

Study Tour: The Land of Israel: The Jewish Connection

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“The Land of Israel: The Jewish Connection” is a three week intensive academic course which allows the student to study both through classroom seminars and visits to the most important historic sites in Israel.

The course begins in the north of the country examining the cultural mosaic of the region and the roots of its Jewish settlement, ancient and modern. From here we continue to the capital city of Jerusalem with its national and religious complexities. Study is completed in the Judean and Negev Deserts where the Masada ruins are juxtaposed with making the desert bloom in today’s Israel.

Students will be required to write a term paper and keep a journal in order to receive a final grade. The Study Tour is worth four academic credits.

The Study Tour will cover two major themes:

1. The Jewish “National Memory” from Biblical times through to the present day Israeli State
2. The rise of Zionism and the striving for Jewish national redemption as expressed by the nation state of modern Israel

And two sub-themes:

1. The Judeo-Christian Relationship
2. Arab - Israel relations

Itinerary and Syllabus

Day 1: *Orientation and Introduction*
Opening class: Tanach (Hebrew Scriptures) and the Covenant
The Exodus from Egypt and the Establishment of the Israelite Kingdom
The Destruction of the First Temple
From Babylonia to the Greek Conquest
O/N Haifa

Day 2: *Seminar: From Ancient Israel to the Diaspora*
Maccabees and Independence
Romans, Herod and the Destruction of the Second Temple
The Talmudic Period (incl: Christian Scriptures)
Keeping Messianic Faith in the Diaspora
The Jewish Question: Particularism vs. Assimilation
O/N Haifa

- Day 3:** *Field Study: From Talmud to the Old Yishuv*
Tzippori Archeological Dig
Nazareth: Church of the Annunciation – Messianic Judaism
 (Christianity)
Kabbalistic Tzfat – A Walking Tour
O/N Haifa
- Day 4:** *Seminar: Religious/National and Ideological Basis of Zionism*
Intro to Revolutionary Modern Political Zionism
Labor Zionism
The National Religious Movement
Revisionism
O/N Haifa
- Day 5:** *Field Study: From Tanach to the Zionist Pioneers*
Hike down the Gilboa (Remembrances of Saul and David)
Hammam Tiberias Mosaic Floor
Kinneret Cemetery and Socialist Pioneers
Kinneret Courtyard
Arbel Plateau
Swim in the Kinneret (Sea of Galilee)
O/N Haifa
- Days 6 and 7:** Shabbat – Free Weekend
- Day 8:** *Seminar: The Jewish State in the Making (1920 – 1948)*
The Political Development of the Jewish Community (New Yishuv)
British Policy and the Mandate
The Evolution of Defense Organizations and the War of Independence
O/N Haifa
- Day 9:** *Seminar: The Institutionalization of the Israeli State (1949 – 1967)*
Massive Immigration – Holocaust Survivors and Jews from
 Arab/Moslem Lands
Ben Gurion and Labor: Political and Economic Development
Ensuring Jewish Physical Survival: The Israeli Military
O/N Haifa
- Day 10:** *Seminar and Field Study: The Holocaust*
A Survey of Antisemitism from Ancient Times to 1939
The Final Solution vs. Jewish Resistance
Jewish Independence as Response?
Visit to Lochmei Haghetaot – Ghetto Fighters' Museum
O/N Haifa

- Day 11:** *Years of Radical Change (1967 – 92)*
The Collapse of Labor and the Rise of the Right (Likud)
The Land of Israel as a Value – Gush Emmunim and Settlement
Trade off for Sinai and Camp David Accords 1979
The War in Lebanon, Economic Crisis and the resulting National Unity Governments
Domestic Developments (Immigration and Economy)
O/N Haifa
- Day 12:** *Field Study: Galilee/Golan Development*
Archeological Dig at Ancient Yodfat
The Outlook Settlements (visit Eshchar, mixed religious – secular community)
Karmiel Development Town
Mitzpe Gadot Syrian Position (1967 War)
Golan Waterfall Hike (Nahal Dvora and Jalabon)
O/N Haifa
- Day 13:** *Seminar: Unity and Division (1992 – 2008)*
The Revival of Land of Israel Ideology vs. Labor, the Left and the Oslo Accords
Economic Development: The State of “Tel Aviv” vs. the Galilee and the Negev
2000 – 2008: An Emerging Centrist Pragmatism and the Death of Ideology?
O/N Haifa
- Day 14:** *Shabbat - Free*
- Day 15:** *Field Study: The Jerusalem Corridor (1948)*
Latrun Armor Museum and Battle Site
Kastel (Battle and Issues of Nationalism)
Ammunition Hill – Unification of Jerusalem 1967
Mt. Herzl Military and National Cemetery
O/N Jerusalem
- Day 16:** *Field Study: Jewish Jerusalem: The Old City (on Foot)*
City of David First Temple Period Excavations
Enter the Old City by way of Dung Gate
Burnt House and Herodian Quarter
The Western Wall Plaza
Ophel Southern Wall excavations and Davidson Center
Tour of Cardo
O/N Jerusalem

Day 17: *Field Study: Jewish Roots of Christianity - Jerusalem*
Mt. Zion – King David’s Grave and Room of the Last Supper
Garden of Gethsemane, Church of All Nations, Lions’ Gate
Church of the Holy Sepulchre (Jewish – Christian Relations)
Shopping in Arab Market

Note: University policy and overall security regulations will be the determining factors concerning visitation at any given site. Alternative sites will replace any deemed unsuitable by the authorities.

O/N Negev – Kfar Nokdim

Day 18: *Field Study: Masada and the Dead Sea*
Climb Masada at sunrise plus in depth tour
Hike in Ein Gedi Springs
Swim in the Dead Sea
O/N Sde Boker

Day 19: *Field Study: The Negev: Ben Gurion’s Dream*
Sde Boker – Museum, Ben Gurion’s Home and Gravesite
Short Hike – Ein Avdat
Tel Goded Bar Kokhva Hiding Caves
Free Time – Tel Aviv
Return to Haifa

***All Topics, Sites and Times Subject to Change.

Reading List

Ancient Israel

(It is preferable to have read the Hebrew Scriptures assignments prior to the first class.)

Tanakh (Hebrew Scriptures) –Holy Bible *BS12* or found on the internet

Exodus 1 – 27

Samuel I 24, 28, 31

Samuel II 1, 5, 11, 12

Kings I 9 – 12

Ezra

Nehemiah

New Testament - Christian Scriptures – Holy Bible *BS12* or found on the internet

Matthew

Johnson, Paul – *A History of the Jews*, pp. 3 – 79, “Israelites”. (DS117.J54)

Grayzel, Solomon – *A History of the Jews*, pp. 52 – 106, “Maccabees”, “Rome”, “Herod”. *DS118.G73*

Josephus, Flavius – *The Jewish War*, pp. 179 – 336. (DS116.J613) From the Chapter “Josephus Governor of Galilee” thru “The Horrors of the Siege”



Zionism and Modern State of Israel

Herzl, Theodor, *The Jewish State* (can download from internet)

Avineri, Shlomo, *The Making of Modern Zionism* (DS149.A932)

Chapters on AD Gordon, Rabbi Kook and Zev Jabotinsky

Weizmann, Chaim, *Trial and Error* (DS125.3.W45A32)

Chapter 18: The Balfour Declaration, Chapter 21: The Zionist Commission –
The Positive Side

Hitler, Adolf, *Mein Kampf*, (Chapter 11, Nation and Race) – for Holocaust Study
Day

Sachar, Howard, *A History of Israel* (DS126.5S17)

Chapter 15 – Ingathering and Struggle for Economic Survival, pp. 395 – 428.

Chapters 17 and 18 – Israel as Empire and Israel and World Jewry, pp. 667 –
739.

Chapter 26 – The Likud Era Begins, pp. 831 – 860.

Chapters 32 and 33 - The Era of Unity Governments, The Wages of
Immobilization, pp. 934 – 976.

Herzog, Chaim, *The Arab-Israel Wars* (DS119.2.H47)

Chapter on the War of Independence (1948)

Chapter on the Six Day War (1967)