



Miniseries (Virtual or In-Person)

Virtual Miniseries:

The following virtual miniseries take place over three sessions, led by an IMPACT Israel educator. It includes a guest expert speaker, multimedia presentations, program coordination and content development, and being available for open communication and meetings as needed with staff and participants.

Am I a Zionist?

This miniseries will delve into the purpose of Israel and the role of Israel in the lives of Jews from outside Israel, with a particular focus on emergence of the modern Jewish world and how Israel fits into it. Participants will wrestle with a fundamental Zionist idea that Jews are a nation with a shared land, language, and culture, and in the process identify for themselves the meaning of Israel and the existence of a Jewish state beyond traditional conceptions of the Bible and antisemitism. Most importantly, participants will explore their personal connections to Israel and answer for themselves if and why they are a Zionist.

*This miniseries includes a session with an expert guest speaker on *Why I'm a Zionist*.

Conflicting Narratives of the Conflict

This miniseries will be a deep dive into the meaning two different peoples - Jews and Arabs or Israelis and Palestinians - prescribe for the same place. Why the land of Israel for Jews? Why Palestine for Arabs? How come Jews around the world call *Eretz Yisrael* their homeland yet most Jews throughout history were not born in the land or stepped foot there? How come Palestinians call Palestine their country when a nation-state called Palestine has never existed? We will examine how two self-identified nations can make equal claims to the same space rooted in history, archaeology, theology, and myth.

*This miniseries includes a session with an expert Palestinian speaker.

Why isn't Israel woke enough?

Why are young Jewish progressives made to check their Zionism at the door if they wish to join social justice spaces? Why is Zionism and support of Israel a *cancellable* offense? What is it about *being woke* for many that includes seeing Israel as an evil without any moral

claims or legitimacy? In this miniseries, through exploring the philosophy, ethics, and culture of *wokeism*, we will explore what is going on and if there is anything we can do about it.

*This miniseries includes a session with an expert on progressive politics and Israel

The Online Israel Conversation

Israel seems to be on everyone's minds all the time, especially when conflict flares up in the region. But more and more the perception of Israel is less of what is happening on the ground, but rather a mirror image of how Israel represents issues happening in people's home countries, whether that be issues of race, religion, or geopolitics. In this miniseries, we will explore how Israel is understood and misunderstood online, and how we can improve the online Israel conversation to be based more on reality than fake news.

*This miniseries includes a session with an expert on paradigms of Israel in social media.

Occupation? Liberation? Annexation? Huh?

Last year's normalization of ties between Israel and Bahrain and the UAE was framed in the context of stopping Israeli annexation efforts of the West Bank by these Arab states. But if Israel conquered/liberated/acquired/occupied/took over the West Bank in 1967, why is the land still technically not sovereign Israeli territory? This mini-series will help students understand Israel's relationship to a territory it usually refers to not as the West Bank, but Judea and Samaria, diving into the many dilemmas it possesses for Israel's politics, security, and Zionist identity.

*This miniseries includes a session with one Israeli and one Palestinian to give their personal thoughts on the annexation issue.

Why won't Antisemitism just go away?

With most Jews living in Israel or North America by the turn of the 21st century, it was common opinion that antisemitism was almost gone for good. But it seems in the last few years, it has really made a horrific comeback not just in Europe, but in cities across the United States, and has reared its ugly head all over social media. Why is antisemitism different than other hatred and bigotry? Why do Israeli actions catalyze violence and incitement against Jews all over the world? In this miniseries, we will tackle why antisemitism is *different, persistent, back* with a vengeance, and what can we do about it.

*This miniseries includes a session with a leading Israeli journalist on the topic, *Were the Zionists wrong about Antisemitism?*

Judaism in Israeli Society

In this miniseries, we will tackle the challenge of Israel being a Jewish state for all Jews of different streams, beliefs, and backgrounds. What role do issues of religion and state play in the daily life of Israelis? Should buses run on Shabbat in Tel Aviv? Does the future of Torah study require an army exemption for certain yeshiva students? Can the Western Wall be

welcoming to all denominations? This miniseries will help participants conceptualize and explore what place religion should play in a Jewish country.

*This miniseries includes a session with two Israeli activists from different perspectives to give their personal thoughts on the issue of Religion & State in Israel.

What does a Jewish democracy look like?

The state of Israel functions as a compromise between several Jewish & non-Jewish tribes – *secular Jews, national religious Jews, ultra-orthodox Jews, and Arabs*. We will explore the compromises, and sometimes lack thereof, between these tribes, which have a tremendous impact on Israeli society today. This series will also focus on the status of minorities in Israeli society, learning about both Jewish and non-Jewish minorities, with a focus on Arab citizens. Using the text of the Declaration of Independence as our guidepost, we will analyze if and how Israel can be a Jewish state with equal rights for all individual citizens regardless of religion, race, or ethnicity.

*This miniseries will include a session with an expert speaker titled, *Does Israel need to solve its internal dilemmas before solving its external ones?*

About IMPACT:

IMPACT educates students to negotiate between Israel and their American and Jewish identities by exploring their meanings, conflicts, and points of integration. Through our educational programs, students explore *why Israel* and *why Jewish* are compelling values to embrace in the buffet of options in pursuing a meaningful life. Students will ultimately develop their own identities as they encounter Israel as an idea and value of the long running saga of the Jewish story.

For inquiries and more information, please contact IMPACT Director Benji Davis at benji@impactisraeleducation.com.