# Short Syllabus

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<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>Media, Conflicts and Politics</td>
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**Lecturer**
Dr. Erga Atad

**Contact details**
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**Semester**
Spring 2022

**Short Description**
In the course, we will point to major changes in the media coverage of war and terror in the last two decades. Traditionally, at the breakout of violent crisis the nationwide media rallied around the flag in support of the political establishment. This has been a basic axiom in regard to national broadcasting and the printed press, accepted as self-evident by the community of scholars of media and politics. Representatives of the elite were free to address the media at any time, crossing the threshold through the “front door”, while radical groups were able to invade the screens via the “back-door,” that is, only by the use of violence. However, following the growing globalization of heretofore national media, the new advances in surveillance and diffusion technologies, the commercialization of news media and, the emergence of new-style, asymmetrical wars, there were significant changes in the coverage of war. The most salient is the fore-grounding of "backdoor" actors—terrorists and enemy leaders. Other actors, once positioned as statistics (ordinary people) or as tellers behind the scene (journalists), are now promoted to centre-stage. All of these new actors have gained status of the kind that in the past was exclusive to media and political elites - editors, military generals and political figures. The possible implications of these changes on media ethics and on public's understanding of war will be discussed in the Israeli and the Western media context.

**Final grade components**
- **Midterm:**
  - Class Presentation - 20%

- **Final requirement:**
  - Final paper – 70%

- **Participation**
  - Regular attendance, reading and participation in class discussions - 10%

**Attendance**
Attendance is mandatory. Students are permitted a maximum of three absences without penalty. Any additional absences will affect the final grade and may result in failure of the course.

**Academic Conduct**

Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously. Any instance of academic misconduct which includes: submitting someone else’s work as your own; failure to accurately cite sources; taking words from another source without using quotation marks; submission of work for which you have previously received credit; working in a group for individual assignments; using unauthorized materials in an exam and sharing your work with other students, will result in failure of the assignment and will likely lead to further disciplinary measures.

**Additional requirements**

You may include a request to keep phones turned-off while in class, or to turn off all electronic apparatuses.