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# HISTORY OF ISRAEL: POLITICS, SOCIETY, CULTURE

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**Israel is a country of paradoxes:**

**A small country in the Middle East, it finds itself in lead news stories worldwide almost every day.**

A Jewish state, it is home to a wide variety of ethnic and religious groups and to a great diversity of cultures.



Envisaged as a safe haven for the Jewish people, it has been characterized by insecurity and ongoing war.

Founded as a democracy, it contends with such strains on its democratic system as tensions between Jewish and Arab citizens and between “secular” and “religious” Jews.



Envisaged as a focal point for Jews around the world, the relationship between Israeli Jews and the Jewish Diaspora has often been rocky.



**This course will examine the evolution of Israel—its changing society, its volatile politics, and its dynamic culture—from its foundation in 1948 to the present, in the context of global political and cultural change and a changing Jewish world.**

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**HEB 394 11928**  
**HEB 598 11930**  
**REL 394 33633**

**HST 394 33641**  
**POS 394**

**T/TH | 3:15 - 4:30 PM**  
**LL 109**

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