One Hundred Years: History and Memory in Tel Aviv–Jaffa

This course addresses issues of history and memory in Tel Aviv from its inception as a ‘green’ garden city, to the ‘white’ Bauhaus boom and the discourse about Jaffa as a ‘black city.’ The course’s aim is to open up discourses and narratives about society and public space in Israel, where the relationship between history and memory has been marked by political conflict, collective trauma and uncertainty about the future.

We will familiarize ourselves with cutting–edge multidisciplinary research and methodology that will enrich our understanding of Tel Aviv–Jaffa, Israel and the Middle East. As part of the course we will walk through the city from North to South, discussing history, architecture and municipal politics on the way.

Topics of discussion in the classroom and on the way will include prehistory and ancient history, Arabs and Jews, ports and maritime history, industrialization and urban planning, politics and government, education and cultural venues, old British influences and migrant workers today, sports and parks, transportation and infrastructure, memorials and archeological sites, language use in public space, and Tel Aviv-Jaffa’s representation in Israeli film and literature. At the end of this course you will really know this city.

You will also be required to participate in ONE walking tour of three and a half hours, in small groups, “hands on” and on–site. The meeting point is Diezengoff Square in central Tel Aviv near the colorful fountain on designated Mondays at 4:30 pm. Tours end in Jaffa at 8:00 pm. A list of tour dates will be passed around, please make sure to sign up in time. It is important that you are well fed, bring comfortable shoes and clothes, a cap, umbrellas, sun glasses/sun lotion and water, as well as change for coffee or drinks. We will stop on the way for explanations, discussions or short visits.

Requirements: Presentation of readings (ca. 30 minutes, 1-2 persons per reading, 10% of grade, see readings listed below), participation in walking tour (10%), final paper (80%, topic your choice, please send by e-mail by December 31, 2010).

Please buy for general orientation and reading:

Tel Aviv pocket guide & atlas. Published/Created: Tel Aviv, Israel: MAPA - Mapping and Pub., c1998. Description: 1 atlas (132 p.) : col. ill., col. maps; 20 cm (English or Hebrew).
1. Session, Oct 11, 4-7 pm sharp, classroom: Introduction

- Introduction
- Slide Show of Tel Aviv–Jaffa
- Discussion of the Syllabus and Questions
- Overview of Walking Route
- Distribution of Reading Presentations and Sign Up for Walking Tour

2. Session, October 18, 4-7 pm, classroom: North Tel Aviv

Slide Show:

- The Yarkon/Al-Auja River Valley
- Tel Aviv University Campus/Sheikh Munis
- Eretz Israel Museum/Tel Qasile
- Gan Habanim
- Reading Power Station and River Mouth
- Levant Fair/Tel Aviv Port
- Wadi Ayalon
- Habima/Heyhal Hatarbut
- Tel Aviv Museum/Opera
- Sarona German Village
- Azrieli Towers

Reading Presentations:


3. Session, October 25, 4-7 pm, classroom: Kikar Rabin to Kikar Hamedina

Slide Show:

- Rabin Square/City Hall
- Gan Ha’ir/Former Orange Grove/Zoo
- Ibn Gevirol Street: Migdal Hame’ah, Summel
- New Herzliyah High School
- Kikar Hamedina
- Ben Gurion House and Boulevard
- Atarim Square/Gordon Pool and Marina
- Gan Ha'atzma'ut/Muslim Cemetery
Reading Presentations:


4. Session, November 1, 4:30-8 pm, Diezengoff Square:

Walking Tour 1

5. Session, November 8, 4-7 pm, classroom: Bauhaus and Eclectic City

Slide Show:

- Dizengoff Square and Street
- Trumpeldor Cemetery
- Gan Meir
- Old City Hall and Bialik Street
- Magen David Adom Square
- Shenkin Street
- Rothschild Boulevard
- Old Herzliya High School/Shalom Tower
- Nahalat Binyamin

Reading Presentations:


6. Session, November 15, 4-7 pm, classroom: South Tel Aviv and Jaffa

Slide Show:

- Shuk HaCarmel/Kerem Hateymanim
- Kovshim Street Gan Hakovshim/Manshiyah, Hassan Beck Mosque, Dolfinarium
- Charles Chlor Park, Tayelet Promenade, Etzel Museum, Old Train Station
- Neve Tsedek, Suzan Dalal Dance Center, Shlush Street
- Florentin, American Village/Small German Templar Colonies
- Noga Compound, Jerusalem Boulevard, Raziel Street
- Clock Square Jaffa, Old City, Egyptian Archeology Site, Jaffa Port
- Jaffa Seaside Park (Landfill), Ajami, Peres Peace Center

Reading Presentations:


7. Session, November 22, 4:30-8 pm, Diezengoff Square:

Walking Tour 2

8. Session, November 29, 4-7 pm, classroom: Jaffa and Tel Aviv—One or Two Cities?

Reading Presentations:


9. Session, Dec. 6, 4-7 pm, classroom: Arabs and Jews in Tel Aviv-Jaffa in Film

*Ajami* by Scandar Copti and Yaron Shani, Israel, Palestine, Germany, 2009: Movie Viewing and Discussion

10. Session, Dec. 13, 4-7 pm, classroom: Ashkenazim and Mizrahim in Tel Aviv-Jaffa in Film

*Kazablan* by Menachem Golan, Israel, 1973: Movie Viewing and Discussion
11. Session, Dec. 20, 4-7 pm, classroom: Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Jerusalem and Other Places

Reading Presentations:


12. Session, Dec. 27, 4-7 pm, classroom, Concluding Discussion: Tel Aviv in the Twenty-First Century

Reading Presentations:

