

Wheaton College SEMESTER IN JERUSALEM

SEMESTER IN JERUSALEM is a Wheaton College faculty-led spring semester program where a cohort of students study and engage with modern Middle East and ancient biblical narratives.



Tentative Semester Dates

January 8 – May 3, 2024

Location

Students reside and study at Jerusalem University College in Jerusalem, the cradle of ancient civilizations and one of the most vibrant cultural and religious communities in the world. Jerusalem has played a major role in world events for centuries—it is a city of religious and political significance. The JUC campus is nestled atop Mount Zion next to the Old City. In addition to classroom work at JUC, the program includes field studies to historical, cultural, religious, and political sites throughout Israel and (travel permitting) the West Bank territories and into Jordan.



Anticipated Program Start

Prior to studying at JUC and if there are no travel restrictions, students will begin the program in a location with a comparative environment such as Cairo, Egypt. There the program will set the stage for studying the political, cultural, and socio-economic issues in the region. If there are travel restrictions, the program will launch in an alternate location.

Cost

Program costs are equivalent to a full-time on-campus semester at Wheaton (full tuition; double/triple room; full board AYCE meal plan) and cover program tuition, room and board, academic excursions, and transportation within the program. This does not cover passport, visa (if more than standard fee), airfare to/from the program, vaccinations or pre-program medical tests, field study fees for some elective courses, textbooks, and other personal expenses. A non-refundable deposit is collected after acceptance to the program and applied toward program tuition fees. Financial aid is available on the same basis as that of an on-campus semester when CPOS requirements are met.

Requirements and Pre-Requisites

Students must be undergraduates in good academic and judicial standing and have at least a 2.5 GPA. All program participants must register for GPS 231: Orientation to Study Abroad (2 hrs.) offered during B quad of the fall semester prior to the program. It is recommended (but not required) that students complete either BITH 211: OT Literature and Interpretation or BITH 213: NT Literature and Interpretation prior to the program.





Courses

Students earn 16 credit hours during the program. Many courses are accepted for major or minor elective credit by the related academic department(s) and some fulfill CATC thematic core tags. Courses are taught at Jerusalem University College by noted Israeli and Palestinian professors from local universities who are experts in their fields. Students also take a three-credit integrative course taught by the Wheaton College professor in residence.

Students complete the following required courses:

- GPS 306: Physical Settings of the Bible (4 hrs.) **HP**
- GPS 304: Journeys across Cultures and Societies in the Middle East (3 hrs.) **SI**

Students choose three electives from the following courses:

- GPS 325: Biblical Archaeology II (3 hrs.)
 - GPS 324: Cultural Backgrounds of the Bible* (3 hrs.)
 - GPS 326: History of the Second Temple Period** (3 hrs.)
 - GPS 327: Hermeneutics of OT Texts in Jewish and Christian Tradition (3 hrs.)
 - GPS 328: The Parables of Jesus and Rabbinic *Meshalim* (3 hrs.)
 - GPS 403: Iconographic Art in Judaism and Early Christianity (3 hrs.) **VPAV**
 - GPS 331: Jewish Thought and Practice (3 hrs.)
 - GPS 323: Islamic Thought and Practice (3 hrs.)
 - GPS 319: Society and Politics in the Holy Land (3 hrs.) **GP**
 - GPS 332: Historical and Social Settings of Modern Israel*** (3 hrs.)
- * Course includes a required six-day field study to Bedouin areas in Jordan, concluding May 8th, and requires an additional field study fee (\$1,765)
- ** Course requires an additional field study fee (\$540)
- *** Course requires an additional field study fee (\$565)

Major/Minor Elective Credits (beginning with the 2023–24 catalog*)

Course Title	ANTH ¹	ARCH ²	BITH ³	IR/PSCI/PACS ⁴	PPE ⁵	PHIL ⁶	GEOL	HIST ⁷	ART
Physical Settings of the Bible	X	X	X				X		
Society and Politics in the Holy Land	X			X					
Biblical Archaeology II		X	X						
Cultural Backgrounds of the Bible		X	X						
History of the Second Temple Period		X	X					X	
Hermeneutics of OT Texts		X	X						
The Parables of Jesus and Rabbinic <i>Meshalim</i>		X	X						
Iconographic Art									X
Jewish Thought and Practice				X	X	X			
Islamic Thought and Practice				X	X	X			
Historical & Social Settings of Modern Israel				X					

1 ANTH majors/minors may earn up to 6 elective credits. *Physical Settings* fulfills the archaeology requirement for the Anthropology major. *Society and Politics in the Holy Land* can be applied towards the Anthropology major with department permission.

2 *Physical Settings*, *Biblical Archaeology II*, *History of the Second Temple Period*, or *Cultural Backgrounds* can count toward fulfilling the 6-hours of the elective block in the Archaeology major. Either *Biblical Archaeology II* or *History of the Second Temple* can count toward the core requirement curricular slot currently occupied by ARCH 345. Up to six hours can be drawn from *Cultural Backgrounds*, *Hermeneutics of OT Texts*, or *The Parables of Jesus* to count toward the interdisciplinary emphasis portion of the Archaeology major.

3 BITH majors/minors may earn up to 9 elective credits. *Physical Settings of the Bible*, *Biblical Archeology II*, *History of the Second Temple*, or *Cultural Backgrounds of the Bible* count toward the archaeology requirement.

4 IR/PSCI majors/minors may earn up to 6 elective credits by taking *Society and Politics in the Holy Land*, *Jewish Thought and Practice*, *Islamic Thought and Practice*, or *Historical and Social Settings of Modern Israel*. Those completing the PACS Certificate may apply any of the four courses toward the certificate.

5 *Jewish Thought and Practice* and *Islamic Thought and Practice* may be applied to the PPE Certificate as elective courses from the Philosophy discipline.

6 Philosophy majors/minors may earn 3 elective credits by taking *Jewish Thought and Practice* or *Islamic Thought and Practice* (pending approval).

7 *History of the Second Temple Period* may be applied towards the History major/minor with department permission (pending approval).

*Students under a catalog year prior to the 2023–24 undergraduate catalog should use the above chart as a guide; for those students, some courses do not automatically count toward a major or minor. Students may seek approval through the departmental recommendation process (documentation should be on file prior to the start of the program).



Faculty Leader

Dr. Timothy Taylor, Associate Professor of International Relations

For further information

Contact Dr. Chris Vlachos, Program Director, at Semester.in.Jerusalem@wheaton.edu



WHEATON
COLLEGE
For Christ & His Kingdom