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

Israel's Cyber Policy and Strategy

Lecturer:

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Teaching Assistant:

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Course No.:	**Course Type :**	**Weekly Hours :**	**Credit:**
3725	Lecture	1	1

Course Requirements :	**Group Code :**	**Language:**
Final Paper	243372500	English

◎ Course Description

This course will explore the complex realm of cyber terrorism, with a specific focus on the threats posed to Israel by different threat actors. Through in-depth analysis of key concepts, actors, cyber-attacks, and Israel's cyber defense strategy, the course will help gain a comprehensive understanding of Israel's cyber security policy and strategy. Throughout the course, we will analyze threat actors, including Palestinian and pro-Palestinian hackers, Iranian and Shia hackers, global jihadist actors, and cyber criminals. In addition, we will examine cyber-attacks during conflicts and cyber-terrorism vulnerabilities to critical infrastructures. The course will also focus on Israel's Cyber Defense Strategy, including the role of the Cyber Authority, security agencies, and the private sector.

📋 Course Goals

Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of cyber terrorism, and its implications to Israel's national security. They will gain insights into the motivations and tactics of various threat actors, analyzed real-world case studies, and explored Israel's Cyber Defense Strategy.

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A+ Grading

Students are required to individually write a final paper (100% of the course grade).

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🕐 Teaching Assistant

Lorena Atiyas-Lvovsky: Latiyas@runi.ac.il

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💬 Reading List

Azani E. & Haberfeld D. (2021)."Trends in Cyber-Terrorism 2021". ICT

https://ict.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Trends-in-Cyber-Terrorism-2021.pdf

Tech against Terrorism (2022) " Trends in Terrorist and Violent Extremist Use of the Internet 2022".

https://www.techagainstterrorism.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/FINAL-State-of-Play-2022-TAT.pdf

ICT Cyber Desk (2018) "ICT Cyber-Desk Report: Jihadists' Use of Virtual Currency". ICT

https://ict.org.il/ict-cyber-desk-report-jihadists-use-of-virtual-currency/

ICT Cyber Desk (2015)" Op-Israel case study Anon Ghost". ICT

https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/resrep09462.7.pdf

Ben-Israel, I., & Tabansky, L. (2011). An Interdisciplinary Look at Security Challenges in the Information Age. Military and Strategic Affairs, 3(3)

https://www.inss.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/FILE1333532835-1.pdf

Plotnek, J. J., & Slay, J. (2021). Cyber terrorism: A homogenized taxonomy and definition. *Computers & Security*, *102*, 102145.

Cohen M.S., Freilich C.D. and Siboni G. (2015). Israel and Cyberspace: Unique Threat and Response. International Studies Perspectives, Volume 17, Issue 3, Pages 307321, https://doi.org/10.1093/isp/ekv023

Cohen D. Levin D. (2014)."Operation Protective Edge: The Cyber Defense Perspective".
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https://www.inss.org.il/wpcontent/uploads/systemfiles/
Operation%20Protective%20Edge_%20The%20Cyber%20Defense%20Perspective.pdf

Handler S. (2022) " The cyber strategy and operations of Hamas: Green flags and green
hats". Atlantic Council.

https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/The-Cyber-Strategy-and-
Operations-of-Hamas.pdf

Dolev B. & Siman-Tov D. (2022). "Iranian Cyber Influence Operations against Israel
Disguised as Ransomware Attacks". INSS.

https://www.inss.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/special-publication-27012022-1.pdf

Spadoni G. (2019) "IRGC Cyber-Warfare Capabilities". ICT

https://ict.org.il/UserFiles/IRGC%20Cyber-Warfare%20Capabilities.pdf

Unna Y. (2019) National Cyber Security in Israel. INSS

https://www.inss.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Cyber3.1ENG_3-169-175.pdf

Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD): Israel International Cyber Strategy 2021

https://www.gov.il/BlobFolder/news/international_strategy/en/
Israel%20International%20Cyber%20Strategy.pdf

UNICRI & UNCCT (2021) Algorithms and Terrorism: The Malicious Use of Artificial
Intelligence for Terrorist Purposes. https://unicri.it/News/Algorithms-Terrorism-Malicious-
Use-Artificial-Intelligence-Terrorist-Purposes

Gunton, K. (2022). The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Content Moderation in Countering
Violent Extremism on Social Media Platforms. In *Artificial Intelligence and National
Security* (pp. 69-79). Cham: Springer International Publishing.

Recommended Reading:

Azani E. & Haberfeld D. (2021) "OpIsrael 2021". ICT (in Hebrew)

https://www.ict.org.il/
images/%D7%92%D7%9C%20%D7%AA%D7%A7%D7%99%D7%A4%D7%95%D7%AA%20%D7%A1%D7%99%D7%99%D7%91

Azani E. & Haberfeld D. (2021) Jerusalem Electronic Army claim responsibility for Israel's
Railways website cyber attack". ICT (in Hebrew).

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Martin C. Libicki, "Cyberdeterrence and Cyberwar," The RAND Corporation (2009)

https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2009/RAND_MG877.pdf