



## Tentative itinerary\* | July Session 2019

\*Subject to change: 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 to be split among all three programs as indicated by the colors below:

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

■ **Narratives and Realities: Inside the Israeli Palestinian Conflict | July 2-23,2019**  
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 | July 2-23,2019**  
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 August 1-14,2019**  
3 credits - 45 academic hours | [Syllabus](#) | [Website](#) | Instructor: Dr. Daniel Roth

Rabbi Dr. Daniel Roth is the Director of the Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution in Jerusalem and teaches religion and peacebuilding at Bar-Ilan U. and Tel Aviv U. He's the founder of several interfaith initiatives and a regular lecturer of National Geographic and MEJDI (multi-narrative) Tours. Roth is a senior research fellow at George Mason University's Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution

## Monday, July 1, 2019 - Arrival

- 8:30** Mandatory Registration opens - Welcome to Jerusalem!
- 15:00** Mandatory Registration ends
- 15:30** Campus Tour
- 16:30** Orientation Session
- 18:00** Shopping Trip

## Tuesday, July 2, 2019 - New Opportunities and Challenges in a Changing Middle East (RIS 200)

- 8:00** Opening Session and Introduction:
  - Javier Gelwaser**, Program Director
  - Gil Novick**, [International Institute of Leadership](#)
- 9:00** "Introduction to the Middle East, Spring and other Seasons," **Dr. Nir Boms**
- 12:00** Lunch Break
- 13:30** Introduction Lecture - The Complex Israeli Palestinian Relationship - trying to understand this conflict, **Dr. Gershon Baskin**
- 15:00** Panel - "Two Narratives, Two Peoples, One Land:"
  - "The Israeli Narrative," **Aryeh Green**
  - "The Palestinian Narrative," **Elias Zananiri, Deputy Head, PLO Committee for Interaction with Israeli society**
- 17:00** Practical Jerusalem Tour and Pub hangout - Optional\*

## Thursday, July 4, 2019 - Northern Threats: Syria, Hezbollah and the Islamic State (ISIS)

- 7:30** Departure from the [Student Village South Gate](#)
- 10:00** Visit to Nahariya Hospital: "Treatment of Syrians Wounded in the Civil War and Coexistence in the Galilee"
  - Dr. Tsadok Lior**, TMJ Surgeon at [Galilee Medical Center](#) in Nahariya
  - Tour of the hospital facilities, including the bombproof 450 bed underground medical facility with **Sharon Mann**, Galilee Medical Center International Affairs Department Liaison.
- 13:00** Meeting with **Jonathan Elkhoury**, a Lebanese Christian refugee living in Israel and the son of a former [South Lebanon Army](#) (SLA) officer.
- 14:00** Lunch at the hospital
- 15:10** Lookout to Lebanese border at Metula
- 20:00** Summary and Discussion with **Dr. Nir Boms** at Alonei Habashan
- 20:30** Skype call from Syria with **Ahed al Hendi**, a Syrian descendant.  
Overnight stay at Alonei Habashan

## Friday, July 5, 2019 - Syrian Civil War, the Golan Heights & the Druze Minority in Israel

- 8:00** Departure
- 8:30** Visit to Har Bental Viewpoint of Al Quneitra in Syria. Briefing of the Syrian war and Israeli humanitarian efforts.
- 10:00** Visit the Druze village of Bukata at the Golan Heights and meeting with Head of Council, **Abbas Awad** and **Roaa Khater TBC**, a Druze community leader. Explanation about the Druze people in the Golan, their traditions; their political status in Israel and their contact with Syria today.
- 13:30** Return to Jerusalem
- 19:00** Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat

## Sunday, July 7, 2019 - Iran Post-Nuclear Agreement and the Changing Geopolitical Arena (Mandel Auditorium)

- 9:30** "Iran Post-Nuclear Agreement and the Changing Geopolitical Arena," **Dr. Nir Boms**
- 10:00** Skype call with **Shayan Arya**, expert on Iran and a human rights and political activist. He has been elected to the central committee of the Constitutionalist Party of Iran (Liberal Democrat) where he is currently serving his third term.
- 12:30** Lunch Break
- 13:30** "From non-recognition to Peace Process Failures," **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** An in-depth look at Jerusalem - the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - The Geopolitics of Contemporary Jerusalem, **Attorney and Jerusalem Expert Danny Seideman**
- 17:30** End of Session

## Monday, July 8, 2019 (Optional\*\*)

- 14:00** Neve Shalom Coexistence Village - Organized by the Office of Student Life
  - Price 1 point. Mandatory registration in RIS 401-404
  - Limited spaces available

## Tuesday, July 9, 2019 - Learning from the Past and Educating for the Future

**7:45** Departure

**8:15 - 11:15** Visit to [Yad Vashem](#), the World Holocaust Remembrance Museum.

**12:00** Return to Mt. Scopus, Lunch Break

**13:30** What could an Israeli Palestinian agreement look like and what alternatives exist? **Dr. Gershon Baskin (Mandel 530)**

**14:45** "Incitement and Textbooks," **Arnon Groiss** (Gershon), Assistant to Arabic Radio Director at [Israel Broadcasting Authority](#)

**15:45** "Peace and Education in Palestine," **Prof. Mohammed Dajani-Daoudi**

## Thursday, July 11, 2019 - The International Community and the Middle East (Mandel 530)

**8:30** Dissidents and New Media - Challenges and Opportunities from Egypt and Beyond, **Dr. Nir Boms**

**10:00** Meeting with international Diplomat (TBC)

**11:45** Lunch break

**12:45** Departure

**13:30** Meeting with representatives of the US Embassy in Jerusalem (TBC) at the US Cultural Center in Jerusalem

**14:30** Visit to the UN Headquarters in Jerusalem.

**15:00** "Regional Change and International Politics: A View From the UN," **Jonathan Eshpar**, Senior Political Affairs Officer, UNSCO (Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process).

## Sunday, July 14, 2019 - Status Quo and Dimensions: Israel and the West Bank

**7:15** Meeting at South Gate

**7:30** Tour of the Security Fence/Wall led by **Col. (Reserve) Danny Tirza**, IDF's chief architect of the Security Fence and former territorial and border adviser to late Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

**11:30** Meeting with a Palestinian and an Israeli member of "[Roots](#)," a group based in the West Bank area of Gush Etzion to promote dialogue and trust between Israelis, settlers and Palestinians as a path to peace.

- **Noor Awwad**, Palestinian peace activist and proponent of nonviolence

- **Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger Shaul Judelman**, Israeli settler and peace activist

**14:00** Lunch Break

- 15:00** Return to Mt. Scopus (**Mandel Auditorium**) - lecture by Israeli security person - someone from Commanders for Israel's security (TBC) Discussion on security aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and peace process.
- 16:30** The Gilead Schalit Story, **Dr. Gershon Baskin**
- 17:30** End of Activities

## Tuesday, July 16, 2019 - An Israeli View of a Changing Region

- 8:30** Departure from the Student Village
- 9:00** Visit to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Presentations:
  - **Ifat Reshef**, Head of bureau of Middle East Affairs, MFA.
  - **Uri Resnik**, Division for Asia and the Pacific, MFA.
- 12:00** Visit to the Supreme Court of Justice
- 13:30** Lunch break at Mt. Scopus
- 14:30** Political Parties and Elections in Israel, **Dr. Gershon Baskin (Mandel 530)**
- 15:45** Gaza Today and Tomorrow, **Dr Gershon Baskin**
- 17:00** Skype conversation with residents of Gaza: **Majd Ismail Mashharawi**, local entrepreneur (TBC),
- 17:40** End of activities
  
- 19:00** (Optional\*\*) Ultra-Ortodox Tour - Organized by the Office of Student Life
  - Price 1 point. Mandatory registration in RIS 401-404
  - Limited spaces available

## Thursday, July 18, 2019 - Hamas, Gaza, and the Surrounding Israeli Towns

- 7:30** Departure from Student Village
- 10:00** Visit to Erez Crossing - border crossing for people between Israel and Gaza. Explanation about security situation and procedures. Meeting with the head of the crossing station, **Mr. Shlomo Tzaban**
- 12:00** Visit to Kibbutz Nahal Oz, just 800 meters from Gaza city. Meeting with local resident **Mrs. Yael Lehiani**.
- 13:15** Lunch time in Sderot
- 14:30** Tour of Sderot (TBC)
- 17:00** Departure to the Bedouin Tent.(Optional)
- 18:30** Arrival to the Bedouin Tent. Explanation about Bedouin culture. Dinner (included) and social activity. Overnight in Bedouin tent in sleeping bags.

## Friday, July 19, 2019 - Jordan, Masada, and the Dead Sea (Optional)

- 5:10** Departure to Masada historical site.
- 6:00** 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.
- 8:30** Return to the Bedouin tent, Breakfast and Camel ride in the Judean Desert.
- 11:30** Descent to the lowest point on earth and a swim in the Dead Sea.
- 14:30** Return to Jerusalem

## Sunday, July 21, 2019 - Dissidents and New Media - Challenges and Opportunities (RIS 300 or Mandel 521)

- 13:00** Role Play - Planning and Peace activity and negotiations, **Dr. Gershon Baskin.**
- 14:30** Simulation of Negotiations, **Dr. Gershon Baskin.**
- 16:00** Break
- 16:30** "A Failed Spring or a New Horizon? Assessing the 'Arab Fall' and the Arab Peace Initiative," **Dr. Nir Boms**
- 17:30** "Simulation and Conclusions: Israel & Post-Arab Spring Course," **Dr. Nir Boms**
- 19:30** End of activities

## Monday, July 22, 2019 (Optional\*\*)

- 14:00** Tel Aviv Pride Tour - Organized by the Office of Student Life
  - Price 1 point. Mandatory registration in RIS 401-404
  - Limited spaces available

## Tuesday, July 23, 2019 - Between Axis of Peace and Axis of War (Mandel 530)

- 9:00** **Women wage peace (TBC) - Gershon**
- 10:00** Negotiations, Agreements, Implementation, A look towards the future, **Dr. Gershon Baskin**
- 11:00** Feedback and Evaluations, **Javier Gelwaser**
- 12:00** Lunch Break
- 13:00** Meeting with **Mazen Faraj** and **Rami Elhanan**, Palestinian and Israeli members of the [Parents' Circle - Family Forum \(PCFF\)](#), a grassroots organization of bereaved Palestinians and Israelis.
- 15:45** Final Remarks, Closing Ceremony and Certificates for July Session
- 17:00** End of program

## August 1 - 14 - Religion in the Holy Land Course (TBA)

\*Optional activities are not formally part of the program and are organized by external organizations that have invited our group to their activities or that are open to the public. Some of them have a participation fee and require participants to arrange their own transportation.