

Jerusalem: The Sacred, Imaginary, and Worldly City

Spring 2017 Middle East GU4257 section 001
Call Number 11036
M 4:10-6:00pm
325 Puppini Laboratories

Salim Tamari
salim.tamari@gmail.com
st2698@columbia.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 2-4 pm or by appointment
Knox Hall Room 301B

Course Description

In Medieval sacred literature Jerusalem has been described as the Center of the World, at the crosshold of Asia, Africa and Europe. Its various names are all related to its sacred character: Elia, Yerushalaim, Al Quds, Beit al Maqdis, and Yabus. For thousands of years it has inspired and incited successive dynasties, nations and individuals with its sacred landscape, and triggered countless number of wars and conquests. For most of its recent history the number of pilgrims far exceeded its resident population. It is the only city which has a malaise named after it. The *Jerusalem Syndrome* refers to a psychotic obsession, triggered by a visit to the city, in which the subject suffers from the belief that they are the current personification of Jesus Christ (and sometimes John the Baptist), whose mission is to save the world.

This course will address the sacred, imagined and worldly Jerusalem through its social history, religious rituals, the politics of archeology, planning and urban transformation, demographic debates, ethnicity, and war. It will examine the commodification and packaging of holy city for pilgrimage and tourism. The

course will address the current predicament of the city and its future within the context of the Arab Israeli conflict. More specifically the course will address the following issues:

- The meaning of sacredness. How did the notion of sacredness emerge in Jerusalem? What made Jerusalem the center of pagan worship (Jebusite, Can'anite) and the magnet for the Jewish, Christian and Islamic religions. The persistence of pagan ritual in contemporary religious ritual of shrine and maqam celebrations.
- The imagined city in pilgrimage, crusader campaigns, counter-crusades, and fictional travelogues (Innocents Abroad, the geographic adventures of Katib Celebi).
- The Politics of Archeology. The contestation of the city seen in archeological investigations—Biblical, Islamic and Secular.
- Debates about the modernity of Jerusalem. Ottoman and Colonial planning of Jerusalem in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Architecture of the Jerusalem in the work of Charles Ashby, Geddes, Houris,
- The Sacred City Commodified: The Selling of Jerusalem. Tourist guides and the commodification of the sacred city.
- *Corpus Seperatum* (1947). The politics of Jerusalem between WWI and WWII, and the creation the creation of two cities after the war of 1948. The proposal for the UN Scheme of division. The revival of *Corpus Seperatum* in recent negotiations over the future of Jerusalem
- *The Worldly City and its Future*. Demographics of Jerusalem. Ethnic and national conflict and claims. Jerusalem as the crucible of the Arab Israeli conflict. Scenarios for the future of the city.

Course Prerequisites and Requirements

Course will be a graduate seminar open to senior students in architecture literature and the social sciences. Students taking the course will be expected to participate in the readings and write one research paper on one

of the themes discussed in class. Grades will be distributed as follows: Class Participation and Presentation 25%, Mid-term: 25%, Research Paper 50%,

Primary Texts (*to be purchased)

*Simon Sebag Montefiore, *Jerusalem: The Biography* Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 2011

Asali, K. L., *Jerusalem in History* (New York 2000).

*Annabel Jane Wharton, *Selling Jerusalem: Relics, Replicas, Theme Parks* University of Chicago Press, 2006

Benvenisti, Meron, *City of Stone: The Hidden History of Jerusalem*

Wasif Jawhariyyeh, *The Storyteller of Jerusalem*, Interlink, 2013

Michael Dumper, *Jerusalem Unbound: Geography, History and the Future of the Holy City*, Columbia University Press, 2014

Adina Hoffman, *Till We Have Built Jerusalem: Architects of a New City*, Farrar Straus, and Giroux, 2016

Additional Texts

Jacobson Abigail, *From Empire to Empire, Jerusalem between Ottoman and British Rule*, New-York, 2011

Khalidi Rashid, *Palestinian Identity: The Construction of a Modern National Consciousness*, New York, 1997

Campos Michelle, *Ottomans Brothers. Muslims, Christians and Jews in Early-Twentieth Palestine*, Stanford, 2010

Salim Tamari, *Jerusalem 1948*, Institute of Jerusalem Studies, Jerusalem

Lemire Vincent, *Jérusalem 1900. La ville sainte à l'âge des possibles*, Paris, 2012 Halper Jeff, "On the Way: The Transition of Jerusalem from a Ritual City to a Colonial City"

Abu El Haj, *Facts on the Ground* (Chicago 2002)

Grabar, Oleg, *The Dome of the Rock* (Harvard Belknap 2006).

Grabar, Oleg, *The Shape of the Holy* (Princeton 1996).

Suad Amiry, *Golda Slept Here*, Bloomsbury, London, 2014

Meron Benvenisti, *The Buried History of the Holy Land*

Selected Readings from the *Jerusalem Quarterly* and

the Jerusalem Quarterly Files (Palestine-studies.org)

Readings and Course Meetings

Week One: Introduction: The Meaning of Sacredness

How did the notion of sacredness emerge in Jerusalem? What made Jerusalem the center of pagan worship (Jebusite, Can'anite) and the magnet for the Jewish, Christian and Islamic religions

David Wasserstein, "The Heavenly City and the Earthly City" in *Divided Jerusalem*, Prologue (1-14), and Epilogue, The Earthly City, 345-360

Week Two, The Quarry of History and the Borders of Holiness

Benvenisti Meron, The Quarry of History, *City of Stone: The Hidden History of Jerusalem*, pp. 1-50

Kamel Asali, K. L., *Jerusalem in History* New York 2002 Introduction

Michael Dumper, The Scattered Borders of Holiness, in 97-145, in *Jerusalem Unbound: Geography, History and the Future of the Holy City*, Columbia University Press, 2014

Week Three: Excavating Jerusalem The Politics of Archeology

Excavating Jerusalem IN Archaeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society by Nadia Abu El-Haj pp. 130-163

Katjarina Golor and Hanswulf Bloedhorn, The Archeology of Jerusalem2015 (remove?)

Katerina Golor, King Herod in Jerusalem: The Politics of Cultural Heritage—The Jerusalem Quarterly (no. 65)

Download from <http://www.palestine-studies.org/jq/fulltext/77897>

Week Four: The Social History of Jerusalem

Asali, K. Jerusalem in History, Chapters I and II

Montefiore, Jerusalem, the Biography, Part I Jewish Jerusalem,

Part II Pagan Jerusalem

Week Five: Social History of Jerusalem II

Asali, K, chapter II Roman and Byzantine Jerusalem pp 75- 105

Montefiore, Part III, Byzantium

Week Six: Social History of Jerusalem III

Asali K., Part IV, VI Islamic Jerusalem

Asali K, Crusader Jerusalem pp. 130-177

Montefiore, Part V, The Crusades/

Week Seven: Ottoman Jerusalem

K. Asali, Chapter 7, Jerusalem Under the Ottomans 200-228

Montefiore, Part 7, The Ottomans

Week Eight: Ottoman Modernity—the City Transformed

Alexander Scholch, Jerusalem in the 19th Century, in Asali, chapter VIII

Michelle Campos, Sacred Liberty (ch. 2), in Ottoman Brothers, pp. 20-59

Abigail Jacobson, Between Ottomanism and Zionism, in From Empire to Empire, pp. 82-117

Week Nine: Globalized Jerusalem: Architecture and the New Urban Space

Annabel Jane Wharton, *Enterpreurs and Tourists*, pp 145-188 in *Selling Jerusalem: Relics, Replicas, Theme Parks*

“Imperialism, Globalization, and the Holy City” in Wharton, pp. 189-233

Jerusalem’s Conflicted Modernity (introduction from the Storyteller of Jeruslaem)

Adina Friedman *“Jerusalem 1934”* in *Till We Have Built Jerusalem: Architects of a New City*, Farrar Straus, and Giroux, 2016, pp 13-125

Week Ten: The Lived City in Biographical and Autobiographical

Literature

Menachem Klein, *Lives in Common. Conflict as Routine*, pp 3-138 [Hurst and Company, London, 2014]

Anbara Salam Khalidi, *Memoirs of an Early Arab Feminist*, 129-163

S. Tamari, *The Short Life of Private Ihsan*, *Jerusalem Quarterly*
<http://www.palestine-studies.org/jq/fulltext/77897>

Week Eleven: Spectacularized Jerusalem. The packaging and commodification of the Holy City

Beatrice St. Laurent and Himmet Taskömür. "The Imperial Museum of Antiquities in Jerusalem, 1890-1930: An Alternative Narrative" *Jerusalem Quarterly* (2013) Available at:
http://works.bepress.com/beatrice_stlaurent/5/

Annabel Jane Wharton, *The City as Gift* Chapters 1-3 in *Selling Jerusalem: Relics, Replicas, Theme Parks*

Suad Amiry, *Golda Slept Here*, Bloomsbury, London, 2014

Week Twelve :The City Divided: War and Conquest

Abigail Jacobson, *A Multi-Ethnic City in Times of Acute Crisis*, in *Between Ottomanism and Zionism, in From Empire to Empire*, pp. 22-52

David Wasserstein, *Mandatory Abdication* 132-178, in *Wasserstein Divided Jerusalem*, Yale University Press,

David Wasserstein, *Two Jerusalem's* 179-205 in *Wasserstein Divided*

Jerusalem, Yale University Press,

Nathan Krystall, The Fall of the New City, in Tamari, Jerusalem 1948 pp. 92-154

Michael Dumper, “The Politics of Religion in the Holy City” in the Politics of Jerusalem. Pp 160-22

Week Thirteen: The Politics of Contemporary Jerusalem

Michael Hudson, “The Transformation of the City: 1917-2000” in Assali, Jerusalem in History 249-265

Michael Dumper, “The Limits of Sovereignty” (146-185)

Michael Dumper, “Jerusalem in the Twenty-First Century: Prospects for Peace” (186-237) in Dumper, Jerusalem Unbound, Columbia University Press, 2014

Academic Integrity: Laptops will be allowed in class for taking notes, but not during exams. Cell phones must be turned off in class. For further information see [Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity](#)

Students with Disability: Students, instructors, and Disability Services (DS) all have rights and responsibilities in the process of ensuring that students receive the reasonable accommodations necessary for their full participation in their academic program. This page provides a brief oversight of these rights and responsibilities, but for more information you are referred to [Disability Services](#).

Student Rights and Responsibilities

In order to ensure their rights to reasonable accommodations, it is the responsibility of students to report any learning-related disabilities, to do so in a timely fashion, and to do so through the Office of Disability Services. Students who have documented conditions and are determined by DS to need individualized services will be provided an DS-certified ‘Accommodation Letter’. It

is students' responsibility to provide this letter to all their instructors and in so doing request the stated accommodations. For further information see [*Faculty Statement on Disability Accommodations*](#).