the Palestinian Front**
*Discussion in Class:*

**November 27. Military- Civic Relations in Israel**
*Discussion in Class:*

**December 4. In Pursuit of Peace (?)**

Discussion in Class:

**And now to the important stuff:**
My office hours are: Monday, 05:00-06:00 pm (and by appointment), room 304 Maxwell.
My office phone number- TBA.
My email address is: dtal@maxwell.syr.edu

Feel free to call or email (or just bump into me in the corridors) whenever you feel I can help