Politics of Planning in Cities of Conflict:
The Case of Jerusalem

Professor Moshe Amirav

July 4th – 27th, 2017
13:30 - 16:30

45 Academic Hours. 3 Academic Credits. 3 field trips.

Contact Details Instructor
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Course Description and Objectives
Cities are places where different types of people live and work close by to one another. Inevitably, their needs, desires, and interests clash, and their divergent agendas reach local, national and religious authorities. While urban planners operate in this context, as is the nature of things, politicians are seldom far away. Urban planning is conducted in circumstances of scarcity of resources, in a complex system of pressures and conflicts, under tension between political, economic and social factors. If city planning is likely to be entwined in any city with a degree of politics, how much more so this is the case in a city that scores high on scales of political sensitivity, like Jerusalem. With this in mind, this course will look at the issues of politics and planning, which frequently collide on Jerusalem’s public agenda.

Jerusalem is not just another city that illustrates the conflict between interests of professional planners and competing political perspectives. It is a city with a history of some 3,000 years. This city has the most sacred places for billions of believers, Muslims (El Acza), Christians (The Holy Cyplcar) and Jews (The Wailing Wall). In the city, three different ethnic, political groups, reside side by side, the Israeli Zionist, the ultra-religious Jews and the Palestinians. Each group encompasses a third of the population, which totals 900,000 inhabitants. Israelis claim it as the capital of their country, and the Palestinians
want it, or part of it, as the capital of their not yet created state.

Taking these factors into account, this course will shed light on issues of urban planning and the city of Jerusalem from the following perspectives: 1. Comparative (Belfast, Nicosia, Johannesburg) 2. Historical (political and urban developments in the 20th century) 3. Planning (political, government and municipal policies).

The objective of the course is to become acquainted with and understand dilemmas and conflicts related to municipal management in conflict, via the case of Jerusalem. The course will interest anyone who wants to widen his or her perspectives on conflict resolution, political science, public administration, planning and architecture.

The course includes three tours in Jerusalem in which students will be experience the topics learned in the classroom.

**Course Requirements**

- **Class attendance and participation.**
- **Preparation of bibliography for class discussion and presentation of a paper by the students in class.**

It is mandatory for all students to attend classes, guest lectures, field trips, etc. Failure to attend classes will result in a student being denied the right to partake of the final assignment and receive a final grade in a course. Students who have a justified reason to miss a 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 classes 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. 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 for the missing course work.

- **Final Paper**

Earning Graduate Credits for this course
Graduate students are expected to inform the Rothberg International School – rissummer@savion.huji.ac.il - of their interest in earning graduate credits for their summer course(s).

Graduate students must complete a **25-page, double-spaced, seminar paper** with a bibliography, instead of the course's standard final assessment (in most cases, an examination). The students will discuss this paper in class. The topic and bibliography for these papers must be chosen in 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 the course completion.

**Grading Rubrics**

- Written seminar paper

**Course Outline**

- **CLASS 1** (4th July) – Course Introduction

- **CLASS 2** (5th July) – Field Trip Jerusalem

- **CLASS 3** (6th July) – Research Perspectives-Planning and Politics in Cities
  


- **CLASS 4** (10July) – Field trip

- **CLASS 5** (11July) – Comparison between Belfast, Nicosia, Johannesburg and Jerusalem


- CLASS 6(12July) – Planning and Politics in Jerusalem (Historical Background)

- CLASS 7 (17July) – Political Struggles Over Territories

- CLASS 8 (18July) – Between Conflict and Accommodation

- CLASS 9 (19July) – The Israeli Palestinians Struggle Over Territory and Demography

- CLASS 10 (24July) – Field Trip

- CLASS 11(25July) – Failing to Find a Compromise in Jerusalem at Camp David2000