



*Experience the challenge of human diversity...*

### University Seminar in Israel

Summer '10 / Winter '10

“Coexistence in the Middle East” is an initiative that promotes coexistence through the training of future leaders using academic and experiential seminars that allow direct contact with different cultures.

The program serves as an introduction to the challenges and complexities of coexistence in Israel - where civilizations, religions, nations and ideologies converge. The seminar focuses on five major types of coexistence: the confluence of Western and Middle-Eastern civilizations; religious interactions among Christians, Muslims, and Jews; Israel's international relations with Arab and Muslim countries; Palestinian-Israeli relations; and the coexistence among individuals, based on "universal" values originated in the Middle East. During the seminar, conflicts are humanized through interactions with representatives from several opposing groups, and through visits to key sites. All topics are analyzed from geopolitical, historical, cultural and human perspectives. Throughout the program, conflict-resolution proposals are evaluated in situ, and civil peace initiatives are presented, in order to motivate participants' activism in their own countries.

The seminar is taught in Israel by the International Institute of Leadership, with over 50,000 alumni from over 140 countries. It is intended for students majoring in all areas, especially social science and humanities students. Different versions of the program are available to suit the needs and interests of participants.

### Joint Program with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

This special program offers 3 academic credits (45 academic hours) by the Rothberg International School (RIS) of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ). The program's study visits are organized in collaboration with the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel, and are distributed amongst a 4-week period, enabling participants to enroll in one of the following additional summer courses at the HUJ:

- Conflict Resolution from Theory to Practice: Israel as a Case Study
- The Middle East and the World: International Relations
- Public International Law: The Case of Jerusalem

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem is rated among the 100 best universities in the world and six of its faculty members and alumni have been awarded the Nobel Prize in the last 5 years. Founded in 1925 by such personalities as Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud, the University is today an example of successful coexistence, where faculty members and the student population coming from various religions, races and ethnical origins collaborate together to contribute to human knowledge.

# Tentative Program

## Day 1 - Introduction: Context and Perspectives

Arrival and Reception:

Seminar opening, presentation of the program and logistics.

Introductory Session: "Coexistence at the meeting point of people, religions and civilizations." Analysis of a reality comprising different viewpoints based on different justifications, such as religion, history, international law, security, human rights and geopolitical, social and religious aspects.



*Photo: Jerusalem's Old City*

## Day 2 - Status Quo and Dimensions

Visit to the security barrier between Israel and the West Bank. Study of its impact on the conflict and its significance from the Israeli and Palestinian points of view, including a visit to Tzur Igal, a Jewish village located next to Kalkilya, a Palestinian city. Presentation of the dilemmas that have arisen as a result of the construction and outline of the fence.

Panoramic view of the narrowest part of the State of Israel. Discussion of the strategic problem of territorial depth. Visit to Kfar Saba, a typical Israeli town, and a reflection upon the normality of life in a country that has suffered terrorist attacks and multiple wars.



*Photo: Inspection point between the West Bank and Israel*

## Day 3 - Jerusalem: Center of Three Monotheistic Faiths

Analysis of relations among Christians, Jews and Muslims in the "".

Visit to holy sites in Jerusalem. Panoramic view from the Mount of Olives. Walk through the Via Dolorosa and the Holy Sepulchre Church, site of Jesus' crucifixion, entombment and resurrection. Visit the Temple Mount, home of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, the holiest place for Judaism and third in importance for Islam. Tour the Jewish Quarter, the Christian Quarter, and the Arab Market.

Meeting with a Christian priest who will share his views on coexistence from a Christian perspective.

*Photo: Church of the Holy Sepulcher*



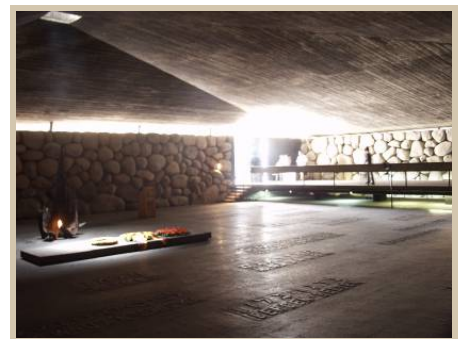
## Day 4 - Nationalism and the Creation of the State of Israel

Examination of the rise of nationalist movements and in particular Zionism, which brought about the creation of the State of Israel.

Visit to the Holocaust Memorial Museum (Yad Vashem). Tour of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ). Analysis of the importance of the HUJ in the creation and the development of the State of Israel, its role as a coexistence point between Arabs and Jews, and its great contribution to human knowledge.

Visit to a synagogue, where a discussion will be held with a rabbi about the principles and values of Judaism, as well as coexistence from a Jewish perspective.

*Photo: Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum*



## Day 5 - Israel, the Middle East and the International Community

Study of the modern State of Israel and its challenges emerging from its self-definition as Jewish and democratic in a region occupied by Arab and Muslim states with non-democratic governments.

Visit to Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and meet with diplomatic officials, who will address the following Issues: the relationship between Israel and the international community; the Middle East and the Iranian nuclear program; and importance of the media and its impact in the conflict.

Discussion panel on the vision of the State of Israel and its future, with participants from several political parties and sectors of Israel's population.

*Photo: Lecture at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.*



## Day 6 - Peace with Jordan, Massada and the Dead Sea\*

Assessment of the region's importance during the great empires' conquests. Study the rebellions against the Romans, the end of Jewish autonomy and the beginning of the Diaspora.

Visit to the Judean Desert, including a Bedouin welcome and showcase of their nomadic traditions in the desert as well as a camel ride. Overnight in the desert in a Bedouin tent. Ascent to the fortress constructed by Herod on Massada. Observation of the sunrise over the Judean Desert, the Dead Sea and Jordan.

Analysis of the relations between Israel and Jordan and the mutual benefits of their peace treaty. Descend to the lowest point on Earth and swim in the Dead Sea.

*Photo: Camel ride in the Judean Desert.*



## Day 7 - Syria, the Golan Heights and the Galilee\*

Analysis of the conflict between Israel and Syria. Visit to the Golan Heights, a key strategic territory for both countries, due to its military importance and it being a major water source.

Study of the origins of Christianity. Visit to the Galilee, cradle of the Christian religion. Tour of Nazareth, where Jesus was raised, a city which today has an Arab majority. Visit to the Basilica of the Annunciation and Saint Joseph Church; the Jordan River, where Jesus' baptism took place; the Shrine of the Beatitudes, where Jesus gave a sermon on the Mount; and the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus was said to have walked on water.

*Photo: Sea of Galilee*



## Day 8 - Hezbollah and Iran's Influence in Lebanon\*

Examination of Islamic fundamentalism after the second Lebanon War, within the context of the Hezbollah and Iran in Lebanon. Visit to Israel's northern border and areas that were bombed during the war., Meeting with government officials and civilian population in Kiryat Shmona, the most northern city in Israel.

Study of the role of young people in Israel today. Visit to a military base in Israel, including a meeting with young soldiers of university age. Presentation of volunteer projects created by university students for the development of conflict zones and the integration of different sectors of the population. Reflection on youth's role in the shaping of a country.

*Photo: Encounter with soldiers at an Army Base*



## Day 9 - Arab Population and Islam\*

Analysis of the situation of the Arab minority followed by a presentation of the identity dilemmas resulting from being Muslim or Christian, Palestinian, part of the Arab nation and having Israeli citizenship.

Visit to Arab towns and encounter with the civilian population. Meeting with students and professors at a Muslim educational institution. Typical Arab meal and a meeting with Arab authorities.

Visit to a Mosque and encounter with an Imam, who will explain Islamic principles and values as well as the Islamic vision of coexistence with other religions.

*Photo: Arab prayer at Acco's Great Mosque*



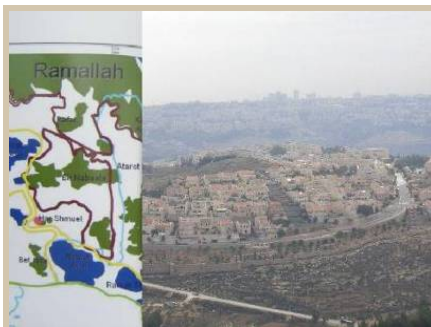
## Day 10 - Peace Process: Proposals and Obstacles

Analysis of the peace process and its challenges.

Presentation of "The Geneva Initiative," a Palestinian-Israeli proposal for the resolution of the conflict, and comparison with actual situation. Meeting with Palestinian and Israeli officials of the initiative.

Observation and analysis of Jerusalem's suburbs and Jewish settlements in the West Bank, as well as the Old City and East Jerusalem.

*Photo: View of Ramallah and Jewish settlements.*





## Day 11 - Hamas and Gaza's Disengagement\*

Analysis of the situation after the unilateral withdrawal from the Jewish settlements in Gaza and the ascent of Hamas' power. Visit to the security barrier around the Gaza strip border.

Visit to the city of Sderot, including a meeting with authorities and local residents living under daily terror. Meeting with Jewish settlers evacuated from Gaza in 2005 to hear their stories and opinions with regard to possible future evacuations from the West Bank.



*Photo: View of Gaza.*

## Day 12 - Examples of Coexistence\*

Presentation of different initiatives of the civilian population to promote coexistence and peace in which both Israelis and Palestinians participate.

Organizations such as youth movements with Arab and Jewish members and educational projects of Jewish students in Arab cities and the Forum of Bereaved Parents, an organization whose members are Palestinian and Israeli parents who have lost children in the conflict, which promotes dialogue as a solution.



*Photo: Arab and Jewish children in the mixed school Kfar Kara.*

## Day 13 - Conclusion\*

End of program and feedback session.

Closing ceremony and distribution of diplomas.

Beginning of complementary programs to Egypt and Jordan



*Photo: Closing ceremony at the International Institute of Leadership*

\* Day not included in the 7-day program

This itinerary is tentative and is subject to change due to the profile of the group, security situation and relevancy of the topics.

## Complementary Trips - Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Egypt

Due to its pluralistic vision, the program encourages visits to the Palestinian Authority and other countries in the Middle East to complement the experience of this seminar. The Institute is not authorized to organize excursions into territory under the control of the Palestinian Authority or to other countries; thus the service is provided independently of our seminar and we are not liable for it.

Participants will be able to visit Bethlehem during one of their leisure days. Registration for this trip will take place in Jerusalem at the beginning of the seminar.

Participants may also wish to visit Cairo or Petra at the end of the program. Registration for such tours should be made on-line. Additional information will be provided on the website.

## Faculty and Lecturers

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The program will be taught by experts in different fields with diverse points of view. It is our intention to incorporate people who are actively involved in the life of the country, but since the situation is constantly evolving the encounters and lecturers can only be finalized as we approach the starting dates of the seminar. Below is a list of some of the faculty members and lecturers who participated in these courses:

### Academics

- Dr. Judith Bóxer, Director of the Political Science Post Graduate studies at UNAM
- José Benarroch, Department of Public Relations, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Dr. Arie Kacowicz, Professor of International Relations at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Dr. Mario Sznajder, Professor of political science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Dr. Waseem Younis, Lecturer at the Al-Qasemi Islamic College

### Activists and NGO members

- Aaron Barnea, Member of Families Forum of Bereaved Parents
- Loren Becic, Friends association of Gush Katif (Evacuated Jewish settlement from Gaza)
- Dr. Ron Kronish, The Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel
- Saman Khoury: Palestinian member of the Directors committee of the Geneva initiative
- Michal Radoshitzky, Director of Foreign affairs at the Geneva initiative

### Government Officials

- Sammir Bataj, Arab member of the Municipal Council of the Akko prefecture
- Jaim Barbian, Mayor of the city of Kiryat Shmona, border town with Lebanon
- Daniel Kutner, Director of Palestinian and Jordan issues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Alex Miler, Member of “The Knesset”, The Israeli Parliament
- Yigal Palmor, Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ilan Sztulman, Adjunct director of the Information and Informatics Department at the MFA
- Zoher Yahia, President of the Municipal Council of Kfar Kara

### Members of Political Parties

- Davidi Hermelin, President of Young Likud Congress
- Amos Lerer, religious Jewish settler in the West Bank
- Dror Mizrahi, Youth director of the Meretz political party
- Eyal Raviv, member of the Labor political party
- Nimer Sultani, Arab Human Rights activist. Post-graduate law studies at Harvard University

### Military Staff

- Colonel Michael Cirulnik, Chief Commander of the commercial route between Gaza and Israel
- Shadi Kaseem Grafat, Bedouin official of the Israeli Army in charge of minorities in the Army
- Lieutenant Zerem Bet, Platoon commander of the Israeli Army who had missions in the Gaza Strip

### Religious Leaders

- Shej Sammie Haasi, Imam from the Great Mosque of Akko
- Dr. David Neuhaus, Jesuit priest, professor at the Priest seminar at Bethlehem University
- Jaim D. Zuckerwar, orthodox Rabbi

### Specialists

- Elias L. Benarroch, Correspondent of the EFE agency in Israel
- Meir Javedanfar, Middle East analyst with Iranian origins
- Mark Levi, Historian, member of Kibbutz Zikim

## Versions, Dates, and Prices

Different versions of the program are available to suit the needs and interests of participants. The itinerary may be combined with leisure and class days and its order may change according to the version and dates selected. All versions of the program, except for the 7 day-program, include all of the tour days.

Version	Duration	Summer '10	Winter '10	Total Fees (without flight)
<b>Jerusalem</b>	7 days	05/Jun/10 - 11/Jun/10 03/Jul/10 - 09/Jul/10 31/Jul/10 - 06/Aug/10	04/Dec/10 - 10/Dec/10 26/Dec/10 - 1/Jan/11 15/Jan/11 - 21/Jan/11	US \$950
<b>Israel and its borders</b>	15 days	05/Jun/10 - 19/Jun/10 03/Jul/10 - 17/Jul/10 31/Jul/10 - 14/Aug/10	04/Dec/10 - 18/Dec/10 26/Dec/10 - 9/Jan/11 15/Jan/11 - 29/Jan/11	US \$1,950
<b>Joint Program with the HU (1 curses)*</b>	4 weeks	29/Jun/10 - 27/Jul/10		US \$2,240
<b>Joint Program with the HU (2 curses)*</b>	4 weeks	29/Jun/10 - 27/Jul/10		US \$3,140

\*Course at Rothberg International School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.( 3 academic credits - 45 academic hours)

A minimum number of participants must register for a seminar to take place. The price of the seminar is subject to change without advance notice.

## The Program Includes:

- ✦ Accommodations for the duration of the program in shared rooms
- ✦ 3 meals (Only in the one and two weeks programs)
- ✦ Course fees
- ✦ Participation in study and tourist visits listed in this document
- ✦ Airport transfers in Israel during the first and last day of each version
- ✦ Basic travelers health insurance for the duration of the seminar inside Israel\*\*

\*Does not include transportations, visits, lunches and dinners during days of leisure

\*\*Does not cover optical or dental treatment, or treatment of chronic illnesses and pre-existing conditions. The insurance coverage does not extend into territories under the Palestinian Authority

## Requirements

- ✦ Minimum 18 years of age and have begun studying towards a university degree
- ✦ If you are currently not enrolled in a university, you must have graduated in the last 5 years or be a member of a university faculty
- ✦ It is essential that you travel with your own Travelers and Health Insurance in addition to basic travelers health insurance provided by us.
- ✦ Possession of a valid passport for at least 6 months following the conclusion of the seminar
- ✦ Participants of some countries will require a tourist visa in order to enter Israel.

## Application Process

**Registration deadline:** Summer '09: 5/Apr/2010 Winter '10: 5/Oct/2010

Those interested in participating should register at [www.coexistencetrip.net](http://www.coexistencetrip.net) and complete the application process to the deadline. For more information please visit the website.

We recommend registering as soon as possible, since there are limited places available and we will give priority to those who submit their application on a first-come-first-serve basis.

**For More Information:**

[www.coexistencetrip.net](http://www.coexistencetrip.net)

[info@coexistencetrip.net](mailto:info@coexistencetrip.net)