This course explores one of the most divisive events of the twentieth century: the establishment of the State of Israel. Beginning with the origins of the Zionist movement and its activities in nineteenth-century Europe, the course then moves to explore the establishment of the state in the Middle East in 1948 and subsequent Israeli politics and society, with an eye to its relationship with neighboring Arab states, the Palestinians, as well as non-Israeli Jews around the world. Requirements include keeping up with regular readings and in-class participation and discussion, two brief writing assignments, a map quiz, and a mid-term and final exam.