



Coexistence in the Middle East (SPME209)

Dr Ronen Zeidel

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June 26 – July 26, 2011

Sun: 9:00am - 15:30pm - Thu: 9:00am - 20:00pm

45 Academic Hours, 3 Academic Credits

For further information about this program, please refer to the following [PDF file](#) or to our website www.coexistencetrip.net

Course Description

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:

1. The confluence of Western and Middle-Eastern civilizations
2. Religious interactions among Christians, Muslims, and Jews
3. Israel's international relations with Arab countries
4. Palestinian-Israeli relations in Israel and in the region
5. 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. 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 in cooperation with the International Institute of Leadership.

Course Requirements

No previous experience or knowledge is necessary and the course is open to every student with interest in the modern Middle East.

Students' Assignments and Grades:

- A. 30% - Active participation in the course. This will be based on interactive dynamics and an intensive reading of theoretical, historical, and “actuality” texts.
- B. 70% - Submission of a term paper. The essay will not exceed 3000 words. Students will present the outline of their paper in the last two weeks of classes.

Language:

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

Course and Study Visits Outline

June 29	Introduction: Context and Perspectives
June 30	Jerusalem: Center of Three Monotheistic Faiths
July 3	Nationalism and the Creation of the State of Israel
July 7	Status Quo and Dimensions: The Security Barrier
July 7	Arab Population and Islam
July 10	Israel, the Middle East and the International Community
July 14	Hezbollah and Iran's Influence in Lebanon
July 15	Syria, the Golan Heights and the Galilee
July 17	Peace Process: Proposals and Obstacles
July 21	Hamas and Gaza's Disengagement
July 22	Peace with Jordan, Masada and the Dead Sea
July 24	Examples of Coexistence
July 24	Conclusion

*This itinerary is tentative and subject to changes.

For a detailed description of the activities please refer to the following link:

<http://coexistencetrip.net/index.php?cs=13&cp=itinerary>.

Lecturers with diverse points of view and expertise in many different fields will offer a wide range of perspectives. Lecturers will include:

- 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

For list of lecturers and speakers please refer to the following link:

<http://coexistencetrip.net/index.php?cs=13&cp=regularContent&contid=4>

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

-- 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>

-- 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

--Mohammad Dajani *Big Dreams/Small Hope: a Peace Vision* in *Crosscurrents*, summer 2008 Vol 58. no. 2, <http://books.google.com/books?id=blOMtJUR0kC&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**

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.

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.