## Course program and reading list

**Semester 1 Year 2023**

**School:**  
Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy & Strategy M.A

### Research Seminar: Governance and Political Violence

**Lecturer:**  
Dr. Amichai Magen  
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**Teaching Assistant:**  
Mr. Abraham Gertz  
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<th>Course No.</th>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Weekly Hours</th>
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<td>24272</td>
<td>Lecture</td>
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**Course Requirements:**  
Final Paper

**Group Code:** 232427201

**Language:** English

**Prerequisites**

**Students who took one of the courses listed below will not be allowed to register to the course Research Seminar: Governance and Political Violence (24272):**

- 24146 - Research Seminar: Negotiating Core Issues in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- 24151 - Research Seminar in Contemporary Topics in International Terrorism
- 24225 - Research Seminar: dynamics of power and Technology
- 24291 - Russia and Russian Foreign Policy
- 24292 - Research Seminar: Regional Palestinian Politics
Course Description

This Research Seminar invites MA candidates to explore the relationship between governance and political violence. Contemporary global reality is shaped by a fundamental paradox with profound consequences for international peace and security. On the one hand, war between states has been declining for decades and is now extremely rare (though the risk of interstate war now appears to be increasing). In several regions of the world people have little to no experience of war, though other forms of political violence (notably insurgencies, civil wars, and terrorism) have increased in the post Cold War era. Where international order - based on effective statehood, clear rules, and international cooperation - is stable, humanity has achieved unprecedented political freedom, economic affluence, security, and peace. Yet on the other hand, about a third of the world's states are states whose central government is so weak that they have little practical control over much of its territory, are unable to provide essential public services, are stuck in poverty, and are often (but not always) characterized by widespread conflict, criminality, and corruption. Areas of limited statehood (ALS) - such as are found in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, the Sahel Region, Sinai, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen - are not only havens for terrorists, but pose a complex set of security, legal and policy challenges to the international community. How should we understand the relationship between political order and political violence? Is the new Great Power competition we observe in the international system heralding the "return of war"? Why does so much of contemporary international terrorism emerge from fragile and failed states? How has the proliferation of ALS impacted terrorist organizations and their impact. And what, if anything can be done about it? The research seminar challenges MA students to tackle these questions, and to explore the relationship between governance and security, the return of contestation of the international order, state failure and international terrorism, using interdisciplinary materials and analytic approaches.

Course Goals

MA Research Seminars are designed to provide advanced degree students with a supportive setting for individual, interdisciplinary inquiry, learning, and research. Accordingly, this research seminar invites students to explore the "governance-political violence nexus" in an intensive, small group dynamic, openly accessing and debating multiple literatures and analytic approaches. It also requires that each student develop an individual research project which is presented to the group in a class presentation on their chosen topic. The presentation and feedback then forms the basis for the individual research paper each seminar student is responsible for writing. The overall experience is intended to facilitate the advancement of analytical, problemsolving, academic presentation, research and writing skills.
Grading

Students are expected to attend seminar sessions and actively participate in the seminar. The preparation and making of classroom presentation and timely submission of the seminar paper are also the sole responsibility of each student.

Grade Composition: Attendance & Participation - 20% (attendance and quality of participation). Seminar Presentation - 20% (in English). Seminar Research Paper - 60% (the paper may be written in English or Hebrew).

Learning Outcomes

The seminar provides students with an environment in which they can develop their own research paper in a cutting edge field of social science research (some students have gone on to publish papers based on their research paper in this seminar). Active engagement in the seminar process should also help develop individual learning, analytical, problem-solving, academic presentation, research and writing capacities.

Lecturer Office Hours

By appointment

Tutor Office Hours

By appointment

Teaching Assistant

Avi Gertz (email: aamgertz@gmail.com)

Reading List

All reading materials posted on the Moodle site. Note that there are no required readings for this research seminar, and that the texts/podcasts etc placed under each session are meant as a depository of relevant literature for themes of the seminar.