

Jerusalem in Time, Space, and the Imagination
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
Spring 2014

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Course Description

Following a chronological order, this course explores the origins, character and ongoing shifts in symbolic meaning of one of the most ancient and continuously settled cities on earth, Jerusalem. Students will acquire basic knowledge of the major periods in this long history as well as of the communities and traditions that have called it their home. Among the skills practiced in this course are the reading of historical sources, the interpretation of geographic and political maps, and the critical analysis of documents produced by different political and religious bodies and contemporary news media.

Course Goals

The physical, climatic, and political geography that conditioned the history of Jerusalem.

Archeological and literary critical approaches to reconstructing the early history of the city.

History of the city's growth, destruction, rebuilding and redesign.

Familiarization with basic facts of the political and religious history of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam as the major communities that shaped the religious meanings of the city and the reasons why these monotheistic communities are attached to Jerusalem.

Basic knowledge of the political, economic, and cultural history of the Middle East, with an emphasis on Israel/Palestine.

Practice of critical reading of news sources and other media (film, web).
Understanding of the formation of religious symbols and concepts and the role of religious rhetoric in political discourse.

Successful participation, assessment, and grading

We need to be able to work as a group. This means that you need to attend classes. More than three unexcused absences will lead to a lowering of your grade. You also need to be prepared for each class. It is not enough to just mechanically read through the course readings. You need to be able to raise informed and thoughtful questions in class.

Course books

Karen Armstrong, *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths* (New York: Ballantine, 1996)

Yossi Klein Halevi, *Like Dreamers*

List of films

"Jerusalem: Within These Walls" (1986).

"There is a Wall in Jerusalem" (1967).

"Jerusalem. The Holy City"

"Kingdom of Heaven." (2005) Directed by Ridley Scott

"Time of Favor"

Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance and participation (12%): Class attendance is very important. You need to come and to be prepared to participate in discussions. You should have read the assigned materials prior to class meeting on the relevant topic. Therefore, unexcused absences (and chronic inattentive and disrespectful behavior – text messaging in class, sleeping, doing other work during class, etc.) will result in a reduction of your participation grade. Excessive or persistent problems will result in a zero for class participation and may result in additional grade reductions. 3 absences are allowed without excuse. Any further than that will reduce your final grade.

2. First paper (22%): Research assignment done individually. The subject of the paper is open. Papers expected 5-7 pages length. **All papers would have to be approved by the university writing center prior to submission. Feb 3**

3. In class presentation (22%): Each student will have to present his/her first research paper in class.

4. Second Paper (22%) – Book review. A question will be handed out by the professor. Papers are expected to be between 5-7 pages length. **March 21**

3. Take home final exam (22%): The final paper will be a take home exam done individually. It will have to be submitted at the time and date established by the Registrar for final exam. Papers expected up to 10 pages length.

Course/Classroom Policies:

1. Academic Integrity: The university honor code will be strictly applied; there will be absolutely no tolerance of cheating or plagiarizing. A single incident may result in failure for the entire course and a record made to your file at the University.

2. Attendance and Classroom discussion: Please feel free to discuss openly, seriously and passionately; I will not, however, tolerate disruptive or insulting remarks, gender or racial slurs, or other forms of bullying, verbal intimidation or hate speech. Students who become disruptive (according to my assessment) will be dismissed from class. Persistent or problematic disruptions will require a private conference with me and will likely result in a lower grade.

Persistent or problematic disruptions will require the 3 steps method: first time will result just a warning; second time – deduction of 15% of final grade; third time - failure for the entire course and a record made to your file at the University.

3. Any student with a documented learning, physical, chronic health, psychological, visual or hearing disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak directly to Disability Support Services and the instructor, as early in the semester (preferably within the first week) as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please contact Disability Support Services, DF Lowry Building, Room 107 or call 910-521-6695.

The University Writing Center staff works one-to-one with UNCP students at any stage in the writing process, from brainstorming topics to drafting, revising, editing, and formatting. UNCP students from any course or department are welcome to use the Center. Tutors work with students on all types of writing assignments, including application essays and personal statements. The University Writing Center is located in D.F. Lowry room 308. For more information, and to make an appointment, students should visit <http://www.uncp.edu/writing/>

4. Cell Phones, etc.: Cell phones and pagers must be turned off or turned to silent ring. Ipods, cell phones and PDA's must be turned off and stored in your baggage during exams and quizzes. Do not send or read text messages in class.

5. Please make every effort to be on time to class (and do not leave early without prior notice). Occasionally, anyone may have an emergency or other situation that requires early departure or a late arrival. However, please be discrete and respectful and cause the minimum disruption possible. Do not enter the room and take a seat in a distracting way. Persistent problems may result in a lowered grade.

6. Unless there is a documented, severe medical (or other) emergency, exams and assignment due dates may be rescheduled only if prior, written notice is given at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled exam or date. I reserve the right to refuse "make up" dates for exams. The final may not be rescheduled unless there is a conflict with another, scheduled exam.

7. If you miss class for any reason, you are responsible for any missed work. I will not repeat lectures nor summarize content for you (please check with a classmate). While calls or notice regarding your absence is a courtesy that I do appreciate, do not call or email me to request that I catch you up on what you may have missed; do not anticipate, either, that I will respond to these calls or notices.

8. All written work should exhibit good, college-level English and should advance a clear and cogent thesis. Excessive mistakes, poor writing, or an unclear thesis and argument may lower your grade (or, at minimum, make your ideas unclear). You are encouraged to take advantage of the university Writing Center or to see me (out of class) if there are particular questions or problems.

9. I will comply with the University status regarding closure for inclement weather. If the University is open, class will be held; if it is closed, class is canceled. Notice of any (very unlikely) deviations will be sent via email to your UNCP account. I realize many of you may be driving a significant distance to get to campus or may live in rural areas where roads are not well maintained in weather emergencies. Use your best judgment when deciding on attendance. A brief voice or email message letting me know of your decision is welcome and appropriate.

10. I will make serious efforts to respond to questions or other concerns sent to me via email or voice mail. Be aware, however, I will only address these during normal business hours of operation; messages left on weekends or in the evenings will be read and addressed (in order of arrival) as soon as I can on my next scheduled day to be on campus.

11. You are always invited to stop by during my office hours for informal conversation or if you have *any* questions or concerns regarding your evaluation or course content. Disrespectful, inappropriate or overly casual (grossly unprofessional) email or voice mails will be ignored. For privacy issues (that are for your protection) I will not respond to, return, or acknowledge phone calls regarding course matters made on your behalf by spouses, parents, clergy or health professionals unless I have your prior, written consent.

12. This syllabus is not a contract. It is subject to change due to student interest, inclement weather, or a variety of other reasons. In a semester course it is impossible to include everything important and interesting about Religion. If there is something you want to learn more about, ask, and we will see what we can do.

