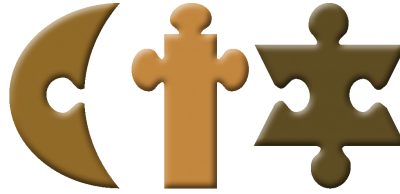


COEXISTENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST



Program – Summer 2010

Goals and Contents of the Course

The overall goal of this course is to grapple with the key issues of coexistence in Israel, enabling future leaders to interact with representatives of different religions and cultures.

The course will serve as an introduction to the challenges and complexities of coexistence in Israel - where civilizations, religions, national identities and ideologies converge. The seminar will focus on five major aspects of coexistence: the confluence of Western and Middle-Eastern civilizations; religious interactions among Christians, Muslims, and Jews; Israel's international relations with Arab countries; Palestinian-Israeli relations in Israel and in the region; and relations among individuals, based on "universal" values. During the seminar, conflicts will be personalized through interactions with representatives from many diverse groups, and through study visits to key sites. The lectures and discussions in the course will include geopolitical, historical, religious, cultural and humanistic perspectives. As part of the program, conflict-resolution programs will be evaluated and civil peace initiatives will be presented, in order to motivate participants' activism in their own countries.

This program is sponsored by the Israel National Commission for UNESCO and organized by the International Institute of Leadership in cooperation with the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel.

Scope: 45 academic hours (3 credits)

Language: The course will be held in English or Spanish according to group requirements

Students' Assignments and Grades:

Students' assignments include the following:

- A. 40% Active participation in the course
- B. 60% Submission of a term paper

Topics and Schedule of Classes and Study Visits*

June 30

18:00-20:00 Opening Session in classroom 201 in the Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University.

July 1

9:00 Introduction by Dr. Ron Kronish: Context and Perspectives

Jerusalem: The Center of Three Monotheistic Faiths

10:00-15:00 Tour of Jerusalem led by Ophir Yarden, Director of the Center for Interreligious Encounter with Israel of ICCI

15:30 Meeting at the Church of the Redeemer with local Christian leadership—Bishop Munib Younan (Lutheran), Rev. Fr. Goosan Aljanian (Armenian), etc.

17:30 Walk to Hebrew Union College

18:00 Cold drinks and snack

18:30 Meeting at Hebrew Union College with Rabbi Naama Kelman, Dean

July 4

8:30 Departure

Nationalism and the Creation of the State of Israel

Morning: Visit Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial

13:00 Return to Mt. Scopus

13:30-15:30 Two narratives: The Zionist narrative and the Palestinian narrative. Presentations by Gershon Baskin and Hanna Siniora of IPCRI, the Israel-Palestinian Center for Research and Information

July 8

8:30 Departure

Morning: Status Quo and the Security Barrier

Afternoon: Arab Population and Islam

12:00 Meet with Kadi Abdulhakim Samara, in his Shariah court in Baka El Gharbiyeh

14:00 Umm El Fahm. Meet with the director of a special art gallery. Learn about Muslim identity in Umm El Fahm

16:00 Drive to Abu Gosh

17:00 Meet with Issa Jabber, Director of Education of the Israeli-Arab town of Abu Gosh

19:00 Dinner on your own in Abu Gosh

20:00 Return to Jerusalem

July 11

8:00 Departure

Israel, the Middle East and the International Community

9:00-12:00 Visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Political lectures by Israeli diplomats:

Negotiating conflict resolution in the Middle East

Legal issues in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

13:30-15:30 Israeli politics

Panel by young politicians from Knesset parties

July 15

7:30 Departure

Hezbollah and Iran's Influence in Lebanon

The IDF: Visit to the "Machve Alon" military base, Education Force.

Meet with Yael Fenster, from Tel-Chai College

Meet with former Kiryat Shmona Mayor Haim Barbibai, about the Second Lebanon War.

Tour the northern border with Ben Lev-Kadesh

Night in Kibbutz Afikim, lecture about the Kibbutz system

July 16

8:00 Departure

Syria, the Golan Heights and the Galilee

The Golan Heights and their military and strategic importance, with Ben Lev-Kadesh

Meet with locals from Golan settlements: are they there forever?

Visit to Capernaum, the Jordan River and Nazareth, with Ben Lev-Kadesh

July 18

8:30 Departure

The Peace Process: Proposals and Prospects.

8:30-12:00 Tour around Jerusalem with Ir Amim guide, discussion about Jerusalem's future status, fences, etc.
13:30-15:30 Lecture by Saman Khoury, the Peace and Democracy Forum in East Jerusalem

July 22

7:30 Departure

Hamas and Gaza's Disengagement

Visit to Sapir College, meet with Dr. Ruth Eitan

Visit to the city of Sderot with Mr. Eran Landau

Visit to Ayalim Project in Moshav Iechini next to Sderot

Ride on Camel

Night in Kfar Hanokdim, Bedouin Tent, explanation about Bedouin life and customs

July 23

4:00 Departure

Climb the Masada Fortress and archeological site, its importance in Israeli society

Visit to the Dead Sea

July 25

8:30 Departure

Examples of dialogue and coexistence projects—meet with people at ICCI to learn about their experiences in dialogue and action projects, as well as people from the Parents' Circle - Families Forum—Bereaved Families Supporting Peace, Reconciliation and Tolerance

Conclusion

A wide range of perspectives will be offered by lecturers with diverse points of view and expertise in different fields:

- Academics and Specialists
- Israeli and Palestinian NGO Members
- Arab & Jewish Government Officials
- Members of Left- and Right-Wing Political Parties
- Military Staff and Civilian Population
- Christian, Jewish and Muslim Religious Leaders
- Youth and Young Adults engaged in coexistence programs

Academic director:

Dr. Ron Kronish holds a doctorate in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and a B.A. from Brandeis University, and has lived in Israel for 30 years. He has taught at Tel Aviv University and at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and has lectured at universities and conferences in many places around the world. For the past 18 years, he served as the Founder and Director of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel.

Reading Materials

JERUSALEM: THE CENTER OF THREE MONOTHEISTIC FAITHS

-- Ruth Lapidot, *Some Reflections on Jerusalem*, *Palestine-Israel Journal*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2007.

<http://www.pij.org/details.php?id=1044>

-- Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/MFAArchive/1980_1989/Basic%20Law-%20Jerusalem-%20Capital%20of%20Israel

-- Joseph Alpher, *Jerusalem in Israeli-Palestinian Relations, Expanding the Conversation*, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 2002.

http://rac.org/kd/Items/actions.cfm?action=Show&item_id=1005&destination=ShowItem

-- Rabbi Ron Kronish and Amy Kronish, *Is Jerusalem a Divided City? Torah at the Center*, Union for Reform Judaism, vol. II, no. 3, 2008.. http://urj.org/kd/temp/2FE49D72-00C6-3448-62873985E2C90A5F/TATC_Aug2008.pdf

See pp. 16-17

-- Maps of Jerusalem, Ir Amim
<http://www.ir-amim.org.il/eng/?CategoryID=162>

NATIONALISM AND THE CREATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

- Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel
<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Peace%20Process/Guide%20to%20the%20Peace%20Process/Declaration%20of%20Establishment%20of%20State%20of%20Israel>
- Rabbi Ron Kronish, *Notes from a Humanist, Liberal Zionist: A Personal Perspective*, published by the Presbyterian Church, USA, Middle East Study Report, March 2010.
<http://www.pcusa.org/middleeastpeace/pdf/part3a1.pdf>
- Jamal Najjab, *Waging Peace: Developing a Dual Israeli-Palestinian Historical Narrative*, Washington Report on Middle East Affairs, May-June, 2007.
<http://www.wrmea.com/component/content/article/310-2007-may-june/9232-waging-peace-developing-a-dual-is>
- Benny Morris, *The Rejection, The New Republic*, April 17, 2003, book review of *The Palestinian People: A History* by Baruch Kimmerling and Joel S. Migdal.
http://www.powells.com/review/2003_04_17.html

TWO NARRATIVES—A PALESTINIAN NARRATIVE AND A JEWISH NARRATIVE

- Amos Oz, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, Mariner Books (paperback), 2005.
- Sari Nusseibeh, *Once Upon a Country, a Palestinian Life*, Picador (paperback), 2008.

EXAMPLES OF DIALOGUE AND COEXISTENCE PROJECTS

- Jessica Berns with Mari Fitzduff, *What is Coexistence and Why a Complementary Approach?* in *Coexistence International*, July 2007,
http://www.brandeis.edu/coexistence/linked%20documents/What%20is%20Coex%20and%20Why_FINAL%20template.pdf
- Ron Kronish, *Interreligious Dialogue in the Service of Peace*, in *Crosscurrents*, summer 2008, vol. 58, no. 2, <http://www.accessmylibrary.com/article-1G1-191184448/interreligious-dialogue-service-peace.html>
- Mohammad Dajani *Big Dreams/Small Hope: a Peace Vision* in *Crosscurrents*, summer 2008 Vol 58. no. 2, http://books.google.com/books?id=_bIOMtJUR0kC&pg=PA39&lpg=PA39&dq=big+dream+small+hope

Bibliography

Books

Michael B. Oren, *Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East*. Oxford University Press, 2002. **ISBN 019515174-7**

Sari Nusseibeh and Anthony David, *Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life*, written with Anthony David. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, London: Halban Publishers, 2007. **ISBN 978-1905559053**

Amos Oz, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*. Harcourt, 2003. **ISBN 0151008787**

Walter Laquer and Barry Rubin, Editors, *The Israel-Arab Reader. A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*. Penguin Books, 1995. **ISBN 978-0143113799**

Marc Gopin, *Holy War, Holy Peace: How Religion Can Bring Peace to the Middle East*. Oxford University Press. New York, 2002. **ISBN 978-0195181036**

Hirsh Goodman, *Let Me Create a Paradise, God Said to Himself: A Journey of Conscience from Johannesburg to Jerusalem*. Public Affairs, New York, 2005. **ISBN 978-1586482435**

Baruch Kimmerling and Joel S. Migdal, *Palestinians: The Making of a People*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1993. **ISBN 978-0674652231**

John Paul Lederach, *Building Peace: Sustainable Reconciliation in Divided Societies*. United States Institute of Peace, Washington DC, 1997. **ISBN 978-1878379733**

Articles

Martin Gilbert. "Mapping the Dispute". *Reform Judaism magazine*, Fall 2002

Rabbi Amy Klein. "Islam in Israel and Palestine". *Jewish Currents*, Spring 2010.

Ron Kronish and Amy Kronish. "Is Jerusalem a Divided City?" in "*Torah at the Center*". Union for Reform Judaism, Summer 2008.

Ronald Kronish, "Interreligious Dialogue in the Service of Peace". *Crosscurrents*, Summer 2008.

Rabbi Dr. Ronald Kronish. "Interreligious Dialogue as Method of Peace-Building in Israel and Palestine" Article to be published in *The Journal of Interreligious Dialogue* in October 2010.

Peace Now, Settlements Watch Team. *The West Bank –Population Map*. July 2008.

Students will be asked to read *The Jerusalem Post* and *HaAretz* every day during the period of the course.

Students will be asked to read *The Jerusalem Report* during the time of the course.