Contemporary Israeli feminists face a set of distinct challenges, ranging from the occupation of Palestinian territories, the ethnic hierarchies between Jewish and Palestinian women and Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jewish women, institutionalized religion that controls marriage and divorce, and the centrality of the male-dominated military service in Israeli society, economy and politics. The course will explore central issues in Israeli feminism, in light of feminist theory, mainly through the lens of law and social movement activism. We will look into the evolution, internal schisms, successes, failures, and compromises of Israeli feminism.

The course will also examine the influence of American feminism on Israeli feminists, and the ways Israeli feminists embraced, as well as resisted and transformed American feminist ideas in light of the specific history and challenges of the Israeli context.