Course Description

Public Diplomacy: Against all Odds? Israel's challenges at the UN
Prof. Ambassador Ron Prosor

Ever since its inception in 1945, the United Nations played a significant role in international politics. While officially promoting three main goals - maintaining peace and security, promoting social and economic development and promoting human rights, the UN has also become a controversial body, often causing damage to the very same ideals it wishes to promote. With 193 member states, 6 official languages and dozens of offices around the world, the UN is a bureaucratic body, often occupied with proceedings and agendas that leave little time for meaningful, efficient conduct.
“Public Diplomacy: Israel’s Challenges at the UN” - Provides you, the students, an in-depth look at the different UN organs, the different players in the arena, their governing interests and decision-making processes in order to understand the matrix of Israel’s challenges on this international stage.

Throughout the semester, Prof. Ambassador Ron Prosor, former Israeli Ambassador to the UN, former CEO of Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Current head of the Abba Eban Institute for International Diplomacy, will share with his students his insights from the playing field, sharing with them his unique doctrine on operating in the International arena, that is comprised of engagement, negotiations, and diplomatic entrepreneurship.

---

Course Goals

This course is NOT an introduction to the UN, but rather a deep-dive into the complexities of the UN system, its inherent bias against Israel and the various political and diplomatic mechanisms in the organization. In this course, you will explore various case-studies of Israel’s unique position in international organizations and will engage in class discussions, presentations, professional workshops and hands-on practice that culminate in a unique final simulation - all to give you a rare ‘behind the scenes’ glimpse into the world's largest diplomatic theatre - the UN.

Core requirements:

- **Active participation** and presentation in class.

- **Mandatory reading in preparation for class** - as most of the course is based on class discussion and workshops.

- **Adhering to your assigned POV throughout the semester** - in preparation for mid-term and final simulation, you will be assigned a singular POV from which you will analyze and criticize events, materials and scenarios throughout the semester.

---

Grading

- Class presentation - **25%**

- Mid-Term Simulation + Paper - **30 %**

- Final Simulation + Paper - **45 %**
**Important note**: Only students who participate in both the mid-term and final simulations will be eligible to pass this course. Should classes return to campus in time for the simulations, **physical attendance would be mandatory**.

---

**Lecturer Office Hours**

**Contact information** Ms. Gal Spiner Abramovich  
E-mail: Gal.Spiner@idc.ac.il  
**Office Hours**: By appointment.

---

**Tutor Office Hours**

**Contact information** Ms. Gal Spiner Abramovich  
E-mail: Gal.Spiner@idc.ac.il  
**Office Hours**: By appointment.

---

**Reading List**

The following list was crafted to provide you with a better understanding of the playing field, the challenges at hand and the many issues that will be discussed in class.

Mandatory reading items are underlined and in bold. however, for you to be able to participate in class and fully immerse yourself in the study material, skimming all the materials in this list is highly recommended.

**Recommended (Optional):**

- Eban, Abba. Voice of Israel. Horizon Press  1957
Step by Step - Getting to know the un-United Nations

1. Overview


2. Regional groups and interest groups:


Class-specific reading materials:

1. Class #1: - Israel at the UN - Laying the ground: a historical review

- Charter of the United Nations (see scanned)
- Resolution adopted on the report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Palestinian question - UN General Assembly recorded meeting protocol (see scanned).

2. Class #2: Understanding the playing field
Un Budget

- UN Charter Chapter IV, Article 17; Chapter XV, Article 97.
- “Fifth Committee Recommends $5.4 Billion Budget for 2016–2017 Biennium as It Concludes Main Part of Seventieth Session”
- How much do various countries contribute to the UN Budget? [https://factly.in/united-nations-budget-contributions-by-member-countries/](https://factly.in/united-nations-budget-contributions-by-member-countries/)

Security council


3. **Class #3: General assembly and the secretariat**

Secretariat


General Assembly


• Ron Prosr, “Telling the truth is a revolutionary act”, Speech to the General Assembly, 2013.

4. Class #4: Peacekeeping

• Peacekeeping mandate (See Scanned)
• Fact sheet - overview of missions (See Scanned)


• Israel's statement on peacekeeping operations, 2015 - Remarks to the UN’s Political Committee.
• “75 UN troops flee into Israel to escape Syrian rebels", Times of Israel, 2014.

5. Class #5: United Against Israel

The institutionalized bias against Israel

  http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/01/opinion/united-in-ignominy.html?_r=0


**Human Rights Council**

• “Algeria – Where are your Jews?”, Speech by Hillel Neuer at the UN Human Rights Council, 2017:  

• “UN Human Rights Council Votes to Form 'Blacklist' of Companies Operating in Israeli Settlements”  
  http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.710796

• “The UN’s war on Israel”, Ron Prosor, 2015: https://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/01/opinion/united-in-ignominy.html?_r=0

• “UK Puts the UN Human Rights Council ‘on Notice’ for Anti-Israel Bias”, Algemeiner, March 2017.  

• "Farce: U.N.'s 2017 Membership at Human Rights Council", UN Watch, January 2017  

**6. Class #8: New Diplomacy**


  http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23739770.2016.1173975