



### Tentative itinerary | Summer Program

This itinerary is based on presentations and visits from [Coexistence in the Middle East](#) (CME) 2017 summer program which is indicative of the type of activities that might be expected in future programs. Due to the dynamic character of the Middle East, our intention to focus on the current issues in the region, and the availability of speakers and organizations, the following list of topics, visits, and speakers might be updated.\*

Our [Coexistence in the Middle East](#) (CME) summer program consists of the following three complementary summer courses. All field trips and program activities are split among all three summer as indicated by the colors below:

#### **Narratives and Realities: Inside the Israeli Palestinian Conflict**

3 credits - - 45 academic hours | [Syllabus](#) | [Website](#) | Instructor: Dr. Gershon Baskin

Dr. Baskin was the initiator and negotiator of the secret back channel with Hamas for the release of Gilad Schalit. He served as an adviser on the peace process to late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and on a Jerusalem experts committee under former Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

#### **Israel and the Post-Arab Spring: An Interactive View**

3 credits - - 45 academic hours | [Syllabus](#) | [Website](#) | Instructor: Dr. Nir Boms

Dr. Boms is a research fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University and at the International Center for Counter Terrorism in Herzliya. His articles have appeared in The Washington Times, Iran Times International, and The Jerusalem Post among other international publications.

#### **Religion in the Holy Land: Faith's Role in Peace and Conflict | 3**

3 credits - - 45 academic hours | [Syllabus](#) | [Website](#) | Instructor: M.A. Ophir Yarden

Ophir Yarden, M.A. in Middle East Studies at the University of Chicago, serves as Director of the Jerusalem Center for Interreligious Encounter for Jewish-Christian Relations. He has been a practitioner of conflict transformation in the Israeli-Palestinian reality and specializes in interreligious engagement and encounter.

- Activity for all Coexistence in the Middle East (CME) courses

### **JULY SESSION: Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> Week - Arrival**

**8:30-15:00** Mandatory Registration (Boyar Building, Mount Scopus)

Welcome to Jerusalem!

**15:30** Campus Tour

**16:30 - 18:00** Orientation Session Room 100

### **Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> Week - New Opportunities and Challenges in a Changing Middle East**

**8:30** Opening session and introduction:

- **Javier Gelwaser**, Program Director
- **Gil Novick**, International Institute of Leadership, Room 211

**10:00** "Introduction to the Middle East, Spring and other Seasons", **Dr. Nir Boms**

**12:00** Lunch Break

**13:30** Introduction Lecture, **Dr. Gershon Baskin**

**14:30** Panel, "Two Narratives, Two Peoples, One Land":

- "The Israeli narrative", **Uri Pilichowski**, Rabbi Pilichowski, Rebbe at Yeshivat Migdal Hatorah
- "The Palestinian narrative", **Elias Zananiri**, Deputy Head of PLO Committee for Interaction with Israeli Society

**15:30-16:30** Discussion

**16:30** Social Activity

### **Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> Week - Northern Threats: Syria, Hezbollah and the Islamic State (ISIS)**

**7:30** Departure from [Student Village South Gate](#)

**10:30-13:00** Visit to **Nahariya Hospital**: "Treatment of Syrians wounded in the civil war and Coexistence in the Galilee."

- **Dr. Ohad Ronen**, Senior Physician-Surgeon at Galilee Medical Center in Nahariya
- Tour of the hospital facilities including the bomb-proof 450- bed underground medical facility with **Sharon Mann**, Galilee Medical Center International Affairs Department liaison

**14:30-15:30** Lookout to **Lebanese border** at Mount Adir and briefing by **Israel Defence Forces Soldiers**

**20:00** Summary and Conversation with **Dr. Nir Boms** and **Issam Zaitoun**, Syrian activist, founder of Golan Peace Initiative

**Overnight stay at Kibbutz Amiad**

### **Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> Week - Syrian Civil War, the Golan Heights & the Druze Minority in Israel**

**8:00** Departure

**9:00** Visit to **Ghajar, a Syrian village** split between Syrian and Lebanese territory whose inhabitants are Israeli citizens

**10:00** Visit to **Mount Bental**, key site in 1973 Yom Kippur War and IDF's observation point into Syria and briefing by **Drago Sebalj**, United Nations Military Observer (**UNMO**)

**11:00-12:30** Visit the Druze village of Majdal Shams and **Johari Kifah's** home, Druze community leader: "the Druze people and their traditions; their political status in Israel; their contact with Syria today"

Return to Jerusalem

## Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Week - Iran Post Nuclear Agreement & the Changing Geo-Political Arena

- 9:30** *"Iran post nuclear agreement & the changing geo-political arena"*, **Dr. Nir Boms**
- 11:00** *"Iran following the deal, society in Iran"* - Skype call with **Nima Rashdan**, Iranian Internet activist
- 12:30** Lunch Break
- 13:30** *"From Non-recognition to First contacts - first Intifada, PLO changes, Madrid, bilaterals, multilaterals, Oslo talks"*, **Dr. Gershon Baskin**
- 14:45** *"Agreements and implementation"*, What was the Oslo process about, what was in the agreements, what was supposed to happen, **Dr. Gershon Baskin**
- 16:00** *"Internal Palestinian politics"*, **Ashraf Ajrami** Former Minister of Prisoner Affairs for the Palestinian Authority - member of PLO Committee for Engagement with Israeli society

## Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Week - Learning from the Past and Educating for the Future

- 8:00** Departure
- 8:45-11:30** Visit to **Yad Vashem**, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center
- 12:00-13:30** Lunch Break
- 13:30-14:30** *"What went wrong: losing trust, non-implementation of agreements"*, **Dr. Gershon Baskin**
- 14:45-15:45** *"Incitement and textbooks"*, **Arnon Groiss**, Assistant to Arabic Radio Director at Israel Broadcasting Authority, MPA Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, specializes in schoolbook research
- 15:45-16:45** *"Peace and education in Palestine"*, **Prof. Mohammed Dajani-Daoudi**, Palestinian professor and peace activist, led delegation of Palestinian students from Al-Quds University to Auschwitz.

## Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Week - The International Community and the Middle East

- 8:30** *"European Union and the Middle East"*, **Jan Freigang**, Chief of Staff and Political Adviser to the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process M
- 10:15** Departure to **American Jewish Committee**
- 11:00** *"A Middle East in Transition: an American View"*, **Evan Elliott**, Political Officer US Embassy in Tel Aviv
- 12:15** Panel *"Between Fake and Real News: Covering Israel the Middle East"*, moderator **Dr. Nir Boms**:
- **Avital Leibovich**, Director of AJC Israel and IDF's former spokesperson to International Media
  - **Eeta Prince Gibson**, former editor-in-chief of the Jerusalem Report, contributor for the Washington Post and Moment magazine.
  - **Joseph Dyke**, Reporter at AFP news wire in Jerusalem
  - **Sarah Tuttle Singer**, New Media Editor at The Times of Israel TBC
- 13:30** Lunch Break
- 14:30** Visit to to the **UN Headquarters in Jerusalem**. TBC
- 15:00** *"Regional Change and International Politics: A view from the UN"*, **Jonathan Eshpar**, Political Affairs Officer at UNSCO (Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process)

### Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Week - Status Quo and Dimensions: Israel and the West Bank

**7:30** Departure

**7:30** Tour of the **Security Fence/Wall** led by **Col. Reserve Danny Tirza**, IDF's chief architect for the Security Fence and former territorial and border advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

**10:30** Visit to **Settlements in Judea and Samaria/West Bank** and encounter with settlers:

- Visit to **Nahalat Binyamin** visitors center, observation point and talk with **Miri Maoz** Ovadia, spokesperson of Mateh Binyamin regional council.
- Visit to **Shiloh** ancient site.

**13:00** Lunch Break

**16:00** "Panel: Palestinian perspectives on the Status Quo" - Mt. Scopus

- **Mohammed Froukh**, Sa'ir Hebron - MA Environmental studies Al Quds University
- **Amal Khayat**, conservative Muslim Palestinian woman from East Jerusalem and peace activist
- **Osama Elewat**, Combatants for Peace former member of Palestinian police force
- **Hazem Ziada**, Young Palestinian Businessman

### Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Week - An Israeli View of a Changing Region

**7:40** Departure

**8:15** Visit to the **Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)**.

Presentations:

- "*Regional analysis after the Arab Spring*" **Roi Rosenblit**, Director Iran and Iraq Center for Policy Research, MFA
- "*Incitement vs. freedom of speech*", **Gal Rudich**, Head of New Media Section, MFA

**11:30** Lunch Break at Cinema City

**12:30-16:00** Visit to the **Knesset: the House of Representatives of the State of Israel** and meetings with representatives of different political parties:

- **Prof. Manuel Trajtenberg**, Member of Parliament for the (opposition) Labor Party, for which he was candidate for Finance Minister.
- **Davidi Hermelin**, Former Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Absorption and Former President of the Young Likud Congress
- **Dr. Ahmad Tibi**, Member of Parliament from the Joint List, Arab-Muslim Israeli politician and leader of the Arab Movement for Change

### Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Week - Hamas, Gaza, and the Surrounding Israeli Towns

**7:30** Departure

**10:00** Visit to **Kibbutz Nahal Oz**, meeting with kibbutz member **Mrs. Yael Lehani**.

**12:00** Visit to **Erez Crossing to the Gaza Strip** for the movement of people between the Gaza and Israel - managed by the Ministry of Defense - **Mr. Yair Ben Or**

**14:00** Visit to Sapir College near Sderot, meeting with students, **Dr. Zohar Avitan**

Visit to the city of **Sderot**, an ongoing target of Qassam rockets since 2001;

**Overnight stay in the desert in a Bedouin tent in Kfar Hanokdim (optional)**

### Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Week - Jordan, Masada, and the Dead Sea (optional)

- Ascent to the fortress constructed by Herod on **Masada**; Observation of the sunrise over the Judean Desert, the Dead Sea, and Jordan

- Tour of the fortress and archaeological sites with **Ilanit Sakura**, tour guide

- Camel ride in the **Judean Desert**
- Descent to the lowest point on earth and a swim in the **Dead Sea**

### Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> Week - Dissidents and New Media - challenges and opportunities

- 9:00 *"Dissidents and new media - challenges and opportunities"*, **Dr. Nir Boms**
- 10:00 *"The regional approach in the ME: Opportunities and Threats"*, **Henrique Cymerman**, award-winning journalist, lecturer, and filmmaker
- 11:00 Skype call with **dissidents fighting ISIS**:
  - **Hegar Beranji**, Kurdish voice from Irbil, Rudaw TV
  - **Sodvin Youssef**, Kurdish Activist from Rojava
- 13:30 *"Dealing with Gaza - 1967-2005 - From 1967 to Oslo and Arafat, Second Intifada to Disengagement, Election of Hamas until today"*, **Dr Gershon Baskin**
- 15:15 Simulation of Negotiations

### Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> Week - Between Axis of Peace and Axis of War

- 9:00 *"Between axis of peace and axis of war (The Arab peace initiative and beyond)"*, **Dr. Nir Boms**
- 11:00 *"Conclusions Israel & Post Arab Spring course"* **Dr. Nir Boms**
- 12:00 Lunch Break
- 13:00 Meeting with **Moira al-Jilani** and **Ben Kfir** Palestinian and Israeli members of the Parents' Circle - Family Forum (PCFF), a grassroots organization of bereaved Palestinians and Israelis
- 14:30 Conclusion of the Course - **Dr. Gershon Baskin**
- 15:45 Feedback and Evaluations **Javier Gelbwaser**
- 17:00 **TBC** Final Remarks, Closing Ceremony and Certificates (July Session)

### SESSION: Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> Week - Arrival

- 9:00 Mandatory Registration (Boyar Building, Mount Scopus) - Welcome to Jerusalem!
- 16:30 Orientation Session Room

### Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> Week

- 8:30 Meeting at [Rothberg International School](#) to visit the **Hecht Synagogue**
- 9:00 Opening session and introduction at [Hecht Synagogue](#), **Javier Gelbwaser**, Program Director
- 10:30 Introduction to the course, **Ophir Yarden**
- 10:45 *"Introduction to Judaism and its relation to the Holy Land"*, **Ophir Yarden**
- 12:00 -13:00 *"Peace & Violence in Judaism"*, **Ophir Yarden**

### Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> Week

- 8:30 Departure from [Student Village South Gate](#)
- 9:00 Visit and tour **Brigham Young University** - Jerusalem Center (modest dress required)
- 10:00 *"Introduction to Islam and its relation to the Holy Land"*, **Dr. Mustafa Abu Sway**, Al-Quds University, member of the Hashemite Fund for the Restoration of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock and the Islamic Waqf Council in Jerusalem
- 12:00 Departure to Cinema City
- 12:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30 Visit to the **Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)**. Presentations:
  - *"Religion in world conflicts"*, **Ariel Shafransky**, Director of MFA's Middle East Department

- "Religion as a peacebuilding resource in negotiations", **Akiva Tor**, Head Bureau for World Jewish Affairs and World Religions at MFA

- **16:00** "The Opportunity and Challenge of 'Reconciling Brothers' in Religious Text and Today" **Daniel Roth**

### **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> Week**

**9:00** "Introduction to Christianity and its relation to the Holy Land", **Fr. Dr. David Neuhauss, SJ**, Latin Patriarchal Vicar

**10:45** "Peace & violence in Islam", **Prof. Mohammed Dajani-Daoudi**, Palestinian professor and peace activist, led delegation of Palestinian students from Al-Quds University to Auschwitz.

**12:15** Lunch Break

**13:00** "3 religions, 2 nations, 1 land: The politics in the Holy Land", **Ophir Yarden**

**16:00 TBC** "Peace & violence in Christianity", **Rev. Jack Sara**, President, Bethlehem Bible College

### **Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> Week**

**06:55** Departure to Dung Gate

**7:30 Temple Mount / Haram al-Sherif**, home of the **Al-Aqsa Mosque** and the **Dome of the Rock**, the holiest place in Judaism and third in importance in Islam

**10:00** Mt. Zion, a microcosm of holiness to three religions: Dormition Abbey, King David's Tomb and the Room of the Last Supper

**11:00** Presentation "Window on Mount Zion" project sponsored by the Jerusalem Intercultural Center and Search for Common Ground, presented by **Merav Horowitz-Stein**, project coordinator

**12:30** Lunch Break in Jewish Quarter

**13:15 Western Wall**, remnants of the Second Temple and Jewish holy site

**13:40 Western Wall Tunnels**, closest point where a Jew can pray to the Holy of Holies

**16:00** Church of the **Holy Sepulcher**: site of Jesus' crucifixion, burial and resurrection; and the "Mosque of Omar" as an example of tolerance and interfaith understanding

### **Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> Week**

**7:30** Departure from [Student Village South Gate](#)

**9:00** Visit to **Tel Aviv - Jaffa**

**10:00** Visit to **Peres Center for Peace (PCP)**, meetings and presentation by:

- **Lara Portnoy**, Coordinator of Development and External Relations at the PCP
- **Nadav Tamir**, policy adviser to the former President of the State of Israel, Shimon Peres

**12:00** Lunch Break in **Jaffa**

**13:00** Travel to **Nazareth**;

**15:00** Visit to **Nazareth**:

- **Church of the Annunciation**, at the site where the angel Gabriel is believed to have told Mary she would become the mother of Jesus and Annunciation Church

- Visit to the **White Mosque** and encounter with **Sheikh Muhammad Abu Rahhal** (Abu Anas) Imam of the mosque organized in collaboration with Abrahamic Reunion.

- Visit to the **Christ Church** and encounter with with Anglican Father **Nael Abu Rahmoun** Vicar at Christ Church and with **Sheikh Khaled Abu Rasat**, Co-Director of Abrahamic Reunion which collaborated in the organization of this the encounter

**18:00** Drive to **Karei Deshe** on the Sea of Galilee (overnight)

**19:30 TBC** Dinner

**21:30 TBC** Group discussion

### **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> Week**



**7:15** Departure to Tabgha

**8:00** Tabgha, **Church of the Multiplication**: believed to be the spot where Jesus fed the hungry with loaves of bread and fish

- Meeting with **P. Matthias Karl**, Order of Saint Benedict

**10:00** Visit to **Safed**: Center of Kabbalah (Jewish Mysticism) and one of the four holy cities in Judaism.

- Encounter with **Rabbi Yakov Drori and his wife**, organized in collaboration with Abraham Reunion
- Tour of Safed and visit to the **Ari Ashkenazi Synagogue**, **Yosef Caro Synagogue**, and **Abuhav Synagogue**

**12:30** Lunch break

**13:30** departure from Safed

**15:00** **Horns of Hattin**: site of the Battle of Hattin, Salah ad-Din's victory over the Crusaders

**16:00** Departure to Jerusalem

**18:00** Arrival in Jerusalem

**21:30 (Optional)** Observe "Speaking in the Square" in **Zion Square**

### **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> Week (Optional TBC)**

Optional pluralistic Kabbalat Shabbat service at the First Station in Jerusalem

### **Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> Week**

**10:00** *"Religion as a conflict-exacerbating factor"*, **Ophir Yarden**

**11:45** *"Religion as a source of both war/violence and peace"*, **Ophir Yarden**

**13:30** Lunch break

**14:30 TBC** *"The Vatican and the State of Israel - from hostility to mutual respect"*, **Rabbi David Rosen KSG CBE**, Board of Directors, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), received a papal Knighthood in 2005 for his contribution to Jewish-Catholic reconciliation

### **Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> Week**

**10:30** *"Religion-based encounter and engagement initiatives: Theory and case-studies"*, **Ophir Yarden**

**12:30** Lunch Break

**13:30** *"Life under ISIS regime"* Lisa Miara, President Springs of Hope Foundation, international NGO based in Northern Iraq working on the ground, with victims of crimes against humanity and genocide

**15:15** Depart for Mosaica Center for Interreligious Cooperation

**16:00** *"Establishing a religious peace"*, **Rabbi Michael Melchior**, Chief Rabbi of Norway, former Minister and Deputy Foreign Minister of Israel and Founder of The Middle East Religious Peace Initiative

### **Week 6: 6<sup>th</sup> Week**

*TBC: This is the 2nd study visit to Jerusalem's old city - the program for this day depend on the places visited on 8*

**10:00** Presentation about Hebrew U Preparatory Program and and the [Kidma-Sadarah Program](#) for Arab speakers from East Jerusalem which prepares students from diverse multicultural backgrounds. Conversation with:

- **Temima Breuer**, Academic advisor for English speaking students
- **Hussam Shwriki**, Hebrew U arab students from East Jerusalem
- **Yael Teperman**, Participant in Seeds of Peace program

**11:30** Lunch Break

**12:30** visit to the **Mt. of Olives**, ancient Jewish cemetery overlooking the Old City that is described as the place from which Jesus ascended to heaven

**13:15** Gethsemane, place where Jesus prayed and his disciples slept the night before Jesus' crucifixion

**13:45** Entrance to **Old City** through **Lion Gate** and walk through the **Via Dolorosa**, the "Way of Sorrows" to Jesus' crucifixion

**15:00** Jewish quarter

### **Week 6: Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> Week**

**11:00** Interfaith panel organized in collaboration with Abrahamic Reunion:

- **Daniel Anton Micheal Aqleh**, Palestinian Christian, Evangelical Minister from Bethlehem
- **Eliyahu McLean**, co-director, Abrahamic Reunion
- **Haj Ibrahim Abuelhawa**, Palestinian Muslim Peacemaker from the Mt. of Olives, Director Ibrahim Peace House

**12:30 Lunch break**

**13:30 Presentation) by Shivi Froman**, Israeli human rights activist and co-founder of "Just Beyond Our Borders," a crowd-funding initiative for children in Syria, West Bank settlement of Tekoa son of the late Rabbi Menachem Froman

**15:30 Evaluation**

**16:30 Conclusion, Ophir Yarden**

**17:30** Closing session, **Javier Gelbwaser**

### **Week 6: Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> Week**

Departures

\*Itineraries are put together once the group has been confirmed so that we can take into account the interests and backgrounds of participants as well as the availability of speakers and organizations, many of which require the group details in order to confirm their participation and cannot commit a long time in advance due to their dynamic and busy agendas

We are in constant contact with national security authorities and check in with local authorities before visiting places and we change our programs accordingly when necessary. Due to insurance and security restrictions, until now, only one of our field trips has been to the West Bank, in Area C, which is under Israeli management and security.

Many participants have organized visits to other areas of the West Bank at their sole responsibility during free time. In order to overcome these limitations and include as many perspectives as possible, we have brought Palestinian and Israeli guest speakers from the West Bank to present their points of view in the classroom and organized Skype calls with Gaza and other countries in the Middle East.