

Jerusalem: City of Faith, City of Struggle

MWF 11 Friends 102

M 12 Friends 208

What does it mean to live in a divided city? This course focuses on contemporary Jerusalem, using films, short stories, memoirs, poetry, and analytical articles to explore the experiences of the city's people today. The course will investigate what it means to live in a city divided along religious, ethnic, and national lines: between Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs, and between and among the Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious communities. The course will address how the wars of the twentieth century have affected the lives of all who live in the city, especially the 1948 war, which divided the city between Israeli and Jordanian control, and the 1967 war, which united the city under Israeli rule. The course will also address the political issues of occupation, annexation, and settlement from both the Palestinian and Israeli perspectives. As a final project, students will formulate their own proposal for the final status of Jerusalem within a political agreement between Israelis and Palestinians.

“Once I was sitting on the steps near the gate at David’s Citadel and I put down my two heavy baskets beside me. A group of tourists stood there around their guide, and I became their point of reference. ‘You see that man over there with the baskets? A little to the right of his head there’s an arch from the Roman period. A little to the right of his head.’ ‘But he’s moving, he’s moving!’ I said to myself: Redemption will come only when they are told, ‘Do you see that arch over there from the Roman period? It doesn’t matter, but near it, a little to the left and then down a bit, there’s a man who has just bought fruit and vegetables for his family.’”

From “Tourists,” in *Selected Poetry of Yehuda Amichai*

1. Jerusalem: the city of today. This unit of the course surveys contemporary communities and issues in Jerusalem, including religious differences among Jews in the city, the effects of occupation upon the Palestinians of east Jerusalem, and the conflicts among the different Christian denominations in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. This unit also examines basic aspects of everyday life, such as education, work, transportation, and sport.
2. Holy space. This unit of the course examines why the city is sacred to Jews, Christians, and Muslims by focusing on three holy places: the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the Western Wall, and the Dome of the Rock.
3. Recent history: what are the military and political events of the last hundred years that have created the contemporary divided city? Students will learn about Zionism and Arab nationalism, the First World War and the British mandate, and the 1948 and 1967 wars, the first of which divided the city between Jordanian and Israeli control, the second of which united Jerusalem under Israeli control.
4. An equitable solution: students will formulate their own proposals for the final status of Jerusalem within a larger Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. The proposals will address both the political and religious claims for the city.

Texts for purchase

Ithaca College Bookstore or online

Tamar Mayer and Suleiman A. Mourad, eds., *Jerusalem: Idea and Reality* (Routledge, 2008)

Bernard Wasserstein, *Divided Jerusalem: The Struggle for the Holy City* (3rd edition; Yale, 2008)

Oleg Grabar, *The Dome of the Rock* (Belknap, 2006)

Available in Muller 309, Kenesha Vick's office

Course packet

Assignments

Assignment #1 is an exercise designed to get you familiar with the city. You will be asked to research neighborhood/s in Jerusalem – outside the Old City – and answer the following questions:

- What is the history of the neighborhood?
- Who lives in the neighborhood? What is their religion/ethnicity/nationality/social class?
- What kind of businesses/institutions can be found in the neighborhood? Schools? Hospitals? Government departments? (Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel so most of the government ministries are located there). Religious institutions – synagogues, churches, mosques? Factories? Shopping centers or malls? Other retail stores?
- Resources to answer these questions can be found in:
 - Course packet – excerpts from Yehoshua Ben-Arieh's and David Kroyanker's books on Jerusalem neighborhoods give excellent information about the history of some of the neighborhoods and their architecture
 - Wikipedia articles – if you use a Wikipedia article, you should also use at least one of the references cited in the article. Some of them are pretty good, others are minimal.
 - Newspaper articles on line:
 - Israeli newspapers: Haaretz ([haaretz.com](http://www.haaretz.com)), the Jerusalem Post ([jpost.com](http://www.jpost.com)), Ynet (<http://www.ynetnews.com/home/0,7340,L-3083,00.html>), the Jerusalem Report (magazine), Times of Israel (<http://www.timesofisrael.com/>)
 - <http://972mag.com/c/news/> - left-wing Israel news and opinion site
 - Palestinian news sources: Maan Palestinian news agency (<http://www.maannews.net/eng/Default.aspx>).
 - Global news sources:
 - Al Jazeera America (<http://america.aljazeera.com/content/ajam.html>)
 - New York Times ([nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com))
 - Al Monitor (<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/home.html>) – it offers articles translated from Middle Eastern news sources plus original writing and analysis
 - The Guardian (UK) (<http://www.theguardian.com/us>)

- Jerusalem Quarterly, published by the Institute of Jerusalem Studies (<http://www.jerusalemquarterly.org/>)
- Ir Amim (<http://eng.ir-amim.org.il/>)
- For Information and views of the State of Israel and the Jerusalem Municipality:
 - official website of the Israeli Foreign Ministry (<http://mfa.gov.il/MFA/Pages/default.aspx>)
 - the Jerusalem Municipality (http://www.jerusalem.muni.il/jer_main/defaultnew.asp?lng=2)
- bring in a photograph of an interesting spot in the neighborhood – from Google Maps, Flickr, other sources; also provide a photograph of one or two people who live in the neighborhood

Assignment #2 is intended for you to get to know a resident of Jerusalem – either a real person living in Jerusalem today, or a composite type of Jerusalemite. Some possible individuals:

- Sari Nusseibeh – president of Al Quds University, located in east Jerusalem
- Anat Hoffman – head of the Israeli Religious Action Center, which works for religious pluralism in Israel
- Nir Barkat – mayor of Jerusalem
- Benjamin Netanyahu – prime minister of Israel, who has a home in the Katamon neighborhood of Jerusalem

Some possible types:

- A young Israeli woman or man working in a high-tech company
- an Israeli or Palestinian physical therapist
- an Israeli or Palestinian journalist – newspaper, online news source, television or radio
- A Hasidic Jewish man living in one of the ultra-Orthodox neighborhoods
- A Palestinian gay man living in east Jerusalem
- A soccer player for Beitar Jerusalem (the Jerusalem soccer team)
- An Armenian woman living in the Armenian Quarter of the Old City
- A Mizrahi Jewish boy or girl living in the Katamonim neighborhood (these neighborhoods were built in southern Jerusalem in the late 1940s-early 1950s to house new Jewish immigrants from Arab countries like Morocco, Iraq, Egypt, or Tunisia).
- A religious Muslim woman (an Arab citizen of Israel) attending the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- A Greek Orthodox priest living in the Christian Quarter of the Old City

Schedule of Classes

Fall 2013

I. City of Today

1. introduction to course; handouts – two maps (city today & Natgeo map)
2. how to deal with difference
3. survey of the contemporary city – photos, videos – Ir Amim video on the light rail; City of Borders, others?
4. neighborhood reports from students
5. reports on typical Jerusalemites

II. Holy Space – why is the city holy to Jews, Christians, and Muslims?

1. Jews

Reading:

- In Mayer and Mourad, *Jerusalem: Idea and Reality*: Lee Levine, “Jerusalem in Jewish History, Tradition, and Memory,” pp. 27-46
- In Course Packet: F.E. Peters, *Jerusalem*, pp. 67-87 (Herod and Herod’s Temple); pp. 224-227, 527-529, 541-542 (The Western Wall).

2. Christians

Reading:

- In Mayer and Mourad, *Jerusalem: Idea and Reality*: Oliver Yarbrough, “Early Christian Jerusalem: The City of the Cross,” pp. 67-85.
- In Course Packet: F.E. Peters, *Jerusalem*, pp. 131-140 (Mother of All the Churches)

3. Muslims

Reading:

- In Mayer and Mourad, *Jerusalem, Idea and Reality*: Suleiman Ali Mourad, “The Symbolism of Jerusalem in Early Islam,” pp. 86-102.
- Oleg Grabar, *The Dome of the Rock*, pp. 1-119.

II. Recent History

1. Late Ottoman and early British Mandate

Reading:

- In Wasserstein, *Divided Jerusalem*, pp. 14-81:
 - Chapter 1, The Wars of the Consuls: holy places, Egyptian rule in Jerusalem, Protestant bishopric, war clouds over the tomb of Christ
 - Chapter 2, Old City, New City: beyond the walls, spiritual imperialism, Jerusalem promoted, “A Christmas present for the British nation.”

2. British Mandate and its dissolution

- In Wasserstein, *Divided Jerusalem*, pp. 82-178.

- Chapter 3, Jerusalem Under the Mandate: from military government to mandate, Christian triumphalism, The rise of the Mufti, Towards partition, “A glorified cockpit”
 - Amos Oz, *The Hill of Evil Counsel*
 - Hala Sakakini, *Jerusalem and I*, pp. ix-23, 48-71
- Chapter 4, Division: mandatory abdication, spontaneous partition, pantomime across the Jordan, collapse of *corpus separatum*, a king for Jerusalem, “Will the Vatican send an army here?”
 - Hala Sakakini, *Jerusalem and I*, pp. 102-129
 - Collins and LaPierre, *O Jerusalem*, pp. 125-138, 306-309
 - Radai, “Qatamon, 1948”
 - Segev, *One Palestine Complete*, pp. 487-519

3. Divided Jerusalem

- In Wasserstein, *Divided Jerusalem*, pp. 179-204.
 - Chapter 5: Two Jerusalems: Divide and rule, Jerusalem demoted, Christians in a divided Jerusalem, New consular wars, cul-de-sac capital

4. Annexed Jerusalem

- In Wasserstein, *Divided Jerusalem*, pp. 205-238.
 - Chapter 6, Annexation: Conquest, unification, Jerusalem under Israeli rule, Arab resistance, world reaction

IV. An equitable solution

1. Survey of diplomacy and recent developments

Several possible aesthetic appreciation events:

First IC play for the fall – Fires in the Mirror; tickets would be paid for

Schedule of performances:

At 8 pm: October 1, 8 pm (preview); October 3 (opening night); October 4; October 5,
October 8, October 9, October 11, October 12

On Saturday at 1 pm: October 12

On Sunday at 2 pm: October 6

Tuesday, November 19 at 4:00 pm – Contemporary Chamber Ensemble

December 4 at 8:00 pm – Wind Ensemble

Monday	Wednesday	Friday
	August 28 Introduction 11:00 12:00	August 30
September 2 Labor Day No classes	September 4	September 6 Rosh Hashanah No class
September 9 11:00 12:00	September 11	September 13
September 16 11:00 12:00	September 18	September 20
September 23 11:00	September 25	September 27 Simchat Torah No class

12:00		
September 30 11:00 12:00 Healthy Lifestyles	October 2	October 4
October 7 11:00 12:00	October 9	October 11
October 14 11:00 12:00 History of IC	October 16	October 18 Fall break No classes
October 21 11:00 12:00	October 23	October 25
October 28 11:00 12:00	October 30 Evening: Holocaust Lecture	November 1
November 4 11:00 12:00	November 6	November 8
November 11 11:00	November 13	November 15 No class Instructor attending Society of Biblical Literature conference

12:00		
November 18 11:00 12:00 Sexual Assault Intervention and Awareness	November 20	November 22
December 2 11:00 12:00	December 4	December 6
December 9 11:00 12:00	December 11	December 13
December 16 Final Exam 10:30 am – 1:00 pm		