

## Title & Focus

### **Title: RS-155 The Geographical and Historical Settings of the Bible**

**Focus:** This intensive three-week course introduces students to the geography, history, and archaeology of the land of Israel. Students will prepare for the three-week intensive by approximately 20 hours of map work in which they will familiarize themselves with the topography and geography of the Holy Land through the lens of the biblical narrative. Upon arriving, students will tour and hike the entire country. They will be exposed to the real space and time of the biblical narrative they have mapped. One day per week of classroom lecture will be complemented by six days per week of on-site exploration and lecture. Two exams mark the mid-point and final week of the class. This course will forever transform the characters in the pages of the Bible into real people, who lived in real places, and struggled with the very real issues of life and faith.

## Student Participants

This class is open to every Westmont student. Its intensive nature makes it the perfect complement to any major, allowing students of all disciplines the chance to connect their chosen vocation to their faith. The class will be offered as four hours of elective RS credit. Petitions to fulfill other elective requirements within the curriculum will be subject to the approval of the department chair of that department. Our hope is that this course will place Israel within the reach of every student.

## Courses Offered (see syllabus at the end of this document)

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, May 6	Preparatory meetings for orientation and map work (12 hours)
May 16/17	Travel to Tel Aviv
May 18-June 5	Program in Israel (3 weeks)
June 6	Return to the US

## Faculty & staff

Sandy Richter will direct the preparatory meetings on campus, travel to Tel Aviv, and the first ten days in Israel.

Paul Wright, President and faculty at Jerusalem University College will provide substantial instruction while in Israel (this is the standard format of the JUC program).

## Itinerary: May 17-June 5/7, 2020 (see daily itinerary attached)

Travel to Tel Aviv: May 16/17

Program in Israel: May 18-June 5

Primary Accommodations:

Jerusalem University College  
#3 Aravnah HaYevusi // P.O. Box 1276, Mt. Zion  
9101202 Jerusalem, Israel  
02-671-8628 (inside Israel) // +972-2-671-8628 (outside Israel)

### 1. Jerusalem Walks

- The Four Quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem
- Mount Zion
- City of David
- Western Wall
- Southern Steps of the Temple Mount

- Pool of Bethesda
- Church of the Holy Sepulchre

## **2. Jerusalem Approaches Field Study**

- Mount of Olives and its churches
- Herodium
- Bethlehem

## **3. Benjamin Field Study**

- Judean Wilderness / Wadi Qilt
- Jericho
- Nebi Samwil
- Gezer

## **4. Judah, Shephelah, Philistine Coast Field Study**

- Beth Shemesh
- Valley of Elah
- Bet Guvrin
- Lachish
- Ashkelon

## **5. Negev and Great Wilderness Field Study**

- Beersheba
- Arad
- Ein Avdat
- Avdat
- Makhtesh Ramon

## **6. The Dead Sea Area Field Study**

- Masada
- Ein Gedi
- Qumran
- Dead Sea beach for swimming

## **7. Sharon Plain and Jezreel Valley Field Study**

- Caesarea
- Mount Carmel
- Megiddo
- Nazareth

## **8. Galilee Field Study**

- Sepphoris
- Arbel
- Hazor
- Dan
- Baniyas / Caesarea Philippi
- Golan Heights
- Capernaum
- Magdala
- Tabgha / Primacy of Peter
- Chorazim
- Mount of Beatitudes

- Kursi
- Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee
- Swimming in the Sea of Galilee

#### Optional Jordan Field Study

June 6-7

#### 9. Jordan Field Study

- Jerash
- Jabbok River
- Moabite capital of Dibon
- Arnon gorge
- Petra
- Edomite capital of Bozrah
- Ammonite capital of Rabbah
- Amman
- Madaba
- Mount Nebo

#### Budget

##### Faculty compensation:

- I will not ask for compensation to lead this trip, just that my expenses be covered. As long as I recruit 15 students, JUC will cover most of these.

##### Significant Anticipated Program Expenses:

- Each student must pay the JUC room/board/tuition charge of \$3,125.00 [these are last year's numbers]
- Each student will pay for airfare
- Patti Hunter has proposed a modest Westmont administration fee as well

##### Administrative Stipends

- Patti Hunter has proposed a modest Westmont administration fee to cover our expenses.

##### Attending Family Members

- I will bring one family member with me.

#### Risk Management

- Each student will be required to have a full physical
- Each student will be required to purchase travel insurance
- JUC has a long history of being exceptionally well-informed and wise with all of its students. I know of no incidents in their long history. Their campus is completely safe.
- I will impose restrictions on our students in response to whatever the climate is at the time of travel. Examples of past restrictions include: (1) curfews; (2) dress codes; (3) international cell phones; (4) no touring without a companion; (2) women required to tour Muslim areas with a man in the group; (3) certain areas off limits due to disturbances; (4) restrictions from public transportation.

## Syllabus:

Jerusalem University College  
Institute of Holy Land Studies

[www.juc.edu](http://www.juc.edu)

*The Geographical and Historical Settings of the Bible*

May 18-June 5/7

### **1. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This program is an intensive three-week academic study integrated with field trips designed to introduce the student to the geography, history and archaeology of Israel. Regional studies with overnight field trips, on-site lectures, preparatory lectures at the campus, and required map work prior to arrival all help the student to apply the geographical context of the land to biblical studies.

The main emphasis of this class is geography and its influence upon the history that we read in the biblical text. Because most of the historical events described in the Bible are found in the Old Testament, there is an Old Testament thrust to the class. However, much New Testament material is included, particularly in Jerusalem, Galilee and along the Dead Sea. The regions visited in the field studies include Benjamin, Judah, the Shephelah, Philistia, Ephraim and Samaria (if conditions permit), the Sharon Plain, the Jezreel Valley, Galilee, the Sea of Galilee, Bashan (the “Golan Heights”), the Jordan Valley, the Dead Sea, the Negev (both biblical and greater), and for students opting to go to Jordan, trips also include the regions of Gilead, the Madaba Plateau, Moab and Edom. The order of these field studies (and their examinations) is listed on the calendar.

### **2. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

As you study and travel this land, you will gain a library of impressions that will help you lay a foundation for a more thorough understanding of God’s word in its geographical and historical context. After taking three weeks to “pack” this material into your learning experience, you will spend a lifetime “unpacking” as you continue your biblical studies and Bible reading.

Thus, our objectives for this class are:

- a) to experience, enjoy and develop a love for the land of the Bible;
- b) to acquire a basic knowledge of the geology, geography and hydrology of the land of the Bible and their bearing on patterns of human settlement, communication, defense and historical development, especially during the days of the Bible;
- c) to better appreciate the geographical and historical perspective from which the psalmists, prophets and gospel writers wrote. In doing so, to better understand the message of God’s word and gain spiritual insights for our lives and His service; and
- d) to locate the Bible in time and space.

### **3. COURSE MATERIALS**

The following items will be used in the class:

- a) a Bible in a modern translation such as NKJV, NASB, RSV or NIV (not a paraphrase)
- b) James M. Monson, *Regions on the Run*. Rockford, IL: Biblical Backgrounds, 1998

- c) Steven P. Lancaster and James M. Monson, *Regional Study Guide*, with supplement. Rockford, IL: Biblical Backgrounds, 1999-2001.
- d) Regional Study Maps 1-7
- e) *Historical Geography Notebook*. Jerusalem: Jerusalem University College, 1998.
- f) Syllabus Maps (James M. Monson, *Geographical Basics in the Land of the Bible*).

The following are helpful for additional information, and are available in the JUC library:


- a) Denis Baly, *The Geography of the Bible*. New and Revised ed. New York: Harper & Row, 1974.
- b) Yohanan Aharoni, Michael Avi-Yonah, Anson F. Rainey and Ze'ev Safrai, *The Macmillan Bible Atlas*. 3rd ed. New York: Macmillan, 1993. (Republished in 2002 as *The Carta Bible Atlas*).
- c) Carl Rasmussen, *Zondervan NIV Atlas of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1989.
- d) Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, *The Holy Land*. 4th ed. Oxford Archaeological Guides, New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- e) Efraim Orni and Elisha Efrat, *Geography of Israel*. 4th rev. ed. Jerusalem: Israel Universities Press, 1980.

Relief maps (1:250,000, 1:100,000 and 1:50,000) and geology maps (1:250,000) are particularly helpful for those who want to seriously study of the land of the Bible. Maps which are particularly helpful for this course can be purchased at the following locations in Jerusalem:

- The Survey of Israel Map Office  
1 Shneur Cheshin Street (the street that goes to the Russian Compound)  
Second floor  
Open from 9:00am-1:30pm, Sunday through Thursday
- The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel  
13 Helene HaMalka Street.

Both of these streets are off Jaffa Road to the right, just past the main Post Office.

#### 4. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- a) **Enthusiastic and pleasant attendance**-- Because of the nature of the course, attendance at all class sessions and on all field studies is required  except for approved medical reasons. Because of the limitations of the sanctification of your professors and colleagues *pleasant* attendance and participation is required as well.
- b) **Readings and Map Work**—You must prepare your pre-assigned *Regions on the Run* and *Regional Study Maps* map work and complete all assigned readings before class time. Bring all of your map materials and the *Historical Geography Notebook* to all class sessions, including field studies. The completed *Regional Study Maps* and *Syllabus Maps* must be turned in at the time of the final exam. Auditors must complete all map work.
- c) **Exams**--There are three exams, one after each week of the program. These are noted on the calendar. You are responsible for the preview lectures and field study information for each exam.
- d) **Impression Reports**--You must submit an impression report for *each* half-day and full day of field study (a four-day field study requires four impression reports). These are personal reflections and read by the professor for interest but not content. The impression reports will be due during the class period of the exam for the corresponding field study. The impression reports can be either typed or hand-written, but the length

should be the equivalent of one single-spaced typed page for each. Auditors must write all impression reports.

## 5. FIELD STUDIES

- a) You must bring your map materials and the *Historical Geography Notebook* with you on field studies (only the *Historical Geography Notebook* is necessary for the half-day walking field studies in Jerusalem).
- b) Please note the departure time for every field study on the calendar, and plan ahead so that you can be on time for the departures. We don't have very much time once in the field, and every minute counts.
- c) Each student must stay with the class and not wander off unless allowed to do so by the professor. Please be careful when "wandering!" Injuries have occurred in the past!
- d) You will be asked to help set up picnic lunches and take the empty containers back to the JUC kitchen on our return. Please take the initiative to help out in any way possible to make our field studies enjoyable.
- e) A first-aid kit will be along for all field studies. Notify your instructor if you have any medical need while on the trip.
- f) The use of personal stereos, walkmans, CDs, etc., on the bus during our field studies is strictly forbidden. The entire field study day is considered class time, whether we are on a site or on the bus.
- g) Modesty kits are needed for certain sites on certain days, as indicated in the calendar.

## 6. FINAL GRADE

Your final grade will be determined by the JUC faculty in consultation with the Westmont faculty and calculated based on the following percentages:

15%--Attendance and participation

15%--Impression Reports

30%--Completion of assigned *Syllabus Maps* and *Regional Study Maps*, including in-class and personal markings

40%--Exams (you will receive a certain number of points for each exam. These will be totaled and factored as a percentage of your final grade).

The following grading scale will be used:

### Undergraduates:

94-100	A	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	60-69	D
90-93	A-	83-86	B	73-76	C	59 or below	F
		82-80	B-	72-70	C-		