Jerusalem: The Sacred, Imaginary, and Worldly City

Spring 2017 Middle East GU4257 section 001
Call Number 11036
M 4:10-6:00pm
325 Puppin Laboratories

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4 pm or by appointment
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Course Description

In Medieval sacred literature Jerusalem has been described as the Center of the World, at the crosshold of Asia, Africa and Europe. Its various names are all related to its sacred character: Elia, Yerushalaim, Al Quds, Beit al Maqdis, and Yabus. For thousands of years it has inspired and incited successive dynasties, nations and individuals with its sacred landscape, and triggered countless number of wars and conquests. For most of its recent history the number of pilgrims far exceeded its resident population. It is the only city which has a malaise named after it. The Jerusalem Syndrome refers to a psychotic obsession, triggered by a visit to the city, in which the subject suffers from the belief that they are the current personification of Jesus Christ (and sometimes John the Baptist), whose mission is to save the world.

This course will address the sacred, imagined and worldly Jerusalem through its social history, religious rituals, the politics of archeology, planning and urban transformation, demographic debates, ethnicity, and war. It will examine the commodification and packaging of holy city for pilgrimage and tourism. The
The course will address the current predicament of the city and its future within the context of the Arab Israeli conflict. More specifically the course will address the following issues:

- **The meaning of sacredness.** How did the notion of sacredness emerge in Jerusalem? What made Jerusalem the center of pagan worship (Jebusite, Can’anite) and the magnet for the Jewish, Christian and Islamic religions. The persistence of pagan ritual in contemporary religious ritual of shrine and maqam celebrations.

- **The imagined city in pilgrimage, crusader campaigns, counter-crusades, and fictional travelogues.** (Innocents Abroad, the geographic adventures of Katib Celebi).

- **The Politics of Archeology.** The contestation of the city seen in archeological investigations—Biblical, Islamic and Secular.

- **Debates about the modernity of Jerusalem.** Ottoman and Colonial planning of Jerusalem in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Architecture of the Jerusalem in the work of Charles Ashby, Geddes, Houris,

- **The Sacred City Commodified: The Selling of Jerusalem.** Tourist guides and the commodification of the sacred city.

- **Corpus Seperatum (1947).** The politics of Jerusalem between WWI and WWII, and the creation the creation of two cities after the war of 1948. The proposal for the UN Scheme of division. The revival of Corpus Seperatum in recent negotiations over the future of Jerusalem


**Course Prerequisites and Requirements**

Course will be a graduate seminar open to senior students in architecture literature and the social sciences. Students taking the course will be expected to participate in the readings and write one research paper on one
of the themes discussed in class. Grades will be distributed as follows: Class Participation and Presentation 25%, Mid-term: 25%, Research Paper 50%,

**Primary Texts (to be purchased)**


Benvenisti, Meron, *City of Stone: The Hidden History of Jerusalem*


**Additional Texts**

Jacobson Abigail, *From Empire to Empire, Jerusalem between Ottoman and British Rule*, New-York, 2011


Salim Tamari, *Jerusalem 1948*, Institute of Jerusalem Studies, Jerusalem

Abu El Haj, *Facts on the Ground* (Chicago 2002)


Meron Bemvenisti, The Buried History of the Holy Land

Selected Readings from the *Jerusalem Quarterly* and

*the Jerusalem Quarterly Files* (Palestine-studies.org)

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**Readings and Course Meetings**

**Week One: Introduction: The Meaning of Sacredness**

How did the notion of sacredness emerge in Jerusalem? What made Jerusalem the center of pagan worship (Jebusite, Can’anite) and the magnet for the Jewish, Christian and Islamic religions

David Wasserstein, “The Heavenly City and the Earthly City” in Divided Jerusalem, Prologue (1-14), and Epilogue, The Earthly City, 345-360

**Week Two, The Quarry of History and the Borders of Holiness**


Week Three: Excavating Jerusalem The Politics of Archeology

Excavating Jerusalem IN Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society by Nadia Abu El-Haj pp. 130-163

Katjarina Golor and Hanswulf Bloedhorn, The Archeology of Jerusalem 2015

Katerina Golor, King Herod in Jerusalem: The Politics of Cultural Heritage—The Jerusalem Quarterly (no. 65)
Download from http://www.palestine-studies.org/jq/fulltext/77897

Week Four: The Social History of Jerusalem

Asali, K. Jerusalem in History, Chapters I and II
Montefiore, Jerusalem, the Biography, Part I Jewish Jerusalem,
Part II Pagan Jerusalem

Week Five: Social History of Jerusalem II

Asali, K, chapter II Roman and Byzantine Jerusalem pp 75- 105
Montefiore, Part III, Byzantium

Week Six: Social History of Jerusalem III

Asali K., Part IV, VI Islamic Jerusalem
Asali K, Crusader Jerusalem pp. 130-177
Montefiore, Part V, The Crusades/
Week Seven: Ottoman Jerusalem

K. Asali, Chapter 7, Jerusalem Under the Ottomans 200-228
Montefiore, Part 7, The Ottomans

Week Eight: Ottoman Modernity—the City Transformed

Alexander Scholch, Jerusalem in the 19th Century, in Asali, chapter VIII
Michelle Campos, Sacred Liberty (ch. 2), in Ottoman Brothers, pp. 20-59
Abigail Jacobson, Between Ottomanism and Zionism, in From Empire to Empire, pp. 82-117

Week Nine: Globalized Jerusalem: Architecture and the New Urban Space

Annabel Jane Wharton, Entrepreneurs and Tourists, pp 145-188 in Selling Jerusalem: Relics, Replicas, Theme Parks

“Imperialism, Globalization, and the Holy City” in Wharton, pp. 189-233

Jerusalem’s Conflicted Modernity (introduction from the Storyteller of Jerusalem)

Adina Friedman “Jerusalem 1934” in Till We Have Built Jerusalem: Architects of a New City, Farrar Straus, and Giroux, 2016, pp 13-125

Week Ten: The Lived City in Biographical and Autobiographical
Literature


Anbara Salam Khalidi, Memoirs of an Early Arab Feminist, 129-163

S. Tamari, The Short Life of Private Ihsan, Jerusalem Quarterly
http://www.palestine-studies.org/jq/fulltext/77897

Week Eleven: Spectacularized Jerusalem. The packaging and commodification of the Holy City

Beatrice St. Laurent and Himmet Taskömür. "The Imperial Museum of Antiquities in Jerusalem, 1890-1930: An Alternative Narrative" Jerusalem Quarterly (2013) Available at:
http://works.bepress.com/beatrice_stlaurent/5/

Annabel Jane Wharton, The City as Gift Chapters 1-3 in Selling Jerusalem: Relics, Replicas, Theme Parks

Suad Amiry, Golda Slept Here, Bloomsbury, London, 2014

Week Twelve: The City Divided: War and Conquest

Abigail Jacobson, A Multi-Ethnic City in Times of Acute Crisis, in Between Ottomanism and Zionism, in From Empire to Empire, pp. 22-52

David Wasserstein, Mandatory Abdication 132-178, in Wasserstein Divided Jerusalem, Yale University Press,

David Wasserstein, Two Jerusalem’s 179-205 in Wasserstein Divided
Jerusalem, Yale University Press,

Nathan Krystall, The Fall of the New City, in Tamari, Jerusalem 1948 pp. 92-154


Week Thirteen: The Politics of Contemporary Jerusalem


Michael Dumper, “The Limits of Sovereignty” (146-185)


Academic Integrity: Laptops will be allowed in class for taking notes, but not during exams. Cell phones must be turned off in class. For further information see Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity

Students with Disability: Students, instructors, and Disability Services (DS) all have rights and responsibilities in the process of ensuring that students receive the reasonable accommodations necessary for their full participation in their academic program. This page provides a brief oversight of these rights and responsibilities, but for more information you are referred to Disability Services.

Student Rights and Responsibilities
In order to ensure their rights to reasonable accommodations, it is the responsibility of students to report any learning-related disabilities, to do so in a timely fashion, and to do so through the Office of Disability Services. Students who have documented conditions and are determined by DS to need individualized services will be provided an DS-certified ‘Accommodation Letter’. It
is students’ responsibility to provide this letter to all their instructors and in so doing request the stated accommodations. For further information see *Faculty Statement on Disability Accommodations*. 