



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



Department of Summer Courses
and Special Programs

המחלקה לקורסי קיץ
ותוכניות מיוחדות

The Riddle of Jerusalem: Uncovering the Mysteries of the Holy City

(48867)

Instructor: Yehuda Kaplan

Summer Semester: July 27 – August 13, 2026

Various days and times per week, Sunday through Thursday

45 Academic Hours, 3 Academic Credits

ykaplan29@gmail.com

Office hours: Sun.-Thu. (9:00–19:00)

Tentative syllabus

Course Description

Jerusalem is a major center for western religious civilizations, possessing a long and varied history. The course will deal with the city in the various stages of its development: from Biblical times, to the Middle Ages. Subjects to be discussed include the city plan and its physical expansion; its social and cultural dimensions, and Jerusalem as a sacred center. The course will also analyze the relationship between the physical, social, cultural and religious dimensions of the city holy to the three major monotheistic religions. Taking advantage of Jerusalem as an open museum, the course participants will explore its hidden treasures via an extensive series of theoretical classes combined with fascinating field trips throughout the course.

Course Requirements

- ***Class attendance and participation***
 - 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 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.

- Class participation is an integral part of this course. Workbooks with primary texts will be used, and students are encouraged to prepare them together with a study partner.
- ***Final Exam***

Final Grade Breakdown:

- Attendance and Participation: 30%
- Final Exam: 70%

Course Outline

Date	Activity	Contents – Tentative!	Time
#Day 1,	Class	9:00-12:00 - Class Introduction: Jerusalem through the ages Room: in Boyar Building (Rothberg)	9:00-16:00 (7)
	Field trip	12:45-15:30 Mount Scopus, Mount of Olives and Armon Hanatziv observatories Bus departure at 12:45 from Rothberg	
#Day 2,	Class	9:00-12:00 – Bronze Age and Iron Age (1 st Temple Period) Room: in Boyar Building (Rothberg)	9:00-17:00 (8)

	Field trip	12:45-17:00 - The City of David* Bus departure at 12:45 from Rothberg	
#Day 3,	Class	9:00-12:00 - 2 nd Temple Period Room: in Boyar Building (Rothberg)	9:00-16:00 (7)
	Field Trip	12:45 – 16:00 - Southern Wall Archaeological Park and Davidson Center* Bus departure at 12:45 from Rothberg	
#Day 4,	Class	9:00 – 12:00: 2 nd Temple Period Room: in Boyar Building (Rothberg)	9:00-16:00 (7)
	Field trip	12:45-16:00: Nicanor's Tomb; Jewish Quarter sites; Herodian Quarter museum* Bus departure at 12:45 from Rothberg	
#Day 5,	Class	9:00-12:00 - Class Roman-Byzantine Periods Room: in Boyar Building (Rothberg)	9:00-16:30 (7.5)
	Field trip	Mt. of Olives sites: Church of the Ascension*; Dominus Flevit; Gethsemane; Mary's Tomb Church; Qidron Valley monuments; Bus departure at 12:45 from Rothberg	
#Day 6,	Class	9:00 – 12:00: Early Muslim and Crusader Periods	9:00 - 16:30 (7.5)

	Field trip	12:45 – 16:00 - The Israel museum* (2 nd Temple Period Jerusalem model and the archaeological wing) Bus departure at 12:45 from Rothberg	
#Day 7,	Field trip	The Temple Mount; Church of the Holy Sepulcher; Armenian Quarter and Mount Zion sites Bus departure at 7:30 from Rothberg	7:30 – 16:00 (8.5)
Day 8,	Field trip	Summary and Rehearsal: The Tower of David Museum* Bus departure at 8:30 from Rothberg	8:30 – 13:00 (4.5)
#Day 9, Thursday 13/8/26	Final Exam – Rothberg School		9:00-11:00 (2)

Course General Readings

READING LIST

- Montefiore S.S. 2011. *Jerusalem. The Biography*. Weidenfeld and Nicolson. London. **E-Book; Overseas library E114 S443**
- Bahat D. 2011. *The Carta Jerusalem Atlas*. Carta. Jerusalem. **Overseas library E114 (084) B151.**
- Geva H. (ed.). 2000. *Ancient Jerusalem Revealed*. (2nd. ed.) Israel Exploration Society. Jerusalem. **Overseas library E114 G396.**

- "Jerusalem". In Stern E. (ed.). 1993. *The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land*. IES and BAS. Jerusalem. 2:698-800; 5:1801-1837.
Overseas E13 (03) S839; ERESERVE.