Description
From war to war and crisis to crisis, Israel is, at once, a polity, an aspiration and a contention. It is the purpose of this course to examine the Israeli system. The conjugation of three themes will structure this investigation. The first considers the complex, and evolving, identity questions and politics that attend Jewishness, Zionism and being Israeli. The second investigates legitimacy, the nature and dynamics of the Israeli political system. And the third engages the multidimensional nature of Israeli security.

Office Hours
The office is located on the third floor of the Jenkins Building, 314S. Regular office hours are kept between 10:50 and 12:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays. Additional meeting times can be made by appointment. Communication is always possible at bmguinn@miami.edu. Also, please check the blackboard before each class session for procedural and substantive information as the course goes along.

Readings
Selected Articles

Grading
Mid-Term Examination: 30% [20 February]
First Essay: 30% [27 March]
Second Essay: 30% [1 May]
Participation and Attendance: 10%

Rules of Order
Regular attendance is essential as the frameworks for the essays and the examination will be presented in class. A deduction of half a letter grade will accompany late papers for each day beyond the deadline. Plagiarism, of course, cannot be tolerated. Much the same can be said about late arrivals, early departures and such. Enough said.
Course Outline

Lecture One [14 January]
Overview

Introduction

Lecture Two [16 January]
Contention

Readings
GM, Introduction.

Suggested Readings
Bret Stephens, “Peter Beinart’s False Prophecy, Tablet, 26 March 2012.
Peter Beinart, “Peter Beinart Responds,” Tablet, 30 March 2012.

I. Determinates

A. Identity

Lecture Three [23 January]
Next Year

Readings
GM, chapter two.

Suggested Readings
Lecture Four [28 January]

Mosaic

Readings
GM, chapter three.

Suggested Readings

B. Legitimacy

Lecture Five [30 January]

Development

Readings
GM, chapter one.

Suggested Readings

Lecture Six [4 February]

Institution

Readings
GM, chapters four and five.

Suggested Readings

Lecture Seven [6 February]

**Process**

Readings
GM, chapters seven and eight.

Suggested Readings

C. Security

Lecture Eight [11 February]

**Statecraft**

Reading
GM, chapter nine.

Suggested Readings

Lecture Nine [13 February]

**Defense**

Readings
GM, chapter 10.
Suggested Readings

Lecture Ten [18 February]

**Economy**

Readings
GM, chapter 11.

Suggested Readings

Midterm [20 February]

II. Trajectories

Lecture Eleven [25 February]

**1948**

Readings

Suggested Readings
Leslie Stein, “Rewriting Israel’s History,” *Shofar*, V. 30, N. 1 (Fall 2011): 129-140.

Lecture Twelve [27 February]

**The Ben Gurion Years I**

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Thirteen [4 March]
The Sharett Years

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Fourteen [6 March]
The Ben Gurion Years II

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Fifteen [18 March]
The Eshkol Years

Readings
Suggested Readings

Lecture Sixteen [20 March]
**The Meir Years**

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Seventeen [25 March]
**The Meir-Rabin Years**

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Eighteen [27 March]
**The Begin Years**

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Nineteen [1 April]

The Begin-Shamir Years

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Twenty [3 April]

The Shamir-Peres Years

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Twenty-one [8 April]

The Rabin-Peres Years

Readings

Suggested Readings
Lecture Twenty-two [10 April]
The Netanyahu Years I

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Twenty-three [15 April]
The Barak Years

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Twenty-four [17 April]
The Sharon Years

Readings

Suggested Readings
Lecture Twenty-five [22 April]
The Sharon-Olmert Years

Readings

Suggested Readings

Lecture Twenty-six [24 April]
The Netanyahu Years II

Readings

Suggested Readings