



Rothberg International School  
בית הספר לתלמידים מחו"ל ע"ש רוטברג  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM  
האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים



## **Religion in the Holy Land: Faith's Role in Peace and Conflict (48891)**

*Course Instructors: Dr. Mostafa Elostaz and Dr. Daniel Roth*  
registration@coexistencetrip.net

Summer Semester: August 1-14, 2019  
45 Academic Hours, 3 Academic Credits

*This course can be taken as a single course or as a component of the 9-credit program **Coexistence in the Middle East** (CME), which is comprised of the following three courses:*

- *Narratives and Realities: Inside the Israeli Palestinian Conflict*
- *Israel and the New Middle East: An Interactive View of the Post-Arab Spring*
- *Religion in the Holy Land: Faith's Role in Peace and Conflict*

*Since these courses are designed to complement each other we strongly recommend participants to enroll in the three courses.*

### **Course Description**

Thought by some in the West to be a fading phase in human history, religion has proved to be a potent force in world conflict but also an inspiration for peace. With over half of humanity adhering to “Abrahamic Faiths,” the Middle East has been at the vortex of religion-related conflict for a millennia and still is in the 21st century. The continuing Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as phenomena, including ISIS, the Syrian civil war, and mass refugees, demonstrate the presence of religion in the realms of war and peace.

Based in Jerusalem, a city cherished – and disputed – by Christianity, Islam, and Judaism, this course analyzes the role of religion vis-a-vis peace and conflict. Through discussions with religious leaders and interfaith activists, visits to holy sites, and the study of different interpretations and theological perspectives, participants will gain insight into the contradictory roles of religion as both an obstacle to peace and a resource for peacemaking.

### **Course Instructors**

Dr. Mostafa Elostaz is the head of the human rights and international law department at Al Quds Bard College. Professor Elostaz's work focuses on free speech, citizenship, and Islam and human rights. He is part of the Geneva Initiative and has been part of a Palestinian team working on

"dealing with the past." Prof. Elostaz holds a juris doctor degree from the Ohio State University, and a master's in international studies, with focus on the Middle East, from the University of Washington.

Rabbi Dr. Daniel Roth is the director of the Pardes Center for Judaism and Conflict Resolution in Jerusalem. Roth teaches at Bar-Ilan University's Conflict Resolution, Management and Negotiation Graduate Program, and at Tel Aviv University's International Program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation. Roth is the founder of the Jewish Week of Constructive Conflict, the Israeli Week of Mediation and Dialogue, and a regular lecturer of MEJDI (multi-narrative) Tours and National Geographic. Roth was a senior research fellow at George Mason University's Center for World Religions, Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution. He holds a Ph.D. from Bar-Ilan University's Conflict.

### **Site Visits and Meetings**

Through multiple field trips and encounters, this program offers the unique opportunity to gain first-hand access to key places and regional actors. Subject to the availability of guest speakers, participants will have the opportunity to meet with:

- Jewish, Muslim and Christian religious leaders
- Pilgrims and believers at holy sites
- Interfaith and NGO activists
- Academic and professional figures

Field trips and encounters will be finalized at a later date. As a reference only, participants may refer to the [tentative itinerary](#) for the Coexistence in the Middle East program. Please note that field trips in the itinerary are split among all [three CME Summer Courses](#).

### **List of Topics to be explored**

The following list of topics might be updated due to the dynamic character of the Middle East and our intention to focus on the current issues in the region:

#### Unit 1: Introduction to Religion as a Force for Peace or Conflict?

- A. Introduction to Religion and Peacebuilding
- B. Introduction to Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- C. Understanding Conflicting Religious Narratives

#### Unit 2. Religious Models of Peace and Conflict Resolution in text, theory and practice

- A. Salam in Islam
- B. Shalom in Judaism
- C. Peace in Christianity

#### Unit 3: Religious Aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

- A. Judaism between Rabbinic Quietism and Zionist Nationalism

- B. Islam and Palestinian Nationalism - a misconception?
- C. Conflict over holy sites: The Temple Mount, Haram el Sharif and the Holy Land

#### Unit 4: Religion and Conflict as a Regional and Global Issue

- A. Religious Terrorism: ISIS, radical Islam, and islamophobia
- B. Religion in politics: The Syrian war - Shia and Sunni relations in the Middle East

#### Unit 5: Religious Peacebuilding Initiatives

- A. The theory of Religious Peacebuilding and case-studies
- B. Grassroots interfaith and religious peacebuilding projects

### **Grading & Course Requirements**

Participants who do not require academic credits will be exempt from these requirements and will be able to obtain an active participation certificate.

- **25% Reading and class participation**
- **75% Term Paper.** There will be two parts to the paper one relating to Judaism and the other to Islam. Each part should be between 1000 to 1,500 words. Paper outlines will be presented in the last two weeks of class. **Papers must be submitted no later than two weeks after the last class.**

It is mandatory for students to attend all classes, guest lectures, field trips, etc. Failure to attend classes will result in a student being denied the right to partake in the final assignment and receive a final grade in the course. Students who have a justified reason to miss class (illness, mourning, etc.) must communicate with their instructors and the Department of Summer Courses and Special Programs, and complete the material that they have missed. Students who have missed class due to illness must obtain a signed and stamped sick note from a treating physician and submit it to the Dept. of Summer Courses and Special Programs immediately following their return to class. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence. The Department reserves the right to refer the issue to an Academic Committee. In some cases, the Academic Committee may decide, in light of the requirements of the course, that it is not possible to make up the missing course work.

#### **Earning Graduate Credits for this course**

- Graduate students are expected to inform the Rothberg International School – [rissummer@savion.huji.ac.il](mailto:rissummer@savion.huji.ac.il) – of their interest in earning graduate credit for their summer course(s).
- Graduate students must complete a 15-page, double-spaced seminar paper with bibliography for the course in place of the course's standard final assessment (in most cases, an exam). The topic and bibliography for these papers must be chosen in conjunction and agreement with each course instructor. Students must approach course instructors by the end of the first week of the course and arrange a time to meet and define their paper topic and bibliography.

- The seminar paper must make use of at least five scholarly sources (books or academic articles), in addition to internet resources.
- The graduate seminar papers must be submitted within 2 months following course completion in order for the graduate student to fulfill requirements for this course.

### **Preliminary Course Readings**

Due to the dynamic character of the Middle East and the intention to focus on the current issues in the region the contents and readings might be updated.

#### Unit 1: Introduction to Religion as a Force for Peace or Conflict?

- Daniel Roth, "Religious and Traditional Models of Third-Party Peacemaking," *From Aaron to the Pursuers of Peace*, Introduction (forthcoming).
- Katrien Hertog, *The Complex Reality of Religious Peacebuilding: Conceptual Contributions and Critical Analysis*, Lexington Books, 2010, pp. 1-38. **Overseas Library 291.17 H574; ERESERVE**
- Cassandra Lawrence, Dr. Sara Singha, Najla Mangoush, and Rev. Douglas Leonard, *Demystifying Religion in Mediation Identifying gaps in Training, Knowledge, and Practice*, Al Amana International, 2017. **Free access:** [https://frantic.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/kua-peacemakers/2017/10/Religion-and-Mediation-Final\\_23\\_10\\_2017.pdf](https://frantic.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/kua-peacemakers/2017/10/Religion-and-Mediation-Final_23_10_2017.pdf)
- S. Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana, "Ethno-Religious Conflicts: Exploring the Role of Religion in Conflict Resolution", in *The SAGE Handbook of Conflict Resolution*, eds., J. Bercovitch, V. Kremenyuk, and I. W. Zartman, SAGE, London, 2009, pp. 264-280. **Overseas Library 341.52 B486; Main Library JZ 6045 S24 2009; ERESERVE**
- Bassam Tibi, "War and Peace in Islam," *Islamic Political Ethics*, Princeton University Press, 2002. **E-BOOK**
- Mohamed Fathi Osman, "God Is the All-Peace, the All-Merciful," *Beyond Violence: Religious Sources of Social Transformation in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam*. Fordham University, 2004, pp 57-73. **Overseas Library 201.76 H461; ERESERVE**

#### Unit 2. Religious Models of Peace and Conflict Resolution in text, theory and practice

- Marc Gopin (2000), "New Paradigms of Religion and Conflict Resolution: A Case Study of Judaism," *Between Eden and Armageddon*, Oxford University Press, Chapter 8, pp. 167–195. **Main Library BL 65 V55 G67 2000; E-BOOK**
- Daniel Roth, "The Peacemaker in Jewish-Rabbinic and Arab-Islamic Traditions," *Journal of Religion, Conflict, and Peace*, vol. 4, no. 2 (2011). **Free access:** <http://www.religionconflictpeace.org/volume-4-issue-2-spring-2011/peacemaker-jewish-rabbinic-and-arab-islamic-traditions>

- Uzma Rehman, "Conflict Resolution and Peacemaking in Islam: Toward Reconciliation and Complementarity between Western and Muslim Approaches," *Islamic Studies*, Vol. 50, No. 1 (Spring 2011), pp. 55-69. **E-JOURNAL**

#### Unit 3: Religious Aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

- Eisen, Robert, *The Peace and Violence of Judaism: From the Bible to Modern Zionism*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2011, pp. 142-203. **Main Library BM 538 W37 E49 2011; E-BOOK**
- Zelzberg, Ofer, Involve Religious Leaders in the Diplomatic Process, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/eastern-mediterranean/israelpalestine/involve-religious-leaders-diplomatic-process>

#### Unit 4: Religion and Conflict as a Regional and Global Issue

- Khaled Hroub, " Hamas's history," *Hamas: a Beginner's Guide*, Pluto Press, 2010. **Main Library DS 119.75 H37 H341 2006; E-BOOK**
- Judith Miller, "The Challenge of Radical Islam," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, No. 2 (Spring, 1993), pp. 43-56. **E-JOURNAL**
- Charles R. Lister, "The Emerging Islamic State," *The Islamic State*, Brookings Institution Press, 2015. **Main Library HV 6433 I722 L588 2015; E-BOOK**
- Emmanuel Sivan, "Barbarity and Nationalism," *Radical Islam: Medieval Theology and Modern Politics*, Enlarged Edition, Yale University Press, 1990. Pp. 16-49. **Overseas Library 297.19 S624; ERESERVE**

#### Unit 5: Religious Peacebuilding Initiatives

- Yehezkel Landau, *Healing the Holy Land - Interreligious Peacebuilding in Israel/Palestine*, USIP, 2003. **Free access:** <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/pwks51.pdf>
- Michael Melchior, "Establishing a Religious Peace," Kronish, Ron, ed., *Coexistence & Reconciliation in Israel: Voices for Interreligious Dialogue*, New York 2015, 117-128. **Education Library 296.13 C63; ERESERVE**
- David Little, *Peacemakers in Action: Profiles of Religion in Conflict Resolution*, Cambridge University Press, 2007, pp. (3-21), 341-356. **Overseas Library E327.172 L778; ERESERVE**
- Marc Gopin, *Bridges Across an Impossible Divide: The Inner Lives of Arab and Jewish Peacemakers*, Oxford University Press, 2012, pp. 47-75. **Main Library JZ 5540 G67 2012; ERESERVE**
- Lucy Kurtzer-Ellenbogen, "Jewish Women in Peacebuilding: Embracing Disagreement in the Pursuit of 'Shalom'," *Women, Religion, and Peace: Illuminating the unseen*, eds. Susan Hayward and Katherine Marshall, Washington, DC, USIP Press, 2015, pp. 113-125. **Overseas Library 303.62 H427; ERESERVE**