**The Palestinian-Arab Citizens of Israel: Politics, Society, and Culture (Spring)**

Course Description:

Arab citizens are a significant minority in the State of Israel, consisting of almost 21% of the population. Many Arab citizens self-identify as Palestinian and consider themselves Palestinian citizens of Israel. Palestinian-Arab citizens of Israel are a diverse and dynamic minority, trying to preserve its culture and its national identity, while struggling for equality in an ethnic state. Students in this course will study this minority group, explore the historical context in which it was created, become familiar with its demographic, religious and geographic characteristics and understand its socio-economic conditions. Topics that will be covered include how this minority navigates its complex identity and the various historical events that have shaped the relationship between Palestinian-Arab citizens and the state between 1948 and the present. The different forms and recent developments in their political participation and their attempts at self-expression in the arts and the media will also be discussed. Since the majority of Palestinian-Arab citizens of Israel live in Haifa, the Galilee and the northern part of Israel, and since Haifa has become a cultural hub for those citizens, this course will give considerable attention to Palestinian-Arab social and cultural life in Haifa and the surrounding Arab cities and towns. Students will discover a rich, changing and vibrant population, and will better understand the depth and complexity of life in Israel.