

Jerusalem University College

Mt. Zion, Jerusalem, Israel

Course Descriptions

The following is a description of courses offered by Jerusalem University College. Each description indicates the semester that the course is normally offered as well as the number of semester credit hours for that course. When referring to course numbers, please use the designated course prefix, which is at the top of the course number column (eg. ARCH 500). Course numbering: 300 and 400—undergraduate students; 500, 600 and 700—graduate students.

NOTE: While some courses are offered every year, most are offered on an alternate-year basis or according to student demand (at least seven tuition-paying students).

ARCH	Archaeology	Term/Credit Hours
5/300	Biblical Archaeology I (Old Testament Period)	Fall/3
	A survey of the results of archaeological investigations in the land of the Bible from proto-historical periods to the end of the Judean Monarchy; emphasis is placed upon relating archaeological findings to historical records such as those of the Bible. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	
5/301	Biblical Archaeology II (Persian through Byzantine Periods)	Spring/3
	A survey of the results of the archaeological investigations of the Persian, Greek, Roman, and Byzantine periods in the land of the Bible; emphasis is placed upon relating archaeological findings to historical records such as those of the Bible. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	
5/303	Archaeology of Jerusalem I (Prehistoric Period through the Iron Age)	Fall/3
	Jerusalem from the prehistoric periods through the Iron Age examined in light of archaeological discoveries, with special emphasis given to the time of the Israelite Monarchy. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	
5/304	Archaeology of Jerusalem II (Persian through Byzantine Periods)	Spring/3
	Jerusalem during the Persian, Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods examined in light of archaeological discoveries, with special emphasis given to the time of Jesus. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	
6/406	Archaeological Field Excavation	Summer/3-6
	Archaeological excavation in Israel. Students participate in archaeological field work in conjunction with lectures, readings, and/or preparing excavation reports. One unit per week; a minimum of three weeks required.	
720	Seminar in Archaeology	Fall or Spring/3
	An in-depth study of various issues in the archaeology of the land of the Bible, or topics related to an archaeological period.	

GEO	Geography	Term/Credit Hours
5/311	Physical Settings of the Bible A study of the physical features of the land of the Bible, stressing geographical factors affecting settlement and communication in the various regions. Readings, preparatory map study, and lectures provide the background for field trips. Relevant archaeological, historical and biblical material is correlated with sites, roads, and features in each region, but the main emphasis of the course is geography. <i>Regions studied and visited include Galilee, Golan Heights, Judah, Samaria, Negev, Shephelah, Jordan and Jezreel Valleys, Benjamin, Sharon Plain, Philistia, and in Transjordan, Gilead, Ammon, the Medaba Plateau, Moab, and Edom.</i>	Fall, Spring/4
6/413	Historical Geography of the Land of the Bible During the Old Testament Period A study of the historical geography of the land of the Bible as represented in ancient texts (the Bible as well as Egyptian, Mesopotamian and Canaanite sources). Emphasis is placed on the interrelationship of history and geography during the Bronze and Iron Ages, including settlement, economic, military, and communication factors in ancient Israel.	Spring/3
617	Regional Explorations in the Historical Geography of the Land of the Bible An investigation of select regions of Israel based upon recent geographical, historical, and archaeological research. <i>Includes field trips. Prerequisite: GEO 5/311.</i>	Fall/3
636	Sources from Mesopotamia related to the Land of Israel An investigation of primary sources from the ancient Near East (primarily Assyria and Babylonia) dating to the second and first millenniums BC with reference to the land of ancient Israel.	Spring/3
637	Sources from the Levant related to the Land of Israel An investigation of primary sources from the Levant (primarily Phoenicia and Syro-Palestine) dating to the late second and first millenniums BC with reference to the land of ancient Israel.	Spring/3
731	Seminar in Historical Geography An investigation of ways to integrate and communicate the regional and geographical realities of the land of the Bible, with particular emphasis on the interface of textual, archaeological, historical and geographical data. <u>Prerequisite: GEO 511, 613 and 617.</u>	Spring/3

HIST	History	Term/Credit Hours
5/321	Cultural Background of the Bible An investigation of various aspects of life in ancient times (society, social and personal identity, forms of subsistence, economy, art forms, religious expression and the like) to help understand biblical life and customs more accurately. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Spring/3
5/330	History of Ancient Israel The historical period from the time of the Judges to the destruction of the First Temple. The political, cultural and historical events of the ancient Near East concurrent with this period are considered.	Fall/3
5/331	History of the Second Temple Period The historical, cultural and religious development of the Jewish people in the land of the Bible during the Persian, Hellenistic and early Roman periods. Focus will be given on the historical framework of the period, the development of religious ideas and institutions, and the seminal influences which shaped early Judaism and Christianity. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Spring/3
5/335	Ancient Egypt and the Biblical World A survey of ancient Egyptian history and culture from the Pre-dynastic Period through the Late Period. Emphasis is placed on the interconnection of Egypt with the land of Canaan and Israel. <i>Includes an eight-day field trip to Egypt.</i>	Fall/3
6/454	Intertestamental Literature A focus on Old Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha and their contribution to our knowledge of the varieties of religious thought in the Second Temple Period. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Spring/3
6/457	The Parables of Jesus and Rabbinic <i>Meshalim</i> A seminar study of the parables of the Gospels and the <i>Meshalim</i> found in classical rabbinic literature, including issues of hermeneutics, methodology of approach, and content.	Spring/3
6/458	Rabbinical Thought and Literature An introduction to the literature and central themes addressed by the Jewish sages. Particular attention is given to the early periods of rabbinical Judaism (Tannaitic and Amoraic) and to possible parallels to the thoughts and teachings of Jesus and early Christianity. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Fall/3
6/459	Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls A study of the texts and major critical issues concerning Qumran community and the Dead Scrolls, including their origin, interpretation of the Old Testament and place within the Jewish world and early Christianity. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Spring/3
740	Seminar in History An in-depth study of various issues related to the history of the land of the Bible in ancient times. <u>Prerequisite: HIST 5/330 and 5/331.</u>	Fall or Spring/3

MECR	Middle Eastern Cultures and Religions	Term/Credit Hours
5/340	History of the Church in the East A study of documents showing the development of the church and Christian thought in the Middle East, the Eastern Mediterranean and Eastern Europe. Special emphasis is placed on the relationship of Eastern Christianity with Judaism and Islam. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Spring/3
5/341	History of the Jews During the Medieval and Modern Periods An examination of Jewish history from the rise of Christian Europe in the fifth century to the present by addressing such topics as medieval Jewish communities in Babylonia, Spain, Germany and Poland; Jewish relations with the church and crown; Jewish communal structure; modern changes such as enlightenment, emancipation; new Jewish movements and ideologies; modern anti-Semitism and the Holocaust; Zionism and the rise of Israel. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Fall/3
5/342	History of the Holy Land from the Rise of Islam to 1948 An examination of the Holy Land from the Muslim conquest until the establishment of the State of Israel. Central issues include Muslim rule, the Crusader Kingdom, Ottoman rule, the role of the major international powers, the rise of Zionism and the British Mandate for Palestine.	Fall/3
5/345	Jewish Thought and Practice An examination of modern Jewish beliefs and practices with an emphasis on their development throughout the ages. Topics include prayer, holidays, life cycle, views regarding the Messiah and streams in Judaism. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Spring/3
5/348	Islamic Thought and Practice A study of trends in Islamic thought as they developed in the Middle Ages and exist today, including aspects of the Koran, theology, law, political thought, mysticism, and modern religious and nationalist movements. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Spring/3
5/349	Christian Communities in the Middle East A survey of the social and religious characteristics of selected Christian communities in the Middle East, with emphasis on the more than 30 Christian denominations and communities situated in the vicinity of Jerusalem. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Fall/3
5/360	Introduction to the Modern Middle East A study of the Middle East situation of the past two centuries, addressing the topics of Zionism, Arab nationalism, and Islamic fundamentalism. Special consideration is given to the Arab-Israeli conflict. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Fall/3
5/363	Historical and Social Settings of Modern Israel A study of the history and society of modern Israel, with special emphasis on social and political movements, institutions, settlements and neighborhoods. <i>Includes field trips.</i>	Spring/3

- 6/415 Readings in Biblical Hebrew Narrative** Fall or Spring/3
Principles for analyzing and interpreting narrative Old Testament texts are discussed and applied to specific narrative texts. Prerequisite: BL 6/411.
- 6/420 Post-biblical Hebrew: Second Temple Period** Spring/3
A study of the texts discovered in the vicinity of the Dead Sea and elsewhere during the latter Second Temple period. Emphasis is on grammatical characteristics of the Hebrew and toward understanding the content of the selected texts. Prerequisite: BL 6/411.
- 6/422 Readings in Historical and Geographical Texts** Fall/3
A literary, textual and exegetical study of biblical Hebrew Narrative texts that are significant for the study of historical geography. This course seeks to integrate the physical reality of the land of the Bible with the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. Prerequisite: BL 6/411.
- 6/423 Readings in Poetic Texts** Spring/3
A literary, textual and exegetical study of biblical Hebrew Poetic texts that are significant for the study of historical geography. This course seeks to integrate the physical reality of the land of the Bible with the Hebrew text of the Old Testament. Prerequisite: BL 6/422.
- 630 Comparative Semitics** Spring/3
A study in the field of comparative Semitics as a tool for scientific analysis of biblical Hebrew texts. Course work uses the students' knowledge of Hebrew as a base for examining the grammar of other Semitic languages. Prerequisites: BL 4/611. In addition, Aramaic, Arabic or another Semitic language is strongly recommended.
- 6/440 Introduction to Aramaic** Fall/3
Study of the grammar and vocabulary of biblical Aramaic while reading The Aramaic portions of the Bible; also includes an introduction to Aramaic of the Targums. Prerequisite: BL 6/411
- 6/442 Introduction to Jewish Palestinian Aramaic** Spring/3
The basic structures of Jewish Palestinian Aramaic will be studied in relation to Hebrew and Aramaic dialects of the 1st – 6th centuries. Selected texts will be read from Qumran, Bar Kochba, the Palestinian Targum, the Palestinian Talmud and Megillat Antiochus. A special focus will be on the relationship between the Targumic traditions and the interpretational methods of the Midrashic schools. Prerequisite: BL 6/440
- 6/460 Modern Standard Arabic I** Fall/4
An introductory course designed to teach the basics of Arabic, emphasizing colloquial speech.
- 6/461 Modern Standard Arabic II** Spring/4
A continuation of Arabic I, with an introduction to written Arabic. Prerequisite: BL 6/460.
- 655 Northwest Semitic Dialects** Fall/3
Readings in Ammonite, Hebrew, Moabite and Phoenician inscriptions, with comparative observations on linguistic data. Prerequisite: BL 4/611.

GR**Guided Research**

701	Guided Research in Archaeology For graduate students conducting special research.	Fall or Spring/3
702	Guided Research in History For graduate students conducting special research.	Fall or Spring/3
703	Guided Research in Geography For graduate students conducting special research.	Fall or Spring/3
704	Guided Research in Middle Eastern Cultures and Religions For graduate students conducting special research.	Fall or Spring/3
707	Guided Research in Hebrew For graduate students conducting special research.	Fall or Spring/3
980	Guided Research on Thesis Topic For all students writing a thesis for the MA degree. Students choose a topic, begin to compile a comprehensive bibliography, develop a basic structure for the thesis and write an outline. The work is done under an instructor who agrees to serve as thesis advisor.	Fall or Spring/2
981	Thesis Writing In the semester following the successful completion of GR 980, students enroll in GR 981 to finish writing the M.A. thesis. Students work with an assigned thesis reader in addition to the thesis advisor. <u>Prerequisite: GR 980.</u>	Fall or Spring/4

BC/CE**Bible Content, Comprehensive/Integrative, and Proficiency Examinations****Bible Content Examination**

801	Old Testament Content Examination
802	New Testament Content Examination

Comprehensive/Integrative Examinations

911	Historical Geography
921	Biblical Hebrew
960	History of the Middle East
965	Issues in the Modern Middle East

Proficiency Examinations

981	Modern Hebrew Proficiency
982	Arabic Proficiency

BIBST Shorter Term Courses

5/393 Historical and Geographical Settings of the Bible

This intensive three-week course will introduce you to the geography, history, and archaeology of Israel. You will begin to feel at home on the playing field of biblical history after traveling throughout the land of the Bible.

Assignments using materials furnished by the university college should be completed prior to arrival in Israel. This work provides the necessary biblical background and regional introduction for study in Israel. At the Jerusalem campus, students attend preparatory lectures designed to integrate assignments with field study. Daily regional field studies, including an optional regional study in Jordan after the regular program, involve field trips of one to three days. These constitute the main body of the program.

Studies and walks in Jerusalem emphasize important aspects of the city in biblical and modern times and reconstruct the features of the city and its environs during the times of David, Solomon, Hezekiah, the Maccabees and Jesus. Time spent in the Galilee region helps students understand the geography as well as the culture during the time of Christ and other periods of biblical history.

5/397 Jesus and His Times

This is a special two week course emphasizing the geographical, historical, and cultural setting of Israel during the time of Christ. The field studies follow the basic chronology of the life of Christ, spending one week in the Galilee region and one week in the Jerusalem region.

Extensive investigation of the Galilee region puts particular emphasis on the first century A.D. and walking tours of Jerusalem and its environs all help to place the life of Christ in the historical and cultural milieu and geographical setting of His time.