

**Technion – Institute of Technology
Technion International**

**Introduction to Contemporary Israeli Society
Summer 2019**

Mrs. Irit Fridman

Introduction:

This course seeks to unravel the complexity of the Israeli political, social, and cultural aspects and provide tools for understanding the uniqueness of Israeli society and peoples. Students will read and discuss issues such as religion and democracy; ethnicity and nationalism; cultural diversity; gender, media and popular culture. The course introduces Israel's contemporary society through a holistic approach using lectures, films, and discussions.

Requirement:

1. Come to class and make an effort to participate in the discussions.
2. Final exam (25 multiple choice questions).

Topic 1: Pre-State and early stages of nation building

Lesson 1 (1.8): Introduction to the course, Overview of Zionism, Modern history of Eretz Israel/Palestine

Lesson 2 (5.8): The Holocaust and its impact on Israel

Topic 2: Peace, war and security

Lesson 3 (8.8): The Arab-Palestinian minority in Israel

Lesson 4 (12.8): Military and society relations

Topic 3: religion, family, ethnicity

Lesson 5 (16.8): Religious and ethnicity divide

Lesson 6 (19.8): family, gender and education

Lesson 7 (20.8): Final discussion: Is there an "Israeli culture"?

Lesson 8 (22.8): Final exam