



Course program and reading list

Semester 1 Year 2023

School: Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy B.A

Political Violence and Extremism in Israel

Lecturer:

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Teaching Assistant:

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Course No.:	Course Type :	Weekly Hours :	Credit:
3174	Lecture	2	2

Course Requirements :	Group Code :	Language:
Final Paper	231317401	English



Course Description

The course examines and analyzes cases and episodes of political violence and terrorism in Israel. In doing this, the course will backtrack to the early years of the state, and when necessary, to the pre-state era, in order to learn about the origins and sources of violent and terrorist groups and organizations whose operations and activities, or the fingerprints of their activities, we still experience in the present. In engaging in such a historical journey, we will familiarize ourselves with different backgrounds and contexts that motivated individuals and groups to engage in violent, at times indiscriminate, political behavior.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

First, we will establish the conceptual and theoretical basis for the study of political violence and extremism. We will relate to several orienting questions. What is political violence? Is there a difference between civil disobedience, political violence and

terrorism? Can we measure political violence? What are the mechanisms driving violence? When does contention turn violent and why does it happen in some cases and not in others? What are the forms of political violence and extremism in Israel?

Second, we will investigate the historical roots of political violence in the Israeli case.

Third, we will examine prominent forms of political violence in Israel, investigating each [case study] separately: ethnic violence; religious violence, and nationalist violence and terrorism. Linking theory to evidence will be of particular concern. This is by no means an exhaustive list, and in each case, a mix of conceptual and empirical material will be introduced, in order to expose students to a wide range of examples. Students will explore how the potential for political violence develops, and which personal, institutional and environmental factors can encourage or mitigate the transition to the violent acts.

Finally, we will discuss current trends in the study of political violence and extremism. We will also discuss methods of preventing and mitigating political violence



Course Goals

The purpose of the course is to provide you with knowledge of the various approaches used to study political violence and extremism and to help you understand the ways in which theories of political violence could be applied to the Israeli context. Thus, we will utilize particular cases of political violence in the Israeli case as examples of larger phenomena.



Grading

Class Attendance and Participation: This course is best as a conversation or debate, not as a oneway lecture. You should read the assigned material in advance, be prepared to answer questions about it critically, and participate actively in our class discussions. If you feel that you cannot actively participate, see us as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements.

A case-study essay – For weeks 2-13, you must submit a critical newspaper article based on that week's readings. The assignment is done **in pairs** (no more than two people working together in each group, no exceptions). You should not exceed **two pages**. You are asked to demonstrate your understanding of a leading question or central debate on any topic of your choice covered in the weekly readings; clarify the arguments, analysis, or critique brought to the subject. In simple words, use the research you've presented to analyze a current Israeli event. It would be best if you began by quickly summarizing the main idea of the article. Then present one/two arguments that particularly stand out to you (perhaps they are intriguing, contradict or support earlier readings, relate to

overarching themes of violence, etc.) and the excerpts (i.e., quotes) or data from the text that support these points. You must submit your case study essay to the TA via email before the relevant class session. Any standard font is acceptable. Please use standard citation procedures. All late work, unless excused in advance by the course lecturer, or justified by medical certificate, will be penalized at a rate of five percent per day. It is best to let the lecturer/TA know as soon as possible if there will be an issue in submitting the paper on time. This will account for 20% of your overall grade.

Take-home exam: Exploration of a particular case study or set of cases relevant to the theme of this course. It cannot be a mere review of theoretical literature, or simply a narrative account of a particular case. It must have an argument, a conceptual framework, an empirical "field" (case or cases, or data, etc.) Students will be free to choose the topic for their final assignment. This will account for 80% of your overall grade.

All plagiarism issues will be handled with in accordance with the IDC bulletin and policies.



Lecturer Office Hours

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Additional Notes

The course readings are introductory-level. The required reading material will be posted on the course website (available under your myIDC).

*Please note: **Schedule and readings are subject to change**. Pay attention and always check the course website for the latest!

There are a number of good journals that treat the themes in this course.

Among some you might find useful would be:

Journal of Conflict Resolution

International Security

Terrorism and Political Violence

Studies in Conflict and Terrorism

Nationalism and Ethnic Politics

Also, online magazines:

Political Violence @ A Glance: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/>

The Monkey Cage: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/monkey-cage/>

The Center for Research on Extremism, C-REX: <https://www.sv.uio.no/c-rex/english/topics/>



Reading List

Part I: Conceptual and Theoretical Approaches to the Study of Political Violence

Week 1: What is Political Violence?

Sprinzak, Ehud. 1999. *Brother Against Brother: Violence And Extremism in Israeli Politics From Altalena To The Rabin Assassination*, The Free Press, New York pp. 307-323.

David A. Snow, Donatella Della Porta, Bert Klandermans, Doug McAdam (eds.). 2013. *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social and Political Movements*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell. "**Activism**" (pp. 9-10); "**Contentious Politics**" (pp. 266-269). "**Extremism**" (Pp. 440-442); "**High and Low Risk/cost Activism**" (pp. 558-559); "**Radicalism**" (pp. 1050); "**Repertoires of contention**" (pp. 1081-1082); "**Violence against oneself**" (Pp. 1377-1378); "**Violence and social movements**" (Pp. 1379-1382).

Week 2: Exposure to Political Violence and Terrorism

Hirsch-Hoefler, S., Canetti, D., Rapaport, C., & Hobfoll, S. E. 2016. Conflict will harden your heart: Exposure to violence, psychological distress, and peace barriers in Israel and Palestine. *British Journal of Political Science*, 46(4), 845-859

Huff, C., and Kertzer, J. 2018. "How the Public Defines Terrorism," *American Journal of Political Science* 62(1): 55-71

Getmansky, A., & Zeitzoff, T. 2014. Terrorism and voting: The effect of rocket threat on voting in Israeli elections. *American Political Science Review*, 108(03), 588-604. [To be discussed by a student](#)

Week 3 (Nov 13): Assessing and Explaining Political Violence Across and Within societies -- Guest Lecture – Prof. Carly Wayne

Canetti, D., Hall, B. J., Rapaport, C., & Wayne, C. (2013). Exposure to political violence and

political extremism: A stress-based process. *European Psychologist*, 18(4), 263.

Canetti, D., Khatib, I., Rubin, A., & Wayne, C. (2019). Framing and fighting: The impact of conflict frames on political attitudes. *Journal of Peace Research*, 56(6), 737-752. To be discussed by a student

Week 4: What are the mechanisms driving political violence? Competing explanations of political violence (the individual-level, organizational-level and the state)

Ben Shitrit, Lihi, Julia Elad-Strenger, and Sivan Hirsch-Hoefler. 2017. "Gender differences in support for direct and indirect political aggression in the context of protracted conflict." *Journal of Peace Research* 54, (6): 733-747.

Shuman, Eric, Smadar Cohen-Chen, Sivan Hirsch-Hoefler, and Eran Halperin. 2016. "Explaining normative versus nonnormative action: The role of implicit theories." *Political Psychology* 37, (6): 835-852. To be discussed by a student

Alimi, Eitan Y., and Sivan Hirsch-Hoefler. 2012. "Structure of political opportunities and threats, and movement-counter movement interaction in segmented composite regimes." *Comparative Politics* 44, (3): 331-349. To be discussed by a student

Part II: Historical Roots of Political Violence in Israel

Week 5: Historical Roots of Political Violence in Israel

Sprinzak, Ehud. 1999. *Brother Against Brother: Violence and Extremism in Israeli Politics from Altalena To The Rabin Assassination*, The Free Press, New York, pp. 17-50.

Pedahzur, Ami and Perliger, Arie. 2009. *Jewish Terrorism in Israel*. Columbia University Press, ch. 2. To be discussed by a student

Part III: Empirical Issues in the Study of Political Violence: The Israeli Context

Week 6: Ethnicity and Violence, the Black Panthers (in Israel).

Sprinzak, Ehud. 1999. *Brother Against Brother: Violence And Extremism in Israeli Politics From Altalena To The Rabin Assassination*, The Free Press, New York, pp. 127-44.

Gurstein, Benjamin Binyamin. 2019. "Is there "Black Panther" Movement in Israel? Protests of Ethiopian Jews-Sources of Conflict and Policy Implications." *International Journal* (5): 11. To be discussed by a student

Week 7: Linking Religion and Political Violence

Zaidise, Eran. Canetti-Nisim, Daphna. Pedahzur, Ami. 2007. "Politics of God or Politics of Man? The Role of Religion and Deprivation in Predicting Support for Political Violence in Israel". *Political Studies*, 55 (3), pp. 499-521.

Canetti-Nisim, Daphna. Hobfoll, Stevan. Pedahzur, Ami. Zaidise, Eran. 2010. "Much Ado about Religiosity: The Association of Religiosity, Resource Loss, and Support for Political Violence". *Journal of Peace Research*. To be discussed by a student

Sprinzak, Ehud. 1999. *Brother Against Brother: Violence and Extremism in Israeli Politics from Altalena to the Rabin Assassination*, The Free Press, New York 1990, pp. 87-112. To be

discussed by a student

Week 8: Cyber Terrorism and Political Attitudes - Guest lecture -- Prof. Daphna Canetti

(Dean of The Paul and Herta Amir Faculty of Social Sciences, The University of Haifa).

Shandler, R., Gross, M., Backhaus, S. & Canetti, D. (2021) Cyber Terrorism and Public Support for Retaliation: A Multi-Country Survey Experiment. *British Journal of Political Science*, 1-19.

Gross, M., Canetti, D., & Vashdi, D. (2018). Cyber Terrorism: Its Effects on Psychological Well-Being, Public Confidence, and Political Attitudes. In Lin H. & Zegart A. (Eds.), *Bytes, Bombs, and Spies: The Strategic Dimensions of Offensive Cyber Operations* (pp. 235-264). Washington, D.C.: Bro Brookings Institution Press. To be discussed by a student

Week 9: The Case of Israeli-Arab Violence

Hasisi, Badi. Pedahzur, Ami. 2000. "State, Policy and Political Violence: Arabs in the Jewish State". *Civil Wars*, 3 (4) pp. 64-84.

Zeitsoff, Thomas. 2018. Anger, legacies of violence, and group conflict: An experiment in post-riot Acre, Israel. *Conflict management and peace science*, 35(4), 402-423. To be discussed by a student

Week 10: The Kahanist Culture of Violence

Sprinzak, Ehud. (1991). Violence and Catastrophe in the theology of Rabbi Meir Kahana. The Ideology of Mimetic Desire. *Terrorism and Political Violence* (3), 348-70.

Pedahzur, Ami and Perliger, Arie. 2009. *Jewish Terrorism in Israel*. Columbia University Press, ch. 4 (pp. 96-117). To be discussed by a student

Week 11: 'Settle for Nothing' – The Vigilantism of the Jewish Settler Movement and the Underground

Hirsch-Hoefler, Sivan, Daphna Canetti, and Ehud Eiran. 2016. "Radicalizing religion? Religious identity and settlers' behavior." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 39, (6): 500-518.

Alimi, Eitan Y. 2016. "The relational context of radicalization: The case of Jewish settler contention before and after the Gaza pullout." *Political Studies* 64 (4): 910-929.

Eiran, Ehud, and Peter Krause. 2018 "Old (Molotov) cocktails in new bottles?" Price-tag" and settler violence in Israel and the West Bank." *Terrorism and political violence* 30, (4): 637-657. To be discussed by a student

Week 12: The Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin

Sprinzak, Ehud. 1999. *Brother Against Brother: Violence and Extremism in Israeli Politics from Altalena to the Rabin Assassination*, The Free Press, New York 1990, pp. 266-85.

Perliger, A. (2017). The role of civil wars and elections in inducing political assassinations. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 40(8), 684-700. To be discussed by a student

Part VI: Where Do We Go from Here?

Week 13: Trends in the Study of Political Violence in Israeli Politics

Pedahzur, Ami and Perliger, Arie. 2009. Jewish Terrorism in Israel. Columbia University Press, ch. 8

Eisner, Manuel, and Susanne Karstedt. 2009. "Is a General Theory of Violence Possible?" *International Journal of Conflict and Violence*. 4-8. To be discussed by a student

Boyle, M. J. 2012. Progress and pitfalls in the study of political violence. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 24, 527-543. **To be discussed by a student**