



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *The Formation of Arab & Muslim Society in Palestine - 38922*

*Last update 08-09-2021*

*HU Credits: 2*

*Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)*

*Responsible Department: Islamic & Middle East Stud.*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st Semester*

*Teaching Languages: English*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Reuven Amitai*

*Coordinator Email: [reuven.amitai@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:reuven.amitai@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: by appointment*

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Teaching Staff:

Prof Reuven Amitai

Course/Module description:

The course will survey and analyze political, cultural, ethnic, linguistic and religious encounters and transformations in Palestine, from the eve of the Muslim conquest in the 630s to the first decades of Ottoman rule in the 16th century. This is a time of demographic change, from a mainly Aramaic speaking population (with significant Greek speaking communities) to one where Arabic was the common language of the country, while the Christian majority (with significant Jewish and Samaritan communities) was reduced to a minority (the Samaritan were greatly reduced, while the Jews maintain a relatively significant presence augmented in the early 16th century). The course will concentrate on the linguistic and religious transformations, while not neglecting cultural and intellectual trends. Overall, the study of the country's social and cultural history will be put into the larger context of the history of the region and beyond.

Course/Module aims:

1. A greater understanding of the region's history on different levels: political, social, cultural and intellectual history.
2. Teaching how to work with original sources of various provenance and genres.
3. Learning to see the interaction of cultures and societies over the centuries, particularly in the context of the southern Levant (i.e., Palestine and the surrounding areas).
4. Showing how events and developments from 500-1500 years ago impinge on our modern world, particularly in this region

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Beyond understanding and knowledge of the history of medieval Palestine, the students will gain a better appreciation of linguistic, religious and cultural encounters, major themes in regional and world history from ancient to contemporary times.

Attendance requirements(%):

85

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Weekly meetings, short lectures by instructor, with discussion based on ongoing readings

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Course/Module Content:

1. The Near Eastern background; the initial Arab conquests in the Fertile Crescent and beyond.
2. Problems of historiography and historical reconstruction; other methodological questions; the Muslim takeover of Palestine
3. Survey of political events up to 1099; the early Muslim state and its institutions; first stages in the development of Muslim religion and culture.
4. `Abd al-Malik takes a stand and makes a statement; Jerusalem as a Muslim city
- 5-6. Two trends in early Islamic Palestine (and the surrounding countries): Arabization and Islamization
- 7-8. The Crusades and the coming of the Franks (1099): political and military history; a colonial society?; the indigenous population; cultural, social, intellectual and political trends in the surrounding Muslim countries
- 9-10. Counter-crusade and de-Frankification: Zengids, Ayyubids and the First Mamluks
11. The Mongols, and their Impact on the Middle East (including the Holy Land)
12. A Quarter Millennium of Mamluk rule (1260-1516): Political, Economic and Social Trends
13. Sufis, rabbis and monks: religious and cultural life in Palestine and its environs
14. Islamization under the Mamluks

Required Reading:

1. The Near Eastern background; the initial Arab conquests in the Fertile Crescent and beyond.

Robert G. Hoyland. *In God's Path: The Arab Conquests and the Creation of an Islamic Empire*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. Introduction and chs. 1-2 (pp. 1-65).

Patricia Crone. "The Rise of Islam in the World." In Francis Robinson, editor. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996. 1-12.

Reading from sources: Bernard Lewis, editor and translator. *Islam from the Prophet*

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*Muhammad to the Capture of Constantinople. New York and Oxford: OUP, 1987. 1: 1-3.*

*2. Problems of historiography and historical reconstruction; other methodological questions; the Muslim takeover of Palestine*

*Michael Cook. Muhammad. "Past Masters." Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1983. Ch. 7 (61-76)*

*Adam J. Silverstein. Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. Ch.5 (94-107).*

*Norman A. Stillman. Review of Palestine during the First Muslim Period (634-1099) by Moshe Gil. Journal of the American Oriental Society. 109/1 (Jan. - Mar., 1989), 138-141.*

*Reading from the sources: Words of St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem on the invasion of the "Saracens" in the 630s:*  
<https://saintsworks.net/forums/index.php?topic=eq;1239.0>

*3. Survey of political events up to 1099; the early Muslim state and its institutions; first stages in the development of Muslim religion and culture.*

*Robert G. Hoyland. In God's Path: The Arab Conquests and the Creation of an Islamic Empire. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015. Chs. 3-4 (pp. 66-137). DS 35.63 C35.*

*Patricia Crone. "The Rise of Islam in the World." In Francis Robinson, editor. The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.*

*Amikam Elad. "The Coastal Cities of the Palestine during the Early Middle Ages." The Jerusalem Cathedra. 2 (1982), 147-167*

*Reading from sources: Bernard Lewis, editor and translator. Islam from the Prophet Muhammad to the Capture of Constantinople. New York and Oxford: OUP, 1987. 1: Hajjaj comes to Basra. DS 38.14 I83. Now in eReserves.*

*4. `Abd al-Malik takes a stand and makes a statement; Jerusalem as a Muslim city*

*Chase Robinson. Islamic Civilization in Thirty Lives: The First 1000 Years. London: Thames & Hudson, 2018). 40-46.*

*Amikam Elad. "Why did `Abd al-Malik Build the Dome of the Rock: A Re-Examination of the Muslim Sources." In J. Raby and J. Johns, eds. Bayt al-Maqdis: `Abd al-Malik's Jerusalem. Part 1. Oxford: OUP, 1992.*

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Abdul Aziz Duri. "Jerusalem in the Early Islamic Period, 7th-11th Centuries." In Kamil J. Asali, editor. *Jerusalem in History: 3,000 B.C. to the Present Day*. Revised Edition. London and New York: Kegan Paul International, 1977. 105-129.

Shlomo D. Goitein. "Jerusalem in the Arab Period (638-1099)." *The Jerusalem Cathedra*. 2 (1982), 168-196.

Isaac Hasson. "Muslim Literature in Praise of Jerusalem: Fada'il Bayt al-Maqdis." *The Jerusalem Cathedra*. 1 (1981), 168-184.

*Readings from the Sources: An Arabic inscription or two [to be posted on Moodle];*

*Lewis, Islam, 1: 20-24.*

*Muqaddisi on Jerusalem. Further details to be announced.*

5-6. Two trends in early Islamic Palestine (and the surrounding countries):  
*Arabization and Islamization*

Milka Levy-Rubin. "Changes in the Settlement Pattern of Palestine Following the Arab Conquest." In Kenneth G. Holum and Hayim Lapin, eds. *Shaping the Middle East- Jews, Christians, and Muslims in an Age of Transition 400-800 C.E.* Bethesda, Maryland: University Press of Maryland, 2011. 155-172.

Milka Levy-Rubin, "New Evidence Relating to the Process of Islamization in Palestine in the Early Muslim Period – The Case of Samaria," *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 43/3 (2000), 257-276.

Milka Levy-Rubin. "Arabization versus Islamization in the Palestinian Melkite Community during the Early Muslim Period." In Arie Kofsky and Guy Stroumsa, eds. *Sharing the Sacred: Religious Contacts and Conflicts in the Holy Land, First-Fifteenth Centuries C.E.* Jerusalem: Yad Ben-Zvi, 1998. 149-162.

Ronnie Ellenblum. "Demography, Geography and the Accelerated Islamisation of the Eastern Mediterranean." In Ira Katznelson and Miri Rubin, eds. *Religious Conversion: History Experience and Meaning*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2016. 61-80.

Ronnie Ellenblum. "Settlement and Society Formation in Crusader Palestine." In Thomas E. Levy, editor. *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*. Leister: Leicester University Press, 1995. 502-511.

Reading from a source: Milka Levy-Rubin, editor and translator. *The Continuatio of the Samaritan Chronicle of Abū l-Faḥ al-Sāmīrī al-Danafī*. Princeton: The Darwin Press, 2002. 46-117.

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7-8. *The Crusades and the coming of the Franks (1099): political and military history; a colonial society?; the indigenous population; cultural, social, intellectual and political trends in the surrounding Muslim countries*

Jonathan Phillips. "The Latin East, 1098-1291," in Jonathan Riley-Smith, editor. *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997. 112-140.

Benjamin Z. Kedar. "Subjected Muslims of the Frankish Levant." In James M. Powell, editor. *Muslims under Latin Rule, 1100-1300*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985. 135-174. Reprinted in Thomas F. Madden, editor. *The Crusades: The Essential Readings*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002. 233-264.

Daniella Talmon-Heller. "Arabic Sources on Muslim Villagers under Frankish Rule." In Alan V. Murray, editor. *From Clermont to Jerusalem: The Crusades and Crusader Society 1095-1500*. "International Medieval Research," 3. Turnhout: Brepols, 1998. 103-117.

Rubin, Jonathan. *Learning in a Crusader City: Intellectual Activity and Intercultural Exchanges in Acre, 1191-1291*. Cambridge: CUP, 2018. Chapter 1 and Conclusion.

יונתן רובין, "פעילות אינטלקטואלית בממלכת ירושלים הצלבנית", *זמנים*, כרך 124 (2013), עמ' 51-44.

Reading from a Source: *Ibn al-Athir on the coming of the Crusaders at the end of the 11th century*. Details to be announced.

Usama Ibn Munqidh. *The Book of Contemplation: Islam and the Crusades*. Tr. with introduction and notes Paul Cobb. London: Penguin Books, 2008. 144-150. DS 97.3 U813 2008.

9-10. *Counter-crusade and de-Frankification: Zengids, Ayyubids and the First Mamluks*

Robert Irwin. "Islam and the Crusades, 1096-1699." In Jonathan Riley-Smith, editor. *The Oxford Illustrated History of the Crusades*. Oxford and New York: OUP, 1997. 217-259.

Reuven Amitai. "The Early Mamluks and the End of the Crusader Presence in Syria (1250-1291)." In Adrian Boas, editor. *The Crusader World*. London and New York: Routledge, 2016. 324-345.

Daniella Talmon-Heller. "Historical Motifs in the Writing of Muslim Authors of the Crusading Era." In Adrian Boas, editor. *The Crusader World*. London and New York: Routledge, 2016. 378-290.

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עמנואל סיון, "המזרח התיכון בתקופת מסעי הצלב", בתוך חוה לצרוס-יפה (עורכת), פרקים בתולדות הערבים והאסלאם (תל אביב, 1967), עמ' 233-261. [1967 L32 20 BP] סרוק בשמורים אלקטרוניים של הקורס.

עמנואל סיון, "העולמא והשלטון בסוריה במאה הי"א והי"ב", בתוך גבריאל בר (עורך), העולמא ובעיות דת בעולם המוסלמי (ירושלים, 1971), עמ' 41-50.

Reading from a Source: D.S. Richards, translator. *The Chronicle of Ibn al-Athir for the Crusading Period from al-Kamil fi'l-Ta'rikh*. Farham, UK and Burlington, USA: Ashagte, 2005-8. 2:318-325, 330-335.

*Ibn al-Furat, selections from Ta'rikh duwal wa'l-muluk. Details to be announced.*

#### 11. The Mongols, and their Impact on the Middle East (including the Holy Land)

David Morgan. *Medieval Persia, 1040-1796*. 2nd edition. Abingdon, UK and New York: Routledge, 2016. 53-81.

Peter Jackson. "Hülegü Khan and the Christians: The Making of a Myth." In Peter Edbury and Jonathan Phillips, eds. *The Experience of Crusading: Defining the Crusader Kingdom*. Cambridge: CUP, 2003. Vol. 2, 196-213.

Reuven Amitai. "The Impact of the Mongols on the History of Syria: Politics, Society and Culture." In Reuven Amitai and Michal Biran, eds. *Eurasian Nomads as Agents of Cultural Change: The Mongols and Their Eurasian Predecessors. "Perspectives on the Global Past."* Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2015. 228-251.

מיכל בירן. "גלגוליו של צ'ינגיס ח'אן: בין מיתוס למציאות." זמנים. 100 (2007), עמ' 71-56.

Readings from the Sources: D.S. Richards, translator. *The Chronicle of Ibn al-Athir for the Crusading Period from al-Kamil fi'l-Ta'rikh*. Farham, UK and Burlington, USA: Ashagte, 2005-8. 3:202-210.

Bernard Lewis, editor and translator. *Islam from the Prophet Muhammad to the Capture of Constantinople*. New York and Oxford: OUP, 1987. 1: 84-89.

Perhaps further readings from European travelers, especially John of Plano Carpini and William of Rubruck. To be announced.

#### 12. A Quarter Millennium of Mamluk rule (1260-1516): Political, Economic and Social Trends

Amalia Levanoni. "The Mamluks in Egypt and Syria: The Turkish Mamluk Sultanate (648-784 / 1250 -1382) and the Circassian Mamluk Sultanate (784-923 / 1382-1517)." In *The New Cambridge History of Islam*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015). Vol. 2, 237-284.

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Donald P. Little. "Jerusalem under the Ayyubids and Mamluks, 1187-1516." In Kamil J. Asali, editor. *Jerusalem in History: 3,000 B.C. to the Present Day. Revised Edition.* London and New York: Kegan Paul International, 1977. 177-199.

Reuven Amitai. "Post-Crusader Acre in Light of a Mamluk Inscription and a Fatwā Document from Damascus." In Yuval Ben-Basat and Fruma Zacks, eds. *Developing Perspectives in Mamluk History, Amalia Levanoni Festschrift.* Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2017. 335-351.

יוסף דרורי. "רישום שלטון הממלוכים בתולדות הארץ." בתוך: יוסף דרורי, עורך. *ארץ-ישראל בתקופה הממלוכית.* ירושלים: יד יצחק בן-צבי, 1992. עמ' 1-12. סרוק בשמורים אלקטרוניים של הקורס.

*Readings from the Sources: Selected Arabic inscriptions and other texts, to be announced.*

### 13. Sufis, rabbis and monks: religious and cultural life in Palestine and its environs

Little, Donald P. "Mujir al-Din al-'Ulaymi's Vision of Jerusalem in the Ninth/Fifteenth Century." *Journal of the American Oriental Society.* 115/2 (1995), 237-247.

[Translation into Hebrew: *Sefer Yerushalayim, Ha-tekufa Ha-Mamlukit, Jerusalem, 2012*]

Avraham David. "The Mamluk Period." In Avigdor Shinan, editor. *Israel, People/Land/State: A Nation and its Homeland.* Jerusalem: Yad-Izhak Ben-Zvi, 2005. 198-217.

Johannes Pahlitzsch. "Mediators Between East and West: Christians Under Mamluk Rule." *Mamluk Studies Review.* 9/2 (2005), 31-47. Available online (open access): [https://mamluk.uchicago.edu/MSR\\_IX-2\\_2005-Pahlitzsch.pdf](https://mamluk.uchicago.edu/MSR_IX-2_2005-Pahlitzsch.pdf)

Sidney H. Griffith. "Christians, Muslims, and Neo-Martyrs: Saints Lives and Holy Land History." In Arie Kofsky and Guy Stroumsa (eds.), *Sharing the Sacred: Religious Contacts and Conflicts in the Holy Land, First-Fifteenth Centuries C.E.* (Jerusalem: Yad Ben-Zvi, 1998), 163-208.

אור אמיר. "חייהם הדתיים של המוסלמים באזור צפת במאה השלוש עשרה-הארבע עשרה על פי מקור חדש." *קתדרה.* 156 (תשע"ה), עמ' 39-70.

אלחנן ריינר. פרקים 6-9 בתוך: אמנון כהן, עורך. *ההיסטוריה של ארץ-ישראל: שלטון הממלוכים והעות'מאנים*

(1260-1804). ירושלים: כתר ויד יצחק בן-צבי, 1981. עמ' 59-90.

*Reading from sources: to be announced.*

### 14. Islamization under the Mamluks



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Yehoshua Frenkel. "Baybars and the Sacred Geography of Bilad al-Sham: A Chapter in the Islamization of Syria's Landscape." *Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam*. 25 (2001), 153-170.

Nimrod Luz. "Aspects of Islamization of Space and Society in Mamluk Jerusalem and its Hinterland." *Mamluk Studies Review*. 6 (2002), 134-154. Available online (open access): [https://mamluk.uchicago.edu/MSR\\_VI\\_2002-Luz\\_pp133-154.pdf](https://mamluk.uchicago.edu/MSR_VI_2002-Luz_pp133-154.pdf)

נמרוד לוז. "אחוות צופיות בנוף העירוני: אסלום והקצנה דתית בירושלים האיובית והממלוכית." בתוך: אהרן ליש, עורך. האסלאם: המרת דת, צופיות, תחייה ורפורמה. ירושלים: מכון ון ליר והקיבוץ המאוחד, 2012. עמ' 178-206.

Reuven Amitai. "The Development of a Muslim City in Palestine: Gaza under the Mamluks." In Bethany J. Walker and Abdelkader Al Ghouz, eds. *History and Society during the Mamluk Period (1250-1517)*. *Mamluk Studies III*. Göttingen: V&R unipress and Bonn: University of Bonn Press, 2021. 163-195.

Robert Irwin. "The Emergence of the Islamic World System 1000-1500." In Francis Robinson, editor. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of the Islamic World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996. 32-61.

*Readings from the Sources: Translations from Mujir al-Din's History of Jerusalem and Hebron, to be made available via Moodle. Also: translated passages found in Luz's and Amitai's papers.*

#### Additional Reading Material:

Reuven Amitai. "Islamization in the Southern Levant after the End of Frankish Rule: Some General Considerations and a Short Case Study." In Andrew Peacock, editor. *Islamisation: Comparative Perspectives from History*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2017. 156-186. Available as an Ebook available through the Library's site.

Moshe Gil. *A History of Palestine, 634-1099*. Tr. Ethel Broido. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Sidney H. Griffith. *The Church in the Shadow of the Mosque: Christians and Muslims in the World of Islam*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008.

#### Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 30 %

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*Project work 50 %  
Assignments 20 %  
Reports 0 %  
Research project 0 %  
Quizzes 0 %  
Other 0 %*

*Additional information:*

*At the end of the term, we will have an informal walk in West Jerusalem to look at sites that touch upon matters studied in the course.*