Course description: This undergraduate course reviews various aspects of Israeli history, politics, society, and culture. It is made of two parts. The first describes Israel's history, starting with the origins of the Jewish people in Biblical times and ending with present-time Israel. It discusses, among others, the origins of Zionism (the Jewish national movement named after 'Zion' – a Biblical name of Jerusalem) in late 19th century Europe, the buildup of the Jewish national entity (the Yishuv) in Palestine during the first half of the 20th century, the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948, the absorption of the massive Jewish immigration to Israel in the post-1948 period; the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948, 1956, 1967, 1969-1970, 1973, 1982 and the first and the second Intifada, and the Arab-Israeli peace process from Sadat's peace initiative of 1977 to the present.

The second part of the course explores three specific issues: The relationship between the Arab Israeli minority and the state; the complex relationship between state and the Jewish religion, and various aspects of Israeli culture.

Grading: Mid-term exam: 40%; final exam: 40%; class active participation: 20%.

Course Description

**Introduction:** Jews, Israel, and the Israelis

**Part I: History**

2. **World War I, the Balfour Declaration, and the beginning of the British Mandate.**
   Reading: Sachar, 88-138.
3. **Building the Jewish community in Palestine (the Yishuv): 1918-1939**
   Reading: Sachar, 138-162.
4. **The Jewish-Palestinian conflict in Palestine: 1920-1939**
   Reading: Sachar, 163-188.
5. **World War II, the Holocaust and the Jewish Yishuv: 1939-1945**
   Reading: Sachar, 227-248.
6. **The end of the British Mandate, the birth of Israel, and the war of 1948**
   Reading: Sachar, 249-353.
7. **Israel's first years – 1949-1956: Demographical change, economic challenges, and security problems**
   Reading: Sachar, 395-514.
8. **Israel's 'Golden Age': 1957-1967**
   Reading: Sachar, 515-579.
   Reading: Sachar, 614-787.
10. **The political change of gaurds: 1975-1977**
    Reading: Sachar, 788-842.
    Reading: Sachar, 843-920
12. **Political unity, political immobility, and the first Intifada: 1985-1992**
    Reading: Sachar, 934-976.
    Reading: Sachar, 977-1045
    Reading: Sachar, 1046-1131.

**Part II: Specific issues**

1. **Arabs in the Jewish state**
   Reading: Sachar, 382-389; 436-443; 532-538; 838-842
2. **Jews in the Jewish state**
   Reading: Sachar, 376-382; 598-614; 1104-1107
3. **Israeli culture**
   Reading: Sachar, 581-598; 921-922; 1089-1090.