

**University of Pennsylvania
School of Social Policy & Practice**

**Hebrew University of Jerusalem
School of Social Work & Social Welfare**

SWRK 749: Civil Society Activities Promoting Coexistence, Shared Society and Peace in Israel

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Course Purpose

This course offers a unique opportunity to experience the challenges and complexities of coexistence in Israel, the Holy Land for Jews, Muslims and Christians; a key point of interest and dispute for the international community, and the homeland shared and claimed by both Israelis and Palestinians. The course will focus on activities carried out by nonprofit organizations operating within the Israeli civil society, dealing with issues related to co-existence and to the protection and advancement of the civil and social rights of different populations, with special emphasis on the Arab-Palestinian population in Israel. These activities include educational and social services programs, community work and advocacy activities, aimed at creating dialogues and building co-existence among the different populations in the Israeli society and in Palestine.

The Israeli Nonprofit sector is one of the largest in the world in terms of the number of its organizations, the size of activities and the variety of fields covered by its organizations. In the last decade, a growing number of organizations including nonprofits, social enterprises and philanthropic foundations are dealing with issues related to co-existence and the social and political situation of the Arab-Palestinian population in Israel. While co-existence of populations practicing different religions is a prominent issue in Israel, its complexities are shared and evidenced in other societies around the world, including the USA. Many nonprofit organizations in the USA are also involved in work aimed at building co-existence between populations of different religious and ethnic backgrounds and the learning from this course will be transferable to the American reality.

This course is designed to introduce students to the key issues of civil society activities for coexistence in Israel, enabling students to learn about the challenges and complexities of promoting coexistence in Israel - where civilizations, religions, national identities and ideologies converge. Through field, a series of lectures, reading material, and trips and meetings with civil society activists, leaders of nonprofit organizations and communities, government officials and professional experts, students will be able to gain exposure to a wide variety of social initiatives, communities, people, narratives and perspectives on civil society activities in the field of co-existence and on the complexities involved in the work towards co-existence. Students will be introduced to the competing narratives of a conflict and how these narratives are used to sustain the conflict. The course will discuss and analyze different issues and problems involved in civil society activity for co-existence in a comparative-international perspective, enabling students to gain a broad understanding of this topic.

Method of Teaching

The course will include field trips and meetings with civil society activists, leaders of nonprofit organizations and communities and professional experts, as well as class discussions. This will enable students to gain exposure to a wide variety of social initiatives, communities, people, narratives and perspectives on civil society activities in the field of co-existence and on the complexities involved in the work towards co-existence.

The intensive course in Israel will be chaired by Prof. Ram Cnaan from the school of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Michal Almog-Bar from The Schwartz program in Nonprofit Management at the school of social work and social welfare, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The course will be administrated and hosted by the Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University, and will be open to Masters level students from University of Pennsylvania and from the School of Social Work and Social Welfare at the Hebrew University. Through engaging in dialogue, students from the US and from Israel will be able to uncover and discuss issues and realities which highlight the human and social dimensions of the conflict and its complexities.

Grading Scheme & Description of Assignments

Grades will be based on the following:

Full attendance and active participation in classes and field trips (10%)

Daily journaling (40%)

Final paper (50%). A written assignment.

Required reading

There are two books that are required reading. You can choose one book viewing the conflict from the Jewish perspective (Oz or Shavit) and one that view the conflict from the Palestinian perspective (Nusseibah or Said).

Nusseibeh, Sari ((2007). *Once upon a country: A Palestinian life*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Oz, Amos (2003). *A tale of love and darkness*. New York: Harcourt.

Said, Edward W. (1979). *The question of Palestine*. New York: Times Books.

Shavit, Ari (2013). *My promised land: The triumph and tragedy of Israel*. New York: Spiegel and Grau.

In addition, there are recommended readings that will be shared with those enrolled in the course.

2017 Itinerary and Class Schedule

THIS IS LAST YEAR'S SCHEDULE – IT IS BEING SHARED AS AN EXAMPLE AND IS NOT THE FINAL SCHEDULE FOR 2018.

Day 1: Thursday, June 8th

ARRIVAL DAY

- 8:00– 15:00** Students Arrive in Tel Aviv
Shuttle Bus meets students at Tel Aviv Airport
- 15:30** Arrive at Mount Scopus Campus
Check-in to Rooms
Purchase Snacks from the Cafeteria
Welcome/Safety introduction to the Mount Scopus Campus
- 17:00 – 19:00** Walking Tour of Old Jerusalem
- 19:30** Joint dinner

Day 2: Friday, June 9th

EXPLORING JERUSALEM

- 9:00 – 10:00** Breakfast at Mount Scopus Campus
- 10:00 – 12:00** Trip to Machne Yehuda Market/ Lunch
- 13:00 – 17:00** Geopolitical Tour of Jerusalem Called Ir Amin “City of Nations”
- 18:00 – 19:00** Possible tour of Abu Gosh
- 19:00 – 21:00** Dinner in Abo Gosh or Ein Rafa (Restaurant owned by Arab-Israeli Couple)

Day 3: Saturday, June 10th

UNDERSTANDING HISTORICAL SITES IN ISRAEL

- 5:00am** Departure to visit the following destinations:
Masada (cable car climbing + brunch on location)
The Dead Sea (including swimming)
Qsar El Yahod – A small place on the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized
Tomer – A small settlement in the Jordan Valley

Day 4: Sunday, June 11th

FIRST DAY OF CLASS: *THE CHALLENGES OF COEXISTENCE*

- 8:00– 8:45** **Breakfast, walk to the classroom together**
- 9:00-9:30** **Prof. Mimi Ajzenstadt, Dean of the school of Social Work –**
Greetings
- 9:30-10:00** **Introduction – Objectives, goals and syllabus**
- 10:00-11:00** **Prof. Ram Cnaan** *The challenges of co-existence: Intergroup*
contact theory
- 11:00–12:00** **Dr. Michal Almog-Bar** *Civil Society promoting co-existence in*
Israel
- 12:00-13:00** Lunch break – Joint tour around campus
- 13:00-14:00** **Dr. Yore Kedem-** *historical overview of the conflict: Jewish and*
Arab perceptions of the conflict
- 14:00-15:00** **Working groups/ discussion:** the challenges of co-existence: the
criticism on civil society organizations promoting co-existence and
mutual society

Free evening

Day 5: Monday, June 12th

SECOND DAY OF CLASS: *ANALYZING INTER-GROUP CONFLICT*

- 8:00– 8:45** **Breakfast**
- 10:00 – 13:30** **Tour to Neve-Shalom "Oasis of peace"**
- 14:00 - 16:00** **Visit to Yad Vashem** (For Penn students)
- 16:00 – 17:30** Possible tour of **Old City Jerusalem** + **Group discussion** on the
day's learning and analyzing the intergroup conflict
- 18:00 – 21:00** Tour of the **Hebrew Book Week in the old train Station** +
dinner on location

Day 6: Tuesday, June 13th

THIRD DAY OF CLASS: *OVERVIEW OF ARAB SOCIETY IN ISRAEL*

- 8:00– 8:45** **Breakfast**

- 9:00-10:30** **Ghaida Rinawie-Zoabi**, CEO of Injaz- *overview of the Arab society in Israel*
- 11:00 -12:00** **Ms. Ayelet Rott**, Head of schools Hand In Hand -*Promoting co-existence through education"*
- 12:00-13:00** **Lunch break**
- 13:00-14:00** **Ms. Gili Rei**, director of the shared society department at "Sikuy" – *promoting shared society at the policy level*
- 14:15-15:15** **Mr. Sami Saadi**, CEO of Tsofen – *promoting shared society through equal employment opportunities: the case of the High- Tech field in Israel*
- 15:15-16:00** **Working groups/ discussion:** *different approaches to promotion of co-existence*
- 18:00-21:00** TENTATIVE: Penn Alumni Reception in town

Day 7: Wednesday, June 14th

FOURTH DAY OF CLASS: HUMAN RIGHTS & THE POWER OF WOMEN

- 8:00– 8:45** **Breakfast, walk to the classroom together**
- 9:15-10:15** **Ms. Nave Dromi**, CEO of Blue and White Human Rights - *Promoting human rights from the other side of the political map*
- 10:30-12:30** **Ms. Hamutal Guri**, Women wage Peace - *"The power of women to wage peace: the case of the Israeli- Palestinian Conflict"*
- 12:30-13:30** **Lunch**
- 13:30-14:30** **Ms. Jean Judes**, Executive Director of Issie Shapiro – *"connecting people through a common agenda: the case of the agenda to improve the lives of people with disabilities*
- 14:30-15:30** **Working groups/ discussion**
- 18:00 --** **Free evening**

Day 8: Thursday, June 15th

LAST DAY OF CLASS: PEACEBUILDING

- 8:00– 8:45** **Breakfast, walk to the classroom together**

10:00-12:00 **Workshop:** *Effective peacebuilding training: challenges and spoilers in people-people dialogue projects* (Segal conflict management).

12:00-13:00 **Lunch break**

13:00-14:00 **Ms. Keren Ketko Ayali**, Mutual life blogger –*promotion of shared society through online information*

14:15-15:45 **Parents Circle** <http://www.theparentscircle.com/>

15:45-16:00 **Discussion, conclusions and feedback**

Farewells!!!