**Foreign Policy of Israel**
Elective for MADLB

**Instructor:** Dr. Khinvraj Jangid  
**Teaching Hours:** Thursday, 14:00 – 17:00  
**Class Room:** T1 - S30  
**Credit:** Four  
**Prerequisite:** Graduation  
**Assessment:** 10% Class Participation, 20% Book-review, 30% Assignment and 40% End term exam (take home)  
**Student Hour:** To be announced later

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**Overview**
The study of politics and foreign policy of the State of Israel is about understanding the determinants, strengths and challenges of Israel in 21st century. The birth and evolution of Israel is controversial due to its multiple conflicts with the regional actors of West Asia (Middle East to some). The formation of the state is unique due to the dispersed life of the Jewish people before 1948 and seeking homeland in the land of Palestine during the British Mandate period. Israel, as a small state, carved a distinct foreign policy after 1948 and has achieved significant influence internationally with its innovation, arms-diplomacy, start-ups and high-tech. This course will look into the major events, actors and ideas behind the foreign relations of Israel with the world and particularly with Asian powers like India and China.

**Readings**
There is no single text book or a history book for this course. Each topic has required readings that are important for learning. For each class mandatory readings are given. In addition to it there will be some more writings from current news or events which students will receive in advance before a class. Student should come reading them in class so that discussion or dialogue can take place. All the classes will demand students to participate and play active role in the class room with help of readings. Curiosity is equally an important thing to have for every class. Curiosity does not kill the cat here! All the readings and books given here are available in the Jindal Global library. Journals are accessible via JGU access. Students may use material from the web so long as they are able to indicate source as well as give the date accessed. I have given a page of internet sources for daily news and events analysis. Follow some of them on weekly basis.

**Assignments**
- Assignment, word limit 1000 words (Submission by, April 17, 2020)  
- Book Review, word limit 1000 words (Submission by March 22, 2020); both these assignments are to be submitted via Turn-it-in.

Write Your Own Exam Questions – Assignment for 30%
Each student will be required to submit 1000-words assignments. The students are required to compose an ‘ideal exam question’, based on the lecture and reading material of the week, and are to answer the question as thoroughly as possible. Students must specify which week the question is related to. This assignment will be graded according to the following criteria:
- Writing style and clarity
- Quality of analysis of readings
- Quality of exam questions proposed

**Plagiarism**
It is an offence not mistake. JGU website has full document explaining what constitutes plagiarism and the degree to which it can affect your career. Beware of it.

**Note**
*Jindal Centre for Israel Studies (JCIS) will have guest lectures which will be relevant to the issues dealt in this elective so the students enrolled for it are required to attend all such events of JCIS besides the classroom lectures.*

**Week 1 & 2**
**Introduction – Origins of Israel's foreign policy**
We review the course and discuss how Zionism, the British Mandate over Palestine, and the Holocaust influenced the formation of Israel's foreign policy during its early years

Required reading


**Week 3, 4 & 5**
**State of Israel and West Asia: War & Peace**
Required Readings
UN Partition Plan for Palestine
(URL: http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/0/7F0AF2BD897689B785256C330061D253)


Week 6 & 7
Orientation of Israeli Foreign Policy: West vs East
We examine the tension between Israel’s location in the East and its desire to be part of the West, and the effects of the East-West dilemma on Israel’s foreign policy. Diaspora is one of the key elements in the making of foreign policy in Israel.

Required Readings


Week 8 & 9
Israel and India: Belated Friendship
We look at the Israel’s diplomatic efforts towards India and the political difficulty it had with the larger Asia in 1950s. Israel could only receive full diplomatic ties with
India and China after the end of the Cold War. India & China are placed very high in the Israeli diplomatic priorities now.

Required Readings


**Week 10 & 11**

**Israel and United States: Special Relationship**

Israel's foreign relations with its most important ally in the international system – The United States – is critical. To analyze the roots of US-Israeli relations, what makes it ‘special’ and how it has shaped Israel's foreign policy are the key goals here. We briefly touch upon the complicated role of Jewish Americans in these relations, and the Americanization of Israeli culture.

Required Reading:


**Week 12 & 13**

**Battle of Narratives: Hasbara versus BDS**

This week looks at the various public diplomacy efforts deployed by both Israel and the Palestinians to influence international media coverage. It is important to find the difference in coverage patterns between media outlets and see how one can process the highly propagandist political narratives. We also discuss the role of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement (BDS) in challenging the narratives of State of Israel, and Israel's various responses to it.

**Required Readings**


**Week 14 & 15**

**Israel and the changing dynamics in West Asia**

In the last two weeks of the course, we review the recent most drastic changes in West Asia since the events of the Arab Spring and discuss current issues such as Israel-Iran proxy war, the formation of a new ‘Israeli-Saudi’ understating, and prospects for Israel's future in the world.

**Required Reading**

