

The Holy Land through Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Eyes

MEETINGS: MAY 28-JUNE 4, TANTUR ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY

WEBSITE: www.nd.edu/~reynolds/holyland

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ON-SITE VISITS (PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE):

Mon 5/28: Jewish and Christian Jerusalem (am)

Tue 5/29: Islamic Jerusalem (am)

Wed 5/30: Hebron and Bethlehem (am)

Thu-Fri 5/31-6/1: The North (Acre, Nazareth, Hittin, Capernaum, Caesarea
Philippi, Mount Tabor, Sea of Galilee, Jericho)

Sat 6/2: Kathisma Church (pm)

Course Description

In our course we will investigate the place of the Holy Land, especially Jerusalem, in the religious ideas of Jews, Christians, and Muslims. During our time in the Holy Land we will both study Jewish, Christian, and Islamic texts and witness the geography and archaeology of sites important to Jewish, Christian, and Islamic history. Our days will be generally divided between on-site visits and class seminars at Tantur (for the first week this will generally mean site visits in the morning and seminars in the afternoon/evening). Our seminars will be 2 hours (one hour lecture and one hour discussion session, with a brief break in between). During the discussion session students will offer their reflections on the reading, the lecture, and their experience from the site visits.

In terms of content, the first week of the course is focused on the classical period of the Holy Land, from the time of Jesus through the early Islamic era. We will examine the vision of the Holy Land in the Hebrew Bible/New Testament, the early Christian reception of Jewish veneration for the land of Israel, the triumph of the Byzantine Church, the Islamic conquest of Palestine, and the meaning of the Dome of the Rock and the Aqsa mosque. During the second week of the course we will turn to the Crusades and the modern period. We will examine the rise and fall of Crusader States, the centuries of later Islamic rule, and the popular literature, religious pamphlets and websites of Muslim and Christian faithful today. Through our studies we will both examine the place of the Holy Land in Jewish-Christian-Muslim Relations, and reflect theologically on the meaning of the Holy Land to the Church.

Course Logic and Learning Goals

No particular background in the study of Islam or the Holy Land is needed for this course. By the end of the course students are expected to:

1. develop a basic knowledge of the geography of Palestine, including the location of sites with particular religious importance;
2. develop a basic knowledge of the religious history of the Holy Land from the 1st century AD through the present day;
3. develop a basic knowledge of the particular salvation history of Jews, Christians (Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant), and Muslims;
4. develop a clear understanding of the ways in which the Holy Land has been integrated into Jewish, Christian, and Muslim religious conceptions;
5. develop a familiarity with various genres of religious writing connected to the Holy Land, including pilgrimage accounts, geographical and historical chronicles, miracle tales, modern fiction, and online apologetics;
6. demonstrate research skills and precise academic writing in a scholarly paper;
7. reflect theologically on the relationship of the Church to the Holy Land.

Practical matters

1. You should plan on arriving by May 26 or 27, so that you will have time to get over jet lag and adjust to your new context. Non-US citizens should check with an Israeli consulate as soon as possible to see if they need a visa. Notre Dame's Tantur Ecumenical Institute of Theology is in a dramatic and beautiful setting, on a small hill between Jerusalem and Bethlehem, acquired from the Knights of Malta after Pope Paul VI's 1964 visit to the Holy Land. We will send out further practical information about travelling to and staying in Israel and the Palestinian territories once we have a class list. Students may arrange for their own travel to and from Jerusalem.
2. Be sure to finalize your registration ASAP with Notre Dame's Dept. of Theology (contact Catherine Cavadini, ccavadin@nd.edu).
3. **Attendance is required at all of our seminars** and class participation is a significant part of the course grade (see below).
4. **Punctuality with your person and your work is required.**
5. All of the reading for the course should be completed **in advance** of your arrival (see further below). This will allow you to use your time in the Holy Land to experience the Holy Land.
6. Religious questions, reflections, and discussion are *always* appropriate in this class. Let us remember what John Paul II described as the "role of the Holy Spirit in the process by which knowledge matures into wisdom" (*Fides et Ratio*, 44).

Books and Website

Four books are required. You may purchase these at the bookstore or website of your choice.

The Bible (I suggest the New Jerusalem Bible Regular Edition: ISBN 0385493207), but you may use any translation.

R.L. Wilken, *The Land Called Holy*

O. Grabar, *The Dome of the Rock*

J. Riley-Smith, *The Crusades*

Additional required reading is on our website (www.nd.edu/~reynolds/holyland), through the links page.

All reading **must be completed before our course begins** and must be brought with you to Tantur. Be sure to print out the texts posted online and to bring these along with the books.

In addition I recommend (although it is not required) that you purchase and bring with you J. Murphy-O'Connor, *The Holy Land: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*. Fr. Murphy-O'Connor (a Dominican from the École Biblique who has taught at Notre Dame) provides an introduction to the Holy Land that is shaped for a scholarly Christian audience.

On the Links section of our website you can access newspapers, websites, and youtube videos relevant to our class.

Assignments and Their Contribution to Your Grade

+ class participation 40%

Attendance and contribution in class, including our concluding discussion.

+ 1 reflection paper (3-4 pages) 20%

Due on Saturday June 2 by 8 pm, this paper will involve your reaction to one theme of that week's conversation. You are expected to use our required texts as sources.

+ final paper (10-15 pages) 40%

Due on Sat. June 16 (by email), this paper represents an original argument on an element of the course that interests you. The argument should be *theological* and the paper should be done according to the writing guide described on our website. Let us agree on a topic for this paper during our individual meeting on the last class day (6/4).

Class Plan

A. From the New Testament to Islam

(Monday 5/28)

AM

visit: The Old City of Jerusalem (Jewish/Christian sites)

PM

seminar: The Bible and the Holy Land

Readings to be discussed

Joshua, Luke, Acts
Origen's *Homily 7 on Joshua*, ONLINE
Wilken, chs 1-4

(Tuesday 5/29)

AM

visit: The Old City of Jerusalem (Islamic sites)

PM

seminar: The Rise of Islam in the Holy Land

Readings to be discussed

Grabar, 1-58

Wilken, chs. 11-12, epilogue

(Wednesday 5/30)

AM

visit: Hebron/Bethlehem

PM

seminar: Monasticism and the Holy Land

Readings to be discussed

Wilken, chs. 5-8

Excerpt from John Moschus, *Pratum Spirituale*, ONLINE

Excerpt from W. Dalrymple, *From the Holy Mountain*,
ONLINE

(Thursday 5/31-Friday 6/1)

During our visit to Galilee we will meet at convenient times to discuss the Crusades

Readings to be discussed

Riley-Smith, xxv-xxxiii, 1-109; 245-57, 282-309

Grabar 159-69

Excerpt from A. Maalouf, *The Crusades Through Arab
Eyes*, ONLINE

Excerpt from Ibn Jubayr, *Travels*, ONLINE

(Saturday 6/2)

AM

visit: Kathisma Church

PM

seminar: Early Islamic Jerusalem

Readings to be discussed

Nāsir-i-Khusrau, *Diary of a Journey through
Syria and Palestine* (1047) ONLINE

(Monday 6/4)

AM

seminar: Modern and Contemporary Perspectives

Readings to be discussed

Excerpt from *Innocents Abroad* (1867) ONLINE

Excerpt from J. Jabra, *Hunters in a Narrow Street*
ONLINE

Nostra Aetate ONLINE

Individual meetings to discuss course and final paper

Final Paper Due Sat. June 16 (by email)