

**Division of Social Science
Tentative Course Syllabus**

Course Code: SOSC
Course Title: Jerusalem through the Ages: Historical Geography of the Holy City
Course Offered in: fall 2017-18
Course Instructor: Professor Rehav Rubin

Course Description:

The reality of a city is determined by its past; this is even more so in the case of Jerusalem, a city sacred to the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam and a focal point in the emerging history of the Middle East.

The course will describe the development of Jerusalem from Biblical times to the early 20th century. It will analyze the geographical and historical factors in each period. It will focus on the political and religious conditions of the city through the ages to explain the cycles of rise, growth and prosperity versus periods of decline and stagnation in the history of Jerusalem.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

	Course ILOs
1	The student will acquire methods and research tools of historical geography.
2	The student will acquire basic knowledge of the historical time-line of Israel and the Middle-East.
3	The student will follow the development of the urban landscape of Jerusalem from antiquity to early modern times.
4	The student will learn the historical background that has made the city of Jerusalem holy to the three monotheistic religions.
5	The student will create and write a presentation based on historical and geographical sources.

Course Outline:

Week	

**Division of Social Science
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1	<p>Methodological outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The methodological context: Geography, Historical Geography - definition and basic methods of research and study. b. The geographical context: Where are Israel and Jerusalem on the globe?
2	<p>Early beginnings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The geographical situation of ancient Jerusalem b. Jerusalem before 1000 BCE
3	<p>1000-500 BCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The Reign of King David and his successors b. The return from the First Exile (536 BCE) and the Rebuilding of
4	<p>"The Most Famous among the Cities of the East (Pliny)": the city in the time of Herod and Jesus (333 BCE-132CE)</p>
5	<p>Aelia Capitolina: Jerusalem becomes a Roman Military Colony (132 CE-325 CE)</p>
6	<p>Byzantine Jerusalem: From a Roman colony to a Christian Holy City (325-638 CE)</p>
7	<p>A Touchstone to Heaven and Holy once more: Jerusalem under Muslims Rule (638-1099 CE)</p>
8	<p>The Redemption of the Holy Sepulchre: The City under Crusader Rule (12th-13th century)</p>
9	<p>The rise of Saladin and the return of Muslim rule: Jerusalem under the Ayyubid and Mameluk Rule (13th-15th century)</p>
10	<p>Ottoman takeover: 400 years of rejuvenation and decline (1517-1917 CE)</p>
11	<p>The Dawn of Modernity – Jerusalem in the 19th century</p>
12	<p>Building a new, modern city: Jerusalem under the British Mandate (1917-1948)</p>

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13	Summary and final presentations of the students
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Planned Assessment Tasks (%):

Final presentation: 25%

Final written work: 50%

Participation in class and worksheets: 25%

Readings:

See the Bibliographical list