

Thank you to Donors - Asper International Program on Israeli Law and Society:
Decision Making in Times of Crisis 2021

Hello everyone,

I want to thank all the donors who made this program possible, professor Schwartz and professor Ohana and all of you who worked on this program including all the guest speakers. I also want to thank the Asper Foundation for their generous grant.

This course has been very enjoyable. I wish we had the opportunity to visit Israel in person. I am not sure if I am the first Egyptian student to take this course or not, but I can confidently say that I would definitely recommend it to any student at the University of Calgary. I grew up in Egypt and got fed anti Semitic propaganda for the first 20 years of my life before moving to Canada. I didn't understand the complexities of the Israeli society until recently and this course has been tremendously helpful. I actually plan on furthering my understanding of the Israeli society. I'm looking for ways to learn modern Hebrew while I'm here in Alberta. I am specifically interested in Israeli politics (especially the political left), court activism and the Israel-Egypt economic relationship. I also plan on visiting Israel as soon as I can, probably in the next 2-3 years.

I look forward to any possible work or research collaboration with the Hebrew University in the future. If you want to stay in touch, my twitter handle is @aselim100 and my LinkedIn is <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ahmedselim2/>.

Thank you all for making this course possible.

Yours,

Ahmed Selim

J.D. Candidate 2023, University of Calgary

I am a second-year law student at Robson Hall. I would like to express my appreciation for the aid my classmates and I received from the Asper Foundation to participate in the 2021 Asper International Program. Both Dr. Bryan Schwartz and Dr. Daniel Ohana were excellent in their dissemination of subject matter that was completely new to me, and likely to many of my classmates as well. I feel very fortunate to have participated in this program that challenged my usual thinking processes and will definitely have an impact on much of my future learning.

Lou Lamari (*they/them*)

Robson Hall, Faculty of Law

J.D. Candidate, 2023

Dear Asper Foundation,

My name is Amy Kam Ching Ng and I am a third-year student at the University of Manitoba's Robson Hall Faculty of Law. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your generous support and donations. Without your generosity and ongoing support, I would not have had such a great opportunity to take part in the 2020/21 online course, "Decision Making in Times of Crisis": The Asper International Program, offered by the Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in close cooperation with the Asper Chair in International Business and Trade Law. The issues taught by Dr. Bryan Schwartz, Dr. Daniel Ohana, and a group of distinguished guest speakers have been very helpful and practical amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you very much again for your great support and contribution to the Asper International Program on Israeli Law and Society.

Yours truly,

Amy Ng

I would like to personally thank the donors for their continued support of the course '*Decision Making in Times of Crisis*' offered in conjunction with Hebrew University. The lectures were eye-opening and taught with utmost professionalism. Despite being online, Dr. Schwartz and Dr. Ohana provided the class with interesting lectures, as well as distinguished speakers from around the world.

I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to enrol in the class and could not have done so without the support of donors. I learned so much about the way of life in Israel, as well as how difficult it is to make decisions in times of crisis.

Hopefully next year the class will return to in-person learning, and students will be able to make the trip to Israel!

With gratitude,

Marko Roslycky

To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my sincerest appreciation to the Asper Foundation for their support and generous donations to the “Decision Making in Times of Crisis” summer course.

I found this course extremely interesting and topical, considering the current situation that the world is in. Dr. Schwartz, Dr. Ohana, and the various guest lectures that participated in this course made it a thought-provoking experience that I recommend all students be a part of. I found that this course helped refine my critical thinking skills and forced me to deeply consider crisis’ and government action from a different perspective.

The comparative approach to learning utilized in this course also created a unique learning experience, even for someone who was not too familiar with the Israeli culture prior to taking the course.

Thank you to everyone that made this course possible!

Kind regards,

Mikal Sokolowski

I’d like to sincerely thank you for your generous support of the Israel program. Despite not being able to experience the program in Israel, the course leaders and speakers were extremely engaging and facilitated an environment that allowed us, students, to think critically and ask questions in order to form our own opinions. I am very grateful for this experience.

Thank you again,

Isanne Goldberg

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Israel program. This course was quite unique and touched on so many different topics. Being able to hear from experts in the region offered invaluable insight. I am grateful for the experience and would highly recommend it to other students.

Sincerely,

Alisen Kotyk

I would like to thank the Asper Foundation for its generous support which has allowed me to take part in and be enriched by this course. It was a treat to be able to learn about Israel and to hear some perspectives on the country and the law from some highly esteemed academics and experts, and the Canadian side of the program was in its own right quite eye-opening and thought-provoking. Although it would have of course been preferable to have been able to attend in person in Israel, and personally my tolerance for online learning has worn quite thin over the past year, I am grateful for the efforts of the organizers to make this course happen despite the circumstances and challenges, even if online, because it allowed me to gain the benefit of the course, whilst still being able to work! A great big thank you to Professors Schwartz and Ohana is in order as well. They are world class and really know their stuff, and it was truly a pleasure to have been able to learn from them. I am very happy to have taken this course and have gained an even greater appreciation for a very historic and fascinating little part of our world. Thank you to all who made this possible!

Sincerely,

Derek J. Novosel | J.D. Candidate, 2023

Dear Asper Foundation,

I want to thank you for your continued support of the Israel program. Despite not being able to travel to Israel for the course, Bryan Schwartz and Daniel Ohana delivered an excellent program, which included several guest speakers who provided different perspectives about decision making. It was an eye-opening learning experience. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to take this course.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Johanna Thiessen

I am a second year law student at Robson Hall at the University of Manitoba. I am writing to express my gratitude for the financial assistance to participate in this year's Decision Making in Times of Crisis course in partnership between the Rothberg International School of Hebrew University and the Asper Chair in International Business and Trade law. Both the curriculum and curriculum delivery in this course were a breath of fresh air after a long year of pandemic-learning. Given the archaic regulations surrounding transfer credits and course fees at the University of Manitoba, without the generous assistance of the Asper Foundation, specifically the Asper International Program in Israeli and International Law, it is highly unlikely that I would have had the wherewithal and sufficient motivation to participate in this program.

Thank you.

The program was a reminder that critical thinkers still exist and are perhaps more relevant than ever in the rapidly evolving world of crisis decision-making. Dr. Bryan Schwartz was instrumental in setting the stage for the first half of the course and Dr. Daniel Ohana was an excellent facilitator in bringing in a more than robust cast of guest speakers. Given how enriching this program was in virtual format I can only imagine how satisfying the course delivery would be in person. I look forward to recommending this course to others, specifically my Canadian Indigenous up-and-coming colleagues.

Adam Kowal
President - Manitoba Indigenous Law Students' Association

I am writing to sincerely thank you for your continued generous financial support of the Asper International Law Program offered by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Your contributions make it possible for so many students to participate in this outstanding inter-disciplinary course who might not have otherwise been able to.

The Decision Making in Times of Crisis course afforded me the incredible opportunity to learn more about Israel's legal system and history, and the ways in which the two interact when it comes to making decisions in times of crisis. The first half of the course provided an excellent foundation for how psychological and sociological principles influence individual and group decision making. The wide array of distinguished guest lecturers in the latter half of the course were a particular highlight for me, as they all brought an entirely unique perspective on the topic they presented on. Overall, I found this course to be very valuable and I have a new lens with which to look at issues.

I will cherish this experience and look forward to one day visiting Israel.

Thank you,

Lisa Cheyne

Thank you for supporting the Israel program in the past, present, and hopefully future. Although the pandemic prevented us from travelling to Israel as part of the program, the value we have derived from this course should not be understated. The program offered a unique look at topics like game theory and decision matrices, which one might not be exposed to in other law classes. While I had an interest in some of these topics prior to the course, the reflection papers allowed me to further explore the application of these topics to the legal field.

On top of that, it was amazing to have the variety of guest lecturers explain Israel's success and struggles in dealing with Covid-19. These lectures helped us to understand how the Israel's legal and political systems are intertwined and aided in our understanding of the ongoing conflict in Israel. I want to thank you again for your generous support of the program, as without it, this opportunity would not have been available to us.

Sincerely,

Jessie Anton

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the donors and your contribution to making this exciting course happen in this challenging year. It is a valuable experience to learn about Israel's development, difficulties, and strategies. Comparing the situation in Israel and Canada, techniques and ideas are transferrable, and having communications as such to learn from each other is crucial. The lecturers offer different perspectives and suggestions that I could reflect on and apply in the future. The issues pointed out in this course inspire me to devote efforts to find solutions for the contemporary world.

Thank you so much for this precious learning opportunity!

Kind regards,

Xiyuan Feng

Please accept my profound thanks for your generous support of the Asper International Program. This course, Decision Making in Times of Crisis, provided me with comprehensive insight into the psychology, policy, and law that undergirds decision making, as well as Israel's history and experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. I appreciated how we were encouraged to ask questions, think critically, and even disagree with the professors, all in the interest of fostering discussion and improving our understanding of the material we engaged with. Dr. Schwartz and Dr. Ohana provided a great learning environment, especially in consideration of the online format, and the structure and topics discussed by our guest lecturers were excellent. All this would not have been possible without your support, thank you for your contribution.

Sincerely,

Chris Dick

Applying to the Decision Making in Times of Crisis program under the pretense of solely obtaining academic benefit would be a mistake. With full transparency, that was the reasoning behind my application. Having now completed the month-long program, I can say with enthusiasm that the overall takeaway has been substantially more valuable than a grade on my transcript.

The psychological principles behind decision-making are utterly fascinating. The professors and guest lecturers had me truly engaged. I'm confident that the theories taught will serve me and any budding lawyer well throughout law school, careers, and beyond.

I began the course without substantial knowledge of Israel and left with a more diverse worldview. I felt that all ideas and opinions were valued and that there was no imposition to lean one way or another, but to learn about Israel's history to understand better how modern decisions are made compared to Canadian decision-making.

I hope that the ongoing decision-making regarding Covid-19 protocols expedites the return to travel and in-person learning, such that I will one day be able to visit The Hebrew University and that 2022 students will have the opportunity to as well. I look forward to future in-person discussions and debates applying the content that was covered in this course.

Thank you to the donors who have made this program possible for me to attend financially.

Thank you to Professors Ohana and Schwartz for memorably relaying the content.

Thank you to all the guests who brought their expert opinions real-world experience to solidify the foundational elements taught each week.

Thank you to the administrators who promptly fielded my questions, allowing me to apply on time and not miss the opportunity to utilize my summer in a relevant and meaningful way.

Student, 2021

I would like to express my appreciation for all the donors that have made this experience possible. Although we were not able to travel to Israel due to COVID-19, the professors and guest speakers made this experience truly memorable. The variety of topics and points of view allowed for open and honest discussion. A special thanks to all those working in Israel during such a crisis and still putting in all efforts to make our classes happen. This was a truly rewarding experience and it would not have been possible without your generous support.

Sincerely,

Jenna Symons

My name is Joelle French and I am a recent law school graduate of the University of Saskatchewan – College of Law. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your support and contribution to the 2021 Asper International Program. The experience was unlike any course I have taken before. It opened my eyes to an entirely different way of thinking about the legal world, as well as how relevant and current public policy issues are addressed by both courts and governments.

The lectures and readings were incredibly interesting and included a broad range of perspectives. I was appreciative of the variety of different subjects addressed and this is an experience that I will hold closely to my heart as I embark on my career, and where I am sure the content learned will be of immense guidance throughout the years.

I am immensely grateful that this program was available for continued learning, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is without a doubt that this is because of the donors generous support of such a program and I want to provide a sincere thank you once again.

Sincerely,

Joelle French

Juris Doctor – Class of 2021

University of Saskatchewan – College of Law