



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

History Politics and Field Trips in Jerusalem - 56117

Last update 22-10-2024

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Political Science

Academic year: 0

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Menachem Hofnung
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Teaching Staff:

Prof. Menachem Hofnung,
Dr. Shaked Bareket

Course/Module description:

Course description: The course is based on 8 field trips (including one double tour over two consecutive Wednesdays in November 2024), lectures preceding each field trip and a concluding class meeting. The importance of Jerusalem in the history of the three monotheistic religions has made it one of the most researched cities in the world.

Its geographical location and its religious and political importance have made Jerusalem a city whose history has been interwoven with world history and politics for generations. During the course we will explore the political history of the city from the beginning of the first millennium BC to the beginning of the third millennium AD. The course will rotate with classroom lectures and field trips. Course topics: Jerusalem as the capital of the ancient Jewish kingdom, the conquests of the city and the country by the ancient world powers, the emergence of Christianity and its reign in the Mediterranean basin and Europe, the effects of Muslim, Crusader, Mamluk and Ottoman conquests of the city; In the modern age, we will cover the exit from the walls, the British Mandate period, the wars over Jerusalem in 1948 and 1967, and the political and geographical realities of the 21st century.

Course/Module aims:

To know, understand and watch the development of a city over 3000 years of documented history. This is with the perspective of understanding global and regional politics and their impact on the city and its history.

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

To enable students to understand and analyze local politics in perspective world history through a combination of classroom study and field trips.

Attendance requirements(%):

85%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: In class lectures and active tours

moderated by the teachers, in historic sites within the city of Jerusalem

Course/Module Content:

Lecture # 1 (30.10.2024) - Introduction: The Political History of Jerusalem.

Tour No. 1 (06.11.2024) - Nabi Samuel: Panoramic and historical review of Jerusalem and its environs.

Lecture # 2 (13.11.2024) - Struggles for control of Jerusalem and limited independence under a world superpower, the Roman Empire.

Tour # 2A (20.11.2024) - The Herodium: A multi-functional fortress (control, shelter, recreation) within a short ride (on horseback) from Jerusalem.

Tour 2B, (27.11.2024)

Israel Museum. Model of Jerusalem in the first century BC.

Lecture # 3 (11.12.2024) - Jerusalem between Rome, Byzantium, Persia and Islamic khalifate.

Tour No. 3 (18.12.2024) - Temple Mount: Religion, Politics and History in Antiquity and the Middle Ages.

Lecture # 4 (01.01.2025) - The Crusades and the emergence of the Ottoman Empire in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean.

Tour No. 4 (08.01.2025) - Mount Zion Complex and the Jewish Quarter: Jews, Muslims and Crusaders in Jerusalem during the 2nd millennium.

Midterm Exam (20%) 22.1.2025.

Semester Break

Second semester

Lecture 5 (26.03.2025) - The emergence of Zionism as a political movement, the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire and the beginning of the British Mandate.

Tour no. 5 (02.04.2025) - Expansion outside the walls in modern times: Mishkenot Sha'ananim, the German colony, Talbiyeh and Rehavia.

Lecture # 6 (23.04.2025) - The end of the British Mandate and the creation of a state within a state.

Tour # 6 (07.05.2025) - The Castel National Park: The Transition from the period of armed militias to a regular army. The War on Jerusalem, 1948.

Lecture # 7 (14.05.2025) - Establishment of the State of Israel, Jerusalem as a

capital city and a border city.

Tour # 7 (21.05.2025) - The municipal line: The border between Israel and Jordan until 1967, Mount Scopus, Mandelbaum Gate and Abu Tor.

Lecture # 8 (04.06.2025) One or two capitals? Peace initiatives, creation of facts and provisional arrangements in a city under dispute.

Tour No. 8 (11.06.2025) - The Separation Fence: A United or divided capital city?

Lecture 9 (18.06.2025) - Summary of the course and instructions for writing the final individual project.

Individual research project submission, 02.07.2025.

Required Reading:

Mostly in Hebrew.

Additional Reading Material:

Mostly in Hebrew.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 55 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 10 %

Mid-terms exams 20 %

Attendance / Participation in Field Excursion 15 %

Additional information:

Mid-term exam on Wednesday 10.1.2024 (ten multiple choice questions and five short written questions, 20% of the final grade).

A report of up to 300 words on one of the tours in the second semester (10% of the final grade).

Active participation, composed of attendance at lectures and tours and proficiency in the reading assignments (15% of the final grade).

Final course paper of up to 1500 words (55% of the final grade).