NEJS 152 – History of Jerusalem – Syllabus
Instructor – Dr. Walker Robins
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Introduction
Few cities have inspired as much conflict or as much hope as has Jerusalem in its 3,000+ years of history. This course will trace the development of the holy city from a small Jebusite stronghold to a modern metropolis, along the way exploring the many societies, cultures, and, of course, religions that have shaped and been shaped by Jerusalem. The course will focus not only on the city itself, but its varied and contested meanings, as well as its continued relevance today.

Learning Outcomes
Students will be able to demonstrate a knowledge of the geography of Jerusalem and its physical changes over time. They will also be able to demonstrate a basic understanding of the many cultures and societies that have controlled, reshaped, and inhabited Jerusalem in its long history. Students will also be able to describe the varied and shifting religious significance of Jerusalem among Jews, Christians, and Muslims—both as an actual city and an ideal.

Students will be able to develop and respond to historical questions about Jerusalem by building methodologies for answering such questions, finding and engaging appropriate source material, and constructing arguments rooted in source material.

Course Website
All relevant course information will be posted at http://brandeisjerusalem.wordpress.com

Required Texts
Simon Sebag Montefiore, Jerusalem: The Biography (2011)
Katharina Galor and Hanswulf Bloedhorn, The Archaeology of Jerusalem (2013)
Course Reader

Attendance and Participation
Students are allowed 3 absences throughout the semester. Additional absences will result in the loss of a letter grade.

Although I do not give a “participation” grade, I do weight attendance and participation in deciding borderline grade situations at the end of the semester. Effort will be appreciated and rewarded.

Electronics
Do not use cell phones or laptops in class.
Disabilities
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

Academic Misconduct
Academic misconduct is unacceptable. So we are clear, academic misconduct includes plagiarism, submission of work for multiple classes, purchasing work, fabrication of sources and fraud, as well as assisting other students in such acts.

Beyond official university policy, personal integrity is extremely important to me. Please do not devalue the work of your fellow students by cheating. Take pride in what you do and what you put your name on.

Assignments
Grades are not a measure of your worth nor even a measure of the intrinsic value of your work. I view them as a tool in the learning process—a tool for identifying areas that we both need to work on over the course of the semester.

This course will emphasize writing as a vehicle for expressing critical and creative thinking. When I grade your writing assignments, I will point out what you do well and suggest what might help you improve. I will also give specific grade incentives for you to implement my suggestions on the next assignment. For example, if I think you are making too many arguments without giving specific evidence, I might institute a 5-point grade bonus for fixing this issue on the next assignment. The idea is to improve and grow.

3 2-Pagers - 10% each
These assignments ask you to critically engage source material in responding to a specific historical question.

3 Exams – 10% each
The goal of these is to test your familiarity with the major terms, issues, and themes of the course.

Research Project – 40% total
This assignment is a staggered semester-long project that will culminate in a 10-page research paper. It asks you to formulate a question relating to the history of Jerusalem, find sources and develop a methodology for answering it, and write a paper that addresses the question. This will require out-of-class research and investigation of primary sources. Don’t worry, though! We’ll pause at times in class to work together.

Class Schedule
9/1 – Introduction and Prehistory
Read:
Montefiore, 17-22
Galor/Bloedhorn, Chs. 2-3.
9/5 – City of David, City of God
Read:
Montefiore, 23-34
Galor/Bloedhorn, Ch. 4
II Samuel 5-7
I Kings 5-9

9/8 – Capital of Judah
Read:
Montefiore, 35-44
II Kings 18-19, 22-23
Isaiah 1-2

9/12 – Exile and Return
Read: Montefiore, 45-57
Galor/Bloedhorn, Ch. 5
Lamentations 1
Psalm 137
Ezekiel 40-47
Ezra 7-10

9/15 – Hellenic, Hasmonean, and Herodian Jerusalem
Read:
Montefiore, 58-99
Galor/Bloedhorn, Chs. 6-7
I Maccabees 1-4
Josephus, Antiquities 15.11
DUE: First 2-pager

9/19 – Exile and Aelia
Read:
Montefiore, 116-147
Josephus, The Jewish Wars, 6.5.1-4
Cassius Dio, Roman History, 69.12-14

9/22 – NO CLASS

9/26 – Interpreting Exile
Read:
Lee Levine, “Jerusalem in Jewish History, Tradition, and Memory”
Due: Topic and Initial Source List
9/29 – Exam One

10/3 – Jerusalem in Early Christian Thought
Read:
Paula Frederiksen, “The Holy City in Christian Thought”
Mark 10:16
Revelation 21
Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho, 16, 25-26

10/6 – Christianization
Read:
Montefiore, 152-174
Galor/Bloedhorn, Ch. 8
Eusebius, Life of Constantine 3.25-42
Jerome, “Letter 46”

10/10 – Islamicization
Read:
Montefiore, 177-213
Galor/Bloedhorn, Ch. 9
Quran 2:136-150
Pact of Umar
DUE: Second 2-pager

10/13 – Al-Quds in Islamic Thought
Read:
Jonathan Bloom, “Jerusalem in Medieval Islamic Literature”
excerpt from al-Muqaddasi, The Best Divisions in the Knowledge of the Regions excerpt from
Naser e-Khosraw, Safarnama
Sahih Bukhari 4.54.429

10/17 – Crusade
Read:
Montefiore, 217-242
Accounts of the Council of Clermont

10/20 – Counter-Crusade
Read:
Montefiore, 243-273
excerpt from Imad ad-Din al-Isfahani, Ciceronian Eloquence on the Conquest of the Holy City
10/24 – Ayyubids and Mamluks
Read:
Montefiore, 274-300
Galor/Bloedhorn, Chs. 10-11
DUE: Third 2-pager

10/27 – Early Ottomans
Read:
Montefiore, 303-325
Galor/Bloedhorn, Ch. 12
Ottoman administrative documents
excerpt from Evliyah Celebi, Seyahatname

10/31 – The Late Ottoman Era
Read:
Montefiore, 329-346
Letter from British consul (1841)
Letter from British consul (1851)
Khatti Humayun (1856)
Due: Source Write-Ups

11/3 – Return of the West
Read:
Montefiore, 347-387
excerpt from Mark Twain, The Innocents Abroad
excerpts from The Diaries of Sir Moses and Lady Montefiore

11/7 – Exam Two

11/10 – Zionism and Arab Nationalism
Read:
Montefiore, 391-411
excerpt from Theodor Herzl, The Jewish State
excerpt from Herzl, Altneuland
Negib Azouri, Program of the “League for the Arab Fatherland”

11/14 – WWI
Read:
Montefiore, 412-454
Balfour Declaration
excerpt from King-Crane Commission Report
11/17 – Mandate
Read:
Montefiore, 455-495
Summary of Peel Commission Report (1937)
White Paper of 1939

Thanksgiving

11/28 – 1948
Read:
Montefiore, 495-510
excerpt from UNSCOP Report
UN Resolutions 181 and 194

12/1 – 1967
Read:
Montefiore, 511-519
UN Resolution 242
Amos Oz, “An Alien City”
Arthur Hertzberg, “Jerusalem and Zionism”
Muhammad Muslih, “Palestinian Images of Jerusalem.”

12/5 – Negotiated City
Read:
Montefiore, 520-544
Basic Law: Jerusalem
Clinton Proposal for Peace
DUE: Final Papers

12/8 – Review

12/18 – FINAL