



Course Title: Uncovering the Holy Land

Course meetings: Tuesdays 7pm, 8 Weeks

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Course Description:

This course aims to provide Muslim students with a comprehensive understanding of the history of Al-Quds, emphasizing its religious, cultural, and historical significance in Islamic tradition. Students will explore various historical sources, including Islamic texts (Quran and Hadith), Biblical texts, and other historical documents, to gain a multi-faceted perspective on the city's evolution and its role in different religious contexts. Additionally, this course will equip students with the knowledge necessary to counter anti-Palestinian polemics and foster sacred and spiritually grounded activism.

Syllabus (tentative):

Week 1(June 25): Introduction to Al-Quds

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - What is history? Why is it important?
 - Geographic and strategic significance of Al-Quds.
 - Quranic and Biblical importance of the holy land
 - Overview of Al-Quds' history from ancient times to the modern era.

Week 2: Al-Quds in Pre-Islamic Times

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - Early history of Al-Quds: Canaanite, Israelite, and Roman periods.
 - Al-Quds in Biblical texts.
 - The claim to the land.
 - Who are God's Chosen people?

Week 3: The Islamic Conquest and Early Muslim Period

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - The significance of Al-Quds in early Islamic history.
 - The Islamic conquest of Al-Quds in 638 CE.
 - Muslim governing of Sham
 - When did Jerusalem become significant to muslims?

Week 4: The Umayyad and Abbasid Periods

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - Development of Islamic architecture in Al-Quds (e.g., Dome of the Rock).
 - Political and cultural changes under Umayyad and Abbasid rule.
 - What is anti-semitism?
 - Jews under Muslim rule

Week 5: Crusader and Ayyubid Periods

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - Crusades
 - Al-Quds during the Crusades.
 - Salahuddin Ayyubi's reconquest of Al-Quds.

Week 6: Mamluk and Ottoman Periods

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - Al-Quds under Mamluk rule.
 - Ottoman contributions to the city's infrastructure and culture.
 - Truko-Arab relations in the holy land

Week 7: Modern History of Al-Quds

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - Al-Quds in the 19th and early 20th centuries.
 - European antisemitism, Jewish persecution.
 - British Mandate and the establishment of Israel.

Week 8: Contemporary Issues and Al-Quds' Future

- **Lecture Topics:**
 - The status of Al-Quds in the Israeli occupation.
 - The role of Al-Quds in contemporary Islamic thought and politics.
 - Countering anti-Palestinian polemics.
 - Engaging in sacred and spiritually grounded activism.

This course aims to blend historical knowledge with religious understanding, fostering a deep appreciation for Al-Quds' complex heritage among Muslim students at Sirraaj Islamic Seminary. It will also empower students to actively engage in and support the Palestinian cause through informed and spiritually grounded activism.