

FIN 490 & BECON 490: THE STARTUP NATION



UNDERSTANDING ISRAEL'S EXCEPTIONAL INNOVATION

WINTER QUARTER 2025

T/TH 1:30-3:20PM

Did you know that Tel-Aviv is the city with the highest number of tech startups per capita in the world? Did you know that the USB flash drive was invented in Israel? Can you now guess where is "Silicon Wadi"?

If you are intrigued, consider enrolling in this class. It will take students on a journey through Israel's remarkable evolution from survival to prosperity, uncovering the various historical and cultural aspects behind its unique economic development. The course delves into what makes Israel entrepreneurial and innovative, the lessons that can be learned from its journey, and whether Israel's unprecedented success and innovation can bring hope to a region that is tired of endless conflicts.

No background in economics, business, or technology is required for this class **[no prerequisites]** - it's suitable for every student interested in entrepreneurship, innovation, Middle-Eastern Geopolitics, or the interplay between society, government, and the economy. No final exam; a final project is due on the last week of the term.